

Agenda

Council Meeting
Wednesday 17 June 2026 at 7:00 PM
Gisborne Administration Centre
40 Robertson Street, Gisborne
(Hybrid)

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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

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 PETITIONS**

Nil

7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL**8 ADOPTION OF MINUTES****Recommendation**

That Council confirms the minutes of the Scheduled Council Meeting of Macedon Ranges Shire Council held on 27 May 2026, as circulated.

9 MAYOR'S REPORT

9.1	MAYOR'S REPORT
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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

Welcome to the June Mayor's Report.

It has been a shorter reporting period this month, with the June Council Meeting brought forward by one week to enable several Councillors to attend the National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA).

One of the highlights of the month was attending the Youth Council Swearing-In Ceremony. Congratulations to the nine young people selected as Youth Councillors. It was wonderful to celebrate this achievement alongside your families and friends. We look forward to working with you throughout your term and seeing the positive contribution you make to our community.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Clarkefield Listening Post at Clarkefield Hall. Councillors saw strong community participation and heard concerns raised by local residents about Draft Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme Amendment for Clarkefield (C164macr). It was great to see joint advocacy from neighbouring municipalities, including Hume City Council and Melton City Council, on shared concerns.

I would also like to congratulate local recipients recognised in the King's Birthday Honours.

- **Patricia Kaye OAM**, a founding member of Gisborne Ambulance Victoria Auxiliary, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community of Gisborne.
- **Pam Ahern OAM**, founder of Edgar's Mission, was recognised for service to animal welfare.
- **Mary-Jane Welsh APM** was awarded the Australian Police Medal in recognition of distinguished service.

These honours reflect the remarkable dedication of volunteers and community leaders who help make our region such a special place.

I was also pleased to attend the Community Bank Gisborne & District Community Investment Evening. Over the past 18 years, the Community Bank has returned more than \$4 million to support local projects, schools, sporting clubs, community groups and initiatives across our region. This ongoing investment continues to strengthen our communities and create lasting local benefits.

The *Meet the Mayor* sessions continue to be an excellent opportunity to connect directly with residents. Since commencing on 2 February this year, I have hosted more than 32

sessions, alongside additional on-site meetings, conversations with community groups and phone discussions. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, reinforcing the value of being approachable, accessible and genuinely listening to community concerns and ideas.

Councillors have also hosted six listening posts across the Shire in 2026, reflecting our commitment to being accessible, visible and connected to the communities we serve.

Councillors and I also attended Community Information Sessions for the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid and the Department of Defence, regarding its proposed divestment of the Kyneton Drill Hall.

Thanks to Councillors across East, South and West Wards for participating in World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) events.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the most recent happenings around the Shire.

Events

Councillors were pleased to be invited to the following events/meetings since the last Scheduled Council Meeting:

- 28 May Clarkefield Public Information Webinar
- 28 May Council Meeting Wrap Video: Gisborne
- 28-29 May Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council Meeting
- 30 May All Councillor Listening Post at Clarkefield Hall
- 30 May The Midland Express Clarkefield Advocacy Photo
- 31 May Honouring Day Guildford Biyal Red gum
- 1 June Planning Application Consultation Meeting
- 1 June *Meet the Mayor* x3 sessions
- 1 June Community Bank Investment Evening Gisborne
- 4 June Omnia Community Health Kyneton Visit
- 4 June Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid Community Information Session
- 5 June North Central Goldfields Regional Library Board Meeting
- 5 June Fire Rescue Victoria Meeting
- 5 June Shadow Minister Visit David Southwick MP with Wendy Lovell MP
- 5 June Shadow Minister Visit David Southwick MP with Wendy Lovell MP with DPO24 Community Representatives
- 9 June Woodend Neighbourhood House: Terrie Hollingsworth Kitchen Unveiling
- 9 June Youth Councillor Swearing-In Ceremony
- 10 June Audit & Risk Committee Meeting
- 10 June Launch Library Meeting Pods Woodend Library with Paul Hamer MP
- 10 June Telstra Board & CEO Leadership Team Bendigo Event
- 10 June MAV Pre-briefing: National General Assembly

- 11 June Meeting with Kyneton CFA
- 11 June Department of Defence Community Information Session
- 11 June Workspace Board Meeting
- 13-14 June Naturally Cool Big Band goes to the Movies Macedon Event
- 14 June West Ward Councillor Listening Post at Lauriston Hall
- 14 June Isha Foundation Yoga for Wellbeing
- 15 June *Meet the Mayor* x3 sessions
- 15 June Meeting with Live4Life
- 15 June Victorian Small Business Commissioner Visit
- 15 June World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)
- 15 June Malmsbury Community Engagement Group Meeting
- 16 June Cherry Lane Site Visit: Resident Meeting
- 16 June Wedgetail Eagles Women's Football Club Site Visit: Woodend Racecourse Reserve

Have a great month ahead and see you around the Shire!

Mayor Kendall
Macedon Ranges Shire Council

10 RECORD OF MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS AND COUNCIL STAFF**10.1 RECORD OF MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS AND COUNCIL STAFF****Summary**

Rule 66 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 outlined in this report.

Record of meetings

Type of meeting	Councillor Briefing
Date and time	26 May 2026, 9:30am
Venue	Gisborne Administration Centre
Present - Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Kate Kendall (Mayor) • Cr Cassy Borthwick (Deputy Mayor) • Cr Jennifer Anderson • Cr Dominic Bonanno • Cr Rob Guthrie • Cr Alison Joseph • Cr Janet Pearce • Cr Andrew Scanlon • Cr Daniel Young
Apologies - Councillors	Nil
Present - officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernie O'Sullivan (Chief Executive Officer) • Rebecca Stockfeld (Director Planning and Environment) • Adele Drago-Stevens (Director Corporate) • Dominic Testoni (Director Assets and Operations) • Martin Collins (Director Community) • Cherry Stojanovic (Acting Manager Governance and Performance)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob Ball (Manager Strategic Planning and Environment) • Bethany Lloyd (Manager Communications and Advocacy) • Travis Harling (Manager Finance and Reporting) • Kylie Tatt (Manager People and Wellbeing) • Adele Hayes (Manager Statutory Planning) • Verity Games (Coordinator Statutory Planning and Subdivisions) • Scott Matheson (Coordinator Statutory Planning and Compliance) • Leanne Khan (Coordinator Strategic Planning) • Lucy Olson (Senior Governance Officer) • Jason Pullman (Senior Strategic Planner)
Apologies officers	Nil
Presenters	Nil
Items discussed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget 2026/27 – Community Consultation Round 2 Update • Innovation Working Group – Next Steps and Proposed Work Program • 6 Month Review of New Planning Delegation Process • Agenda Review • C164 Clarkefield Township • Other Business
Conflicts of interest declared by Councillors and record of them leaving the meeting when the matter about which they declared the conflict of interest was discussed	<p>Nil</p> <p>Did they leave the meeting? N/A</p>
Conflicts of interest declared by officers	<p>Bernie O'Sullivan (Chief Executive Officer) declared a general conflict during the budget discussions due to a familial connection with one of the matters.</p> <p>Did they leave the meeting? Bernie left the meeting at 11:44am and returned 11:49am.</p>

Type of meeting	Councillor Briefing
Date and time	02 June 2026, 9:30am
Venue	Gisborne Administration Centre

Present - Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Kate Kendall (Mayor) • Cr Cassy Borthwick (Deputy Mayor) • Cr Jennifer Anderson • Cr Dominic Bonanno • Cr Rob Guthrie • Cr Alison Joseph • Cr Janet Pearce • Cr Andrew Scanlon • Cr Daniel Young
Apologies - Councillors	Nil
Present - officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernie O'Sullivan (Chief Executive Officer) • Rebecca Stockfeld (Director Planning and Environment) • Dominic Testoni (Director Assets and Operations) • Martin Collins (Director Community) • Kylie Tatt (Acting Director Corporate) • Cherry Stojanovic (Acting Manager Governance and Performance) • Daniel Grigson (Manager Engineering, Asset Services and Civil Projects) • Kirsty Price (Acting Manager People and Wellbeing) • Benup Neupane (Coordinator Engineering Services) • Setina Rockliff (Coordinator Risks and OHS) • Lucy Olson (Senior Governance Officer)
Apologies officers	Nil
Presenters and Externals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pete Gervasoni (Skefto Innovations) • Magdalena Williams (Audit and Risk Committee Member) • David Gunn (Audit and Risk Committee Member)
Items discussed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Road Procedure • Agenda Review • Councillor Only discussion on Delegations • Risk Appetite Session • Other Business
Conflicts of interest declared by Councillors and record of them leaving the	<p>Nil</p> <p>Did they leave the meeting? N/A</p>

meeting when the matter about which they declared the conflict of interest was discussed	
Conflicts of interest declared by officers	Nil Did they leave the meeting? N/A
Type of meeting	Councillor Briefing
Date and time	09 June 2026, 9:30am
Venue	Gisborne Administration Centre
Present - Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Kate Kendall (Mayor) • Cr Cassy Borthwick (Deputy Mayor) • Cr Jennifer Anderson • Cr Dominic Bonanno • Cr Rob Guthrie • Cr Alison Joseph • Cr Janet Pearce • Cr Andrew Scanlon • Cr Daniel Young
Apologies - Councillors	Nil
Present - officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernie O'Sullivan (Chief Executive Officer) • Rebecca Stockfeld (Director Planning and Environment) • Dominic Testoni (Director Assets and Operations) • Martin Collins (Director Community) • Kylie Tatt (Acting Director Corporate) • Cherry Stojanovic (Acting Manager Governance and Performance) • Adele Hayes (Manager Statutory Planning) • Simon Finlay (Manager Parks, Civil Services & Resource Recovery) • Travis Harling (Manager Finance and Reporting) • Scott Matheson (Coordinator Statutory Planning and Compliance) • Lucy Olson (Senior Governance Officer) • Talysha Dawson (Governance Officer)
Apologies officers	Nil
Presenters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Wild (Omnia Community Health)

Items discussed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response to Notice of Motion – Management of Lancefield Park• Draft Budget 2026/27• Workshop Consultation Meeting and Statutory Planning Matters at Council Meetings• Presentation by Omnia Community Health• Planning Matters• Agenda Review• Other Business
Conflicts of interest declared by Councillors and record of them leaving the meeting when the matter about which they declared the conflict of interest was discussed	Nil Did they leave the meeting? N/A
Conflicts of interest declared by officers	Nil Did they leave the meeting? N/A

11 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORTS

PE.1	AMENDMENT C164MACR - CLARKEFIELD TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT
Officer:	Leanne Khan, Coordinator Strategic Planning
Council Plan relationship:	Our Places
Attachments:	Preliminary submission to C164macr (under separate cover)

Summary

This report asks Council to note the preliminary submission to Amendment C164macr – Clarkefield Township Development. Overall, the submission raises substantial concerns about the strategic justification, governance arrangements, and technical robustness of the proposal. The submission concludes that the amendment, in its current form, is premature, insufficiently resolved, and not yet justified for approval.

A more detailed submission for Council endorsement will be presented to the 22 July Council meeting.

Recommendation

That Council notes the preliminary submission (Attachment One) made to Engage Victoria regarding Amendment C164macr - Clarkefield Township Development and acknowledges a more detailed Council submission will be presented to the 22 July 2026 Council Meeting.

Background

Historically the expansion of Clarkefield township was constrained by a lack of potable water and sewer services. Greater Western Water has now confirmed that the area can be serviced which has enabled consideration of the future expansion of Clarkefield township. The availability of reticulated water and sewer connection has coincided with the State Government's housing supply targets for the need of an additional 13,500 dwellings to be delivered for Macedon Ranges Shire over the next 25 years.

On the 22 November 2024 Council was formally notified by the Minister for Planning and Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), that a combined planning scheme amendment (C164macr) and planning permit application to the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme (the Scheme) will be determined by the Minister for Planning. The letter requested Council work in partnership with DTP regarding the expansion of Clarkefield to ensure a positive outcome for Council. Since early to mid 2025, Council has been back and forth providing commentary on documents in preparation for the current public consultation of C164macr.

C164macr proposes to accommodate 6000 people on 175 hectares of land east of the existing Clarkefield railway station. C164macr would allow for the potential development of 2,500 new homes, activity centre, potential primary school, community centre, open space, community farm, and solar farm.

More specifically, C164macr proposes to:

- rezone the land to a Comprehensive Development Zone.
- apply the Environmental Audit Overlay to six properties.
- remove the existing Development Plan Overlay over the central area of Clarkefield
- introduce the Comprehensive Development Plan, Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Native Vegetation Plan, and Small Lot Housing Code as Incorporated Documents into the Scheme.
- modify the Farm Zone Schedule to allow a creation of a lot outside of the Comprehensive Development Zone to facilitate a drainage basin required in a future phase.
- modify a number of local policies to change Clarkefield's existing settlement status of a 'Hamlet' to a 'District Town.'
- fund all infrastructure provision at the developers cost via Section 173 Agreements
- subdivide 62 of the 175 hectares into stages via a planning permit. Known as Phase One the subdivision includes 780 lots and 13 super lots or 1077 dwellings. The housing lots range in size from 84m² to 512m² with a density of 25 dwellings per net developable hectare.
- C164macr includes the provision of a town centre, kindergarten, maternal health, affordable housing, upgrades to Clarkefield Recreation Reserve, drainage infrastructure reserves, and changes to two road intersections along Melbourne-Lancefield Road. A number of these (e.g. town centre in part and community centre) items are to be developed in future stages.

The Minister for Planning is the Planning Authority in assessing C164macr and Council are a submitter to C164macr. The Minister for Planning has also been identified as the Responsible Authority for any future planning permit applications, leaving Council with little authority on future applications. Whilst Council will be a submitter in the process and future processes, we will be the ongoing land manager of many of the infrastructure assets and open space proposed.

Public Exhibition

DTP released C164macr for community consultation on the 'Engage Victoria' website from 4 May 2026 until 1 June 2026. Due to the number and complexity of the supporting documents to C164macr and the need to seek internal and Councillor comment, Council officers sought an extension of time from DTP to lodge Council's written submission following the 22 July 2026 Scheduled Council Meeting. This request has not been formally responded to in writing (as of 5 June 2026). The request for an extension of time to provide a more detailed response has been refused (verbal response, no written response received). It is understood that DTP will consider any future submission by Council, up until the Minister for Planning decides on the application.

Discussion

Council officers have reviewed the proposal and prepared a preliminary submission under significant time constraints. This is provided as Attachment One. The submission identifies significant strategic justification, procedural and technical concerns which are set out in themes below:

- Strategic Justification and Need

- The amendment's strategic basis is unclear and not adequately aligned with Council's Settlement Strategy and Statement of Planning Policy.
- Evidence suggests that existing and planned growth areas may already meet housing demand, reducing the urgency for the Clarkefield expansion.
- The proposal relies heavily on the Expansion Strategy and supporting reports, which contain gaps and assumptions that are not fully substantiated.
- Process and Governance Concerns
 - The exhibition process is considered inadequate, with limited time (20 business days), a large volume of documents, and procedural issues (missing information, technical errors, and potential privacy concerns).
 - Council's request for an extension was refused, constraining its ability to undertake proper review.
 - There is uncertainty regarding governance arrangements, including the ongoing role of the Minister versus Council as Responsible Authority.
 - The submission strongly recommends independent peer and legal review prior to any decision, and referral to a Priority Projects Standing Advisory Committee.
- Incomplete and Premature Documentation
 - The amendment and permit application defer critical information to post-approval stages, limiting informed decision-making.
 - Key elements such as infrastructure delivery, environmental assessments, transport solutions, and affordable housing strategies are not sufficiently resolved or evidenced upfront.
 - The draft planning permit is considered embryonic and not ready for determination.
- Financial, Administrative, and Delivery Risks
 - The proposal understates what will likely be significant long-term resource and cost impacts on the Responsible Authority.
 - There is no clear framework for infrastructure delivery, funding, or handover, particularly over a 20+ year development horizon.
 - Council requests preparation of a Resource and Administrative Costs Impact Statement to quantify obligations and risks.
- Planning and Design Issues
 - Concerns are raised regarding the Comprehensive Development Zone controls, including land use permissibility, inconsistencies, and unclear drafting.
 - Issues also relate to housing density, neighbourhood character, small lot housing provisions, and staging of development.
 - The proposal lacks clarity on employment land provision, risking a commuter-based settlement inconsistent with 20-minute neighbourhood principles.
- Infrastructure and Transport
 - The transport strategy is considered under-developed and based on optimistic

- assumptions, particularly regarding traffic generation and public transport use.
- Key infrastructure (e.g. intersections, rail station upgrades) is delayed in staging, creating safety and network risks.
- There are significant uncertainties around road design, emergency access, drainage, and infrastructure ownership.
- Environmental and Sustainability Concerns
 - The proposal does not adequately demonstrate avoidance of biodiversity impacts, instead relying heavily on offsets.
 - Ecological assessments are incomplete, outdated, or insufficient, with gaps in species surveys and mapping.
 - Claims regarding carbon neutrality and sustainability lack clear pathways, targets, and enforcement mechanisms.
- Open Space and Community Infrastructure
 - Open space provision is potentially overstated and inconsistently calculated, with unclear hierarchy and distribution.
 - Delivery of key community infrastructure is delayed relative to population growth, risking poor early-stage amenity.
 - Social infrastructure planning lacks clarity in areas such as childcare, health services, and community facilities.
- Risk, Safety, and Emergency Management
 - The site presents significant bushfire and emergency access risks, with limited entry/exit points and high reliance on private vehicles.
 - Infrastructure staging may result in inadequate emergency service provision for early residents.

The submission raises substantial concerns about the strategic justification, governance arrangements, and technical robustness of the proposal. The submission concludes that the amendment, in its current form, is premature, insufficiently resolved, and not yet justified for approval.

Overall the submission prioritises the following key requests of DTP before the application should progress to a decision:

- Undertake independent peer and legal reviews of all documentation.
- Request the applicant prepare a Resource and Administrative Costs Impact Statement.
- Resolve critical strategic, environmental, infrastructure, and governance issues upfront.
- Refer the matter to a Priority Projects Standing Advisory Committee for a full public hearing.

Consultation and engagement

Internal consultation has been undertaken to seek the views and comments to prepare the preliminary submission.

Collaboration

The process outlined on the Engage Platform does not indicate whether there will be an Advisory Committee or avenue for public representation post the consultation process with an indicative timeframe of September 2026 for the Minister to determine the proposal.

Innovation and continuous improvement

N/A

Relevant law

Planning and Environment Act 1987

This report does not have any direct or indirect human rights implications under the Charter of *Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment was not required in relation to the subject matter of this report.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy 2019.

Relevant Council plans and policies

Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme

Macedon Ranges Settlement Strategy 2011

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile? N/A

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services? N/A

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios? N/A

Financial viability

There are no impacts on Council's financial viability by making this preliminary submission.

Sustainability implications

There is no sustainability implications by making this preliminary submission.

AI use disclosure

Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. For this report:

- AI tools were used for drafting assistance, for example generating initial text, summaries or alternative wording. All content was reviewed, edited and approved by Council officers.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

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.

PE.2	LOCAL LAW - CLAUSE 38 AMENDMENT - CONSULTATION
Officer:	Kristal Maynard, Manager Safer Communities
Council Plan	Our Environment
relationship:	Our Performance
Attachments:	Nil

Summary

This report recommends that Council commence a community engagement process to inform the community that Council is proposing to remove Clause 38(h) from the Community Local Law 2023. Attached to this report is the engagement plan and associated messaging.

The 'Inform' level of engagement is recommended for this matter. This approach is consistent with Council's Community Engagement Policy, as it involves providing the community with balanced and objective information to support their understanding of the issue. Under this methodology, Council's commitment is to keep the community informed, while the community's role is to receive and consider the information provided.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Endorses the release of Proposed Community Local Law 2023 amendment (Clause 38(h)) to inform the community of the intention to delete Clause 38(h) from the Community Local Law 2023, which states that:**

An owner or occupier of land may allow fireworks or pyrotechnic displays to be conducted on that land, provided that the fireworks or pyrotechnics:

(h) are not used during the koala breeding season (September – April).

2. **Notes that Council will receive a future report on the proposed endorsement of the change to delete Community Local Law Clause 38(h), including a summary of any feedback received from the community.**

Background

In 2022 – 23 Council conducted a review of its Community Local Law in its entirety. The review included a wide and comprehensive community consultation process to inform its development and account for new and emerging matters for inclusion. One of these matters was the inclusion of a clause to manage fireworks on private property. This was included in response to a level of concern of impact of fireworks in proximity to livestock and particularly horses, and their reaction to fireworks in areas of our shire.

Local Law 38(h) states:

38. Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Displays

An owner or occupier of land may allow fireworks or pyrotechnic displays to be conducted on that land, provided that the fireworks or pyrotechnics:

(h) are not used during the koala breeding season (September – April).

It has been established that Clause 38(h) of the Local Law 2023 is not enforceable as the clause was introduced post public consultation. Where a person's rights or responsibilities are affected, public consultation must occur in accordance with section 73(6)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. This has meant that Council cannot enforce Clause 38(h).

Discussion

A range of options is available to address the issues associated with Clause 38(h) continuing to sit in the Community Local Law. These include maintaining the status quo, whereby Clause 38(h) remains within the Local Law but is not actively enforced; undertaking a public exhibition process to consider whether to retain or remove Clause 38(h); or initiating a broader review of the Local Law.

Before making a Local Law, Council must comply with the Local Government Act 2020 Division 3 (73), asking Council to make a Local Law in accordance with its community engagement policy. Based on this being a minor amendment to a section of the Local Law it has been recommended that the inform option of the policy be the pathway.

It is recommended that Council seek to remove Clause 38(h) from the Community Local Law 2023. Removing the clause will allow the Community Local Law 2023 to be understood and not rely of "local" knowledge that this Clause 38(h) is not enforceable.

A process to retain Clause 38(h) is not recommended as there is not sufficient evidence as to the impact of fireworks on koala breeding, to allow the clause to stand.

Do nothing and not enforcing is not recommended, as the Clause 38(h) would still exist and result in community uncertainty, particularly over the 10-year life of the Community Local Law. A larger review of the Community Local Law is not required at this time, with the Local Law being only three years old and not due for a full review until 2029, before the expiry of the Community Local Law in 2033.

Consultation and engagement

Council have engaged legal supervision of the process. A working group across teams with an interest (Community Engagement, Environment, Local Laws, Governance) was established to consider all options and develop the recommended approach.

Collaboration

Benchmarking of fireworks clause with other Councils of similar geographical and demographic profiles to inform the agreed Clause changes to be made.

Innovation and continuous improvement

The fact that this matter has come to light based on a procedural irregularity demonstrates a reflection on the issue and an improvement to the Local Law.

Relevant law***Local Government Act 2020***

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment was not required in relation to the subject matter of this report. In line with the development of the Local Law 2023 the aim was to ensure it is inclusive, accessible, and responsive to the diverse needs of all community members.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

Nil

Relevant Council plans and policies

Nil

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile? N/A

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services? N/A

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios? N/A

Financial viability

Nil

Sustainability implications

Nil

AI use disclosure

- Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. For this report No AI tools were used in the preparation of this report.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

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.

PE.3	RESPONSE TO PETITION REGARDING DOG OFF LEAD AREAS ALONG CAMPASPE RIVER WALK, KYNETON
Officer:	Kristal Maynard, Manager Safer Communities
Council Plan relationship:	Our Environment
Attachments:	Nil

Summary

A petition was received on 27 March 2026 in relation to proposed changes to the Dog Off Lead Areas and provisions for the Campaspe River Walk in Kyneton. The petition seeks to

- (1) Remove the section between Piper Street and Jennings Street from the dog off-leash zone
- (2) Make the entire length from the Kyneton Racecourse to Langley Street off-leash from 7.30 – 10am daily.
- (3) Add an off-leash period from 5-7pm daily.
- (4) Allow dogs to swim in the Campaspe River.

This report provides a response to the petition.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Notes this report as a response to the petition;**
2. **Notes that the petition will form part of the wider feedback received in relation to the review of the dog and cat order; and**
3. **Responds to the head petitioner with the outcome of the petition.**

Background

A review of the dog and cat order started in April 2025 seeking community feedback on current dog off-lead areas among other things. Community feedback was collated and presented to Council.

Discussion

The requests made within the petition are in line with some themes received during the community consultation for the order. These themes are being carefully considered and will be addressed as part of the final order.

The requests made within the petition:

- (1) Remove the section between Piper Street and Jennings Street from the dog off-leash zone
- (2) Make the entire length from the Kyneton Racecourse to Langley Street off-leash from 7.30 – 10am daily.
- (3) Add an off-leash period from 5-7pm daily.
- (4) Allow dogs to swim in the Campaspe River.

are consistent with several key themes identified through the community engagement undertaken for the proposed order. These recurring themes highlight areas of community interest and reinforce the relevance of the issues raised by the petitioners.

Council officers have carefully reviewed and considered this feedback as part of the broader engagement outcomes. The matters raised will be addressed, where appropriate, in the development of the final draft order to be presented at a future Council meeting. It is recommended that the head petitioner be notified of the outcome of the petition.

Consultation and engagement

The petition forms part of the wider feedback received in relation to the review of the dog and cat order.

Collaboration

Nil

Innovation and continuous improvement

The requests of the petition form part of the feedback that Council has received in relation to review of the dog and cat order. This review reflects council's commitment to continuous improvement.

Relevant law

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment was not required in relation to the subject matter of this report.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

Nil

Relevant Council plans and policies

Council's Long Term Plan, *Shaping the Ranges 2025-35*, has 5 pillars, including "Our Places -We have connected and active places and spaces for everyone".

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile? N/A

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services? N/A

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios? N/A

Financial viability

Nil

Sustainability implications

Nil

AI use disclosure

Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. AI was not used for this report.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

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.

PE.4	ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION GRANT RECIPIENTS 2026
Officer:	Tania MacLeod, Coordinator Environment
Council Plan relationship:	Our Environment
Attachments:	Environment and Climate Grants 2025-26 - Panel Assessment Summary ↓

Summary

This report is to inform Council of the successful recipients of the 2025-2026 Environment Group Support Grant Program and Community Climate Action Grants, as per the newly adopted approval process in the *Environment Group Support and Community Climate Action Grants Terms of Reference for Assessment Panels*.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Notes the panel assessment results for funding applications under the 2025-26 Environment Group Support Grants and the Community Climate Action Grants.**
- 2. Notifies and congratulates all successful grant recipients.**

Background

Council has long been committed to providing support and resources to the more than 30 community environment and sustainability groups engaging in both environmental and climate action across the Macedon Ranges Shire. These groups play an important role in connecting the community, protecting biodiversity on both public and private land and progressing community solutions to the Climate Emergency.

Council's Environment Unit regularly supports these community groups by attending and presenting at meetings, providing information and resources, and collaborating on joint projects and events, and has provided financial support via an annual grant program for many years.

Following an extensive review of the Environment Grant, Council adopted revised Environment Grant guidelines and revised Terms of Reference for Environment & Climate grant assessment panel at the 17 December 2025 Scheduled Council Meeting.

Subsequent changes that came into effect for the 2025-26 round of the Environment Group Grant program include:

- Removal of the auspice limit on incorporated organisation to align with the Community Grants Policy 2025.
- Discontinuance of the Strategic Weed grant stream and reallocation of funding to increase the amount available under the Environment Group Support grant.
- Increase of the amount available under the Group Support grant from \$800 to \$1,000 per year, per group.

- Expansion of eligible activities under the Group Support grant to include professional development, educational workshops, training opportunities and certification for volunteers to build their capacity.
- Panel assessments recommendation to applications will be final.
- A biennial Biolink Boost funding scheme to support on-ground works.

Both Environment and Climate Action Grants align to the 2025 Community Grants Policy adopted at the 28 May 2025 Scheduled Council Meeting.

Discussion

Program overview and assessment process

Environment Grants

The Environment Group Support grant was the only environment grant funding stream to be offered in 2025-26. This is open to Landcare, Friends, environment and sustainability groups and intended to provide flexible support for group administration, training, governance, insurance and small-scale environmental works. Groups could apply for up to \$1000.

Council's budget for the 2025-26 funding stream is a total of \$30,000, enabling all community environmental groups to apply and receive funding for basic operating costs.

Community Climate Action Grant

In its second year, this grant program aims to support community groups to develop, implement and evaluate climate action projects that work towards reducing community greenhouse gas emissions and/or enabling greater community resilience to adapt to climate change.

The intended outcomes of the grant are to promote community mobilisation and participation in local climate action through:

- (1) Strengthening community groups' knowledge, skills and capacity to enable actions and intentions in their township 'Cool Changes' Community Climate Action Plan and 'community' allocated actions in the Climate Emergency Plan.
- (2) Enacting the priorities and principles of the Climate Emergency Plan.
- (3) Enabling community groups to play an active role in driving climate solutions throughout the wider community.
- (4) Enhancing the wider community's resilience and ability to adapt to climate change through increased awareness, knowledge and skills.

Applicants could apply for funding up to \$5,000 per project. Council's contribution to this program in 2025-26 is a total of \$20,000. As in 2024-25, Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises Ltd has entered a funding agreement with Council to contribute an additional \$20,000 to the total funding pool, increasing the total funding available in this stream to \$40,000.

Panel Assessment

Submissions for both programs closed on 3 May 2026 and, following individual assessments from the assessors listed below, a panel assessment was conducted on 13 May 2026.

The assessment of applications was conducted in accordance with the adopted *Environment Group Support and Community Climate Action Grants Terms of Reference for Assessment Panels*.

The assessment panels comprised of:

Program	Position	Role
Environment Group Support Grants	Team Leader Climate & Sustainability	Assessor
	Engagement & Environmental Program Officer (acting)	
	Private Land Conservation Officer	
	Senior Customer Service Officer	
	Coordinator Environment	Panel Assessment Chair
Community Climate Action Grants	Team Leader Climate & Sustainability	Assessor
	Engagement & Environmental Program Officer (acting)	
	Project Officer (Assets & Ops dept.)	
	Coordinator Environment	
	Coordinator Community Development & Youth	Panel Assessment Chair

Recommendations for funding

Environment Group Support Grant

The 2025-26 Environment Group Support Grant received a total of 14 applications, requesting a total of \$14,000. This is a modest decrease in submissions from 2024-25 (18 applications, 17 funded), however a slight increase in total funds going to community groups (\$13,600 in 2024-25). This year saw some previously inactive groups apply while others did not.

Generally, activities seeking funding included:

- Public Liability Insurance
- General administration and printing
- Website maintenance
- Meeting venue hire fees
- Training

The panel approved all funding applications. Five groups will receive funding only if supporting documentation is provided (i.e. quotes) and certain conditions are met (i.e. projects to be executed within the Macedon Ranges Shire LGA).

Community Climate Action Grant

The Community Climate Action Grant received a total of six applications, requesting a total of \$29,623.55.

Of the six applications, the panel has approved all applicants for full funding which would result in a total expenditure of \$29,623.55 to the successful applicants.

Activities seeking funding varied, with projects including:

- Establishing and embedding First Nations education with a Bushfoods Garden at Kyneton High School in partnership with Omnia Health
- Event & engagement equipment to increase community climate action volunteer onboarding and retention
- Household food growing and composting workshops in Macedon
- Establishing an active transport program for vulnerable communities in Woodend in partnership with Bupa Aged Care
- Expansion of the Wash Against Wash trailer's off-grid capability
- Establishing a large-scale worm-farm for canteen food waste processing at Kyneton High School

Attachment 1 provides a recipient summary.

Consultation and engagement

The Environment Unit has worked closely with the Community Strengthening department to ensure consistency between these grants and the Community Funding Scheme. For the first time, both grant streams were advertised together and open at the same time, streamlining staff resources and outward communications.

Collaboration

Collaboration was not required in relation to this report.

Innovation and continuous improvement

An extensive review of Council's Environment Grants was conducted in 2025 resulting in changes to the Environment Grant Guidelines and Terms of Reference for Environment and Community Climate Action Grant Assessment Panels that were adopted at the December 2025 Scheduled Council Meeting.

Relevant law

The *Local Government Act 2020* mandates that council funds must be used responsibly, transparently, and sustainably to provide services, infrastructure, and amenities for the local community. Under the Act's overarching financial principles, all grant funding must align with the council's community vision, be distributed transparently via fair policies, and demonstrate value to the community.

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment has been conducted in relation to the subject matter of this report. In the interest of delivering more inclusive and accessible funded community projects for the Macedon Ranges, the following measures are required under Council's grants programs:

- all funding applications request information about which groups in the community would benefit from the project, how these groups would be supported to participate in funded programs, and the estimated reach of groups;
- addressing gender equity and inclusion strengthened an application and was reflected in the scoring matrix;
- the composition of both assessment panels included mixed gender representation; and

- any in-person promotion of the grant's programs was held at a time and in a central location so as not to disadvantage those with caring responsibilities and/or work commitments.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

N/A

Relevant Council plans and policies

The delivery of Environment and Climate grants programs strongly align with the strategic directions and actions outlined in the following Council strategies and plans.

- Environment Strategy 2021
- Biodiversity Strategy 2018 / Draft Biodiversity Strategy 2026
- Climate Emergency Plan 2023-30

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile? Not applicable

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services? Not applicable

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios? Both funds provide an opportunity for community groups to lead the way in supporting the wider community to adapt to future climate scenarios through increasing knowledge, skills and awareness of climate change in the local context. Furthermore, projects and programs arising from these grants provide an opportunity for residents to be a part of solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change. These funds allow the community to be empowered to enable local solutions to the Climate Emergency and the intended outcomes clearly outline these funds intentions to promote community mobilisation and participation in climate solutions. These funds allow for both nature-based and technical solutions to the Biodiversity Crisis and the Climate Emergency to be explored and enabled in the Macedon Ranges.

Community Climate Action Grant is an action in the Council's Climate Emergency Plan 2023-2030 (CRC10: Pilot a Climate Action Grant program that provides financial assistance to community groups engaging in grassroots climate action).

Financial viability

Environment Group Support Grant

\$30,000 from Council's 2025-26 operational budget was allocated to Environment Group Support Grants. Council received a total of 14 applications, requesting a total of \$14,000. All 14 will be funded resulting in an underspend of \$16,000.

Community Climate Action Grant

Council's contribution to the Community Climate Action grant 2025-26 is a total of \$20,000, matched by Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises Ltd increasing the total funding pool to \$40,000.

The Community Climate Action Grant received a total of six applications, requesting a total of \$29,623.55. Of the six applications, the panel have approved all applicants for full funding which would result in a total expenditure of \$29,623.55. Council and Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises Ltd have funded an equal portion of the 2025-26 grants, representing an underspend of \$5,188.23 from Council operational budget.

All underspent Council funds will be returned to consolidated revenue.

Sustainability implications

These grants offer the community the opportunity to be active participants in enabling solutions to local environmental issues such as the Biodiversity Crisis and the Climate Emergency.

In prioritising grant applications that align with key objectives set out in the Environment Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy and others, Council is also addressing the environmental and social issues that intersect with climate change, such as equity and embedding First Nations perspectives, as well as knowledge sharing, participation and regeneration throughout the community.

Additionally, prioritising applications that align with Biodiversity Strategy priorities, Council can ensure the Macedon Ranges community is acting locally but with a global perspective.

AI use disclosure

Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. For this report:

- No AI tools were used in the preparation of this report.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

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 Group Support grant 2025-26 – recipient summary

Weighted score up to 10

App ID	Amount Requested	Organisation	Final Panel Score	Approved amount	Panel Assessment notes
ENV-25-2601	\$1,000	Macedon Ranges Wildlife Network	7	\$1,000	
ENV-25-2602	\$1,000	GREENING OF RIDDELL	7	\$1,000	
ENV-25-2603	\$1,000	Macedon and Mount Macedon Landcare Group Inc.	5	\$1,000	
ENV-25-2604	\$1,000	Newham and District Landcare Group	5	\$1,000	
ENV-25-2605	\$1,000	CAMPASPE VALLEY LANDCARE GROUP INC	5	\$1,000	
ENV-25-2606	\$1,000	Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network	6	\$1,000	
ENV-25-2607	\$1,000	Bullengarook Landcare Group	6	\$1,000	
ENV-25-2608	\$1,000	Riddells Creek Landcare	5	\$1,000	
ENV-25-2609	\$1,000	Clarkefield and District Farm Landcare Inc	6	\$1,000	
ENV-25-2612	\$1,000	MRSG: Riddells Creek Cool Changes	9	\$1,000	
ENV-25-2613	\$1,000	Baynton Sidonia Landcare Group Inc.	7	\$1,000	
ENV-25-2614	\$1,000	Deep Creek Landcare Group	5	\$1,000	
ENV-25-2615	\$1,000	Woodend Landcare Inc.	7	\$1,000	
ENV-25-2616	\$1,000	Upper Maribyrnong Catchment Group	6	\$1,000	Approved with conditions. Additional information required: - Project and contingency planning. - Proof of works within MRSC boundary
				\$14,000	

Community Climate Action grant 2025-26 – recipient summary

Weighted score up to 10

App ID	Organisation	Project title	Brief description	Final Panel Score	Approved amount	Panel Assessment notes
CCA-25-26-02	Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group Committee	MRSG Community Climate Action Engagement & Visibility Project	The MRSG Community Climate Action Engagement & Visibility Project will strengthen MRSG's ability to deliver consistent, high-visibility community engagement at local events, markets, and public gatherings across the Macedon Ranges Shire.	5.2	\$4,648.55	Approved with conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community engagement and evaluations plans to be submitted
CCA-25-26-03	Wash Against Waste	WAW Off Grid Energy Expansion to service two additional markets in the Macedon Ranges	The proposed project is to upgrade the existing Wash Against Waste (WAW) trailer central battery system with a 100% battery capacity upgrade to support the transition to a clean energy net-zero operation.	6.8	\$5,000.00	
CCA-25-26-06	Transport Action Group	Cycling Without Age Macedon Ranges	Cycling Without Age (CWA) is a global movement that reconnects seniors with their community and the natural environment in a sustainable way. By providing free rides on purpose-built, electric-assist trishaws piloted by volunteers, the program breaks the cycle of social isolation for those no longer able to cycle by themselves.	7.5	\$5,000.00	
CCA-25-26-07	Kyneton High School	Growing Culture Together: Kyneton High School Indigenous	Kyneton High School will deliver a strengths based cultural learning project that centres Koori students' engagement with Indigenous bushfoods and the	6.5	\$5,000.00	Approved with conditions. Additional information required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project plan - Risk Management

		Bushfoods Garden Project	traditional use of native plants for food and medicine, while creating opportunities for this knowledge to be shared across the whole school community.			- Quotes
CCA-25-26-08	Macedon & Mount Macedon Community House	Growing Community, Learning Together	The Macedon & Mt Macedon Community House (MMMCH) is seeking funding to deliver a package of expert-led workshops and training in 2026 under the Growing Community, Learning Together Program. This application seeks to offer expert knowledge in support of our community's food security & resilience	7.8	\$4,975.00	
CCA-25-26-09	Kyneton High School	Raven's Worm Haven at Kyneton High School	Raven's Worm Haven is a place-based climate action project that will install an industrial-scale vermicomposting system at Kyneton High School. Located adjacent to Food Technology classrooms and Raven's Eatery (the school canteen), the system will process organic waste generated on-site, providing a practical, low-carbon solution.	7	\$5,000.00	
					\$29,623.55	

PE.5	PLN/2025/404 - 25 ASHBOURNE ROAD, WOODEND VIC 3442
Application Details:	Kimray Pty Ltd c/ Miller Merrigan
Officer:	Scott Matheson, Coordinator Statutory Planning and Compliance
Council Plan relationship:	Our Places Our Environment
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clause 56 Assessment ↓ 2. Proposed Subdivision Plans ↓ 3. Ecological Assessment (under separate cover) 4. Stormwater Management Strategy (under separate cover)
Triggers for planning permit	<p>a Clause 32.09-3 (Neighbourhood Residential Zone, Schedule 3) – A permit is required to subdivide land</p> <p>Clause 42.01-2 (Environmental Significance Overlay, Schedule 4) – A permit is required to subdivide land</p> <p>Clause 42.02-2 (Vegetation Protection Overlay, Schedule 1 & 2) – A permit is required to remove, destroy or lop vegetation specified in a schedule to the overlay</p> <p>Clause 52.17 (Native Vegetation) – A permit is required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation.</p>
Zones and Overlays	<p>Neighbourhood Residential Zone, Schedule 3</p> <p>Environmental Significance Overlay, Schedule 4</p> <p>Vegetation Protection Overlay, Schedules 1, 2 & 6</p>
No. of objectors	N/A
Trigger for report to Council	Requested to proceed to a Council Meeting for decision by 3 or more Councillors
Key Considerations	<p>Whether the proposed subdivision is generally supported by the broader planning policy framework.</p> <p>Whether the proposed subdivision is consistent with the relevant neighbourhood character objectives within the schedule to the Neighbourhood Residential Zone.</p> <p>Whether the proposed subdivision responds appropriately to the standards and objectives of Clause 56 (Residential subdivision).</p> <p>Whether the proposed subdivision adequately addresses on-site flood risk and stormwater treatment.</p> <p>Whether the proposed native vegetation removal and protection of biodiversity is acceptable.</p>
Conclusion	While the proposed subdivision enjoys some broader level support from local and state planning policy framework, the application does not meet acceptable thresholds for management of flood-risk and stormwater

treatment.

Further, the application has not appropriately considered the retention of vulnerable Black Gums and other native vegetation on-site and proposes a removal of vegetation that is otherwise unacceptable.

Matters of stormwater management, flood-risk and vegetation retention would need to be adequately addressed in order for the application to be supported. It is recommended that Council advise VCAT that it does not support the application ahead of the VCAT proceedings later in the year.

Date of receipt of application: 17 December 2025

Summary

This report sets out a recommended Council position for a current Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) appeal under Section 79 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* for a 26-lot subdivision, associated infrastructure, and native vegetation removal. The appeal was lodged as a 'failure to determine' before notice was given under Section 52 of the Act. As a result, no notice of the application was given through Council's process. Notice has instead been provided through VCAT, with parties invited to submit Statements of Grounds as part of the VCAT proceedings.

The site is a large residentially zoned parcel on the edge of Woodend. The proposal seeks to create 26 lots ranging from 603 to 1,706 square metres. A new internal road network is proposed, including a connection to Ashbourne Road, a link to Sproule Place and the surrounding road network, and local access roads. All lots except one are accessed internally, with Lot 20 taking access from Ashbourne Road.

A stormwater reserve is proposed in the north-west to extend an existing basin. Preliminary drainage information has been submitted, though further detail is required by Council's Engineering unit. An ephemeral watercourse runs through the central portion of the land and drains towards Slatey Creek. Ongoing concerns remain from Council and the North Central CMA regarding flood risk and overland flow management.

The site contains established vegetation, including 17 Black Gums listed as vulnerable under the *EPBC Act*. While not directly removed, these and other native vegetation are deemed lost due to their location within proposed lots, potentially triggering a Commonwealth referral. The proposal also includes removal of 31 trees, including 14 native or indigenous species. Objections have been raised by DEECA and Council's Environment unit, both seeking greater vegetation retention, including a possible conservation reserve.

Given the unresolved issues with stormwater, flooding, and vegetation impacts, officers recommend that the application is not supported in its current form.

Recommendation

Part A

That Council advises VCAT that it does not support the application for review being considered under VCAT P289/2026 (Council ref PLN/2025/404) at 25 Ashbourne Road, Woodend on the following grounds:

- 1. The proposal is not consistent with the Municipal Planning Strategy or Planning Policy Framework of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme, specifically:**

- (a) The proposal does not acceptably conserve biodiversity values of the Shire (Clause 02.03-2).
 - (b) The proposal does not acceptably minimise consequences of inundation to the site and its surrounds (Clause 02.03-3).
 - (c) The proposal does not acceptably minimise stormwater capacity issues nor does it implement measures to acceptably improve stormwater management (Clause 02.03-9).
 - (d) The proposal does not enhance conservation of the environment, including the unique habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity of the Macedon Ranges (Clause 11.03-5S).
 - (e) The fragmentation of lots within the proposed subdivision does not acceptably protect areas of vulnerable flora or high ecological value vegetation (Clause 12.01-1L).
 - (f) The proposal does not acceptably seek to avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (Clause 12.01-2S).
 - (g) The proposed subdivision is not sited or designed to minimise risk to life, health, property or the natural environment (Clause 13.01-1S).
 - (h) The proposal does not acceptably consider the catchment context, protect downstream environments or provide an acceptably resilient urban environment considering the effects of climate change (Clause 19.03-3S)
2. The proposal is not consistent with Clause 56 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme, specifically:
- (a) The proposal does not sufficiently achieve the public open space provision objectives, and
 - (b) The proposal does not sufficiently achieve the stormwater management objectives.
3. The proposal is not supported by Goulburn-Murray Water, a determining referral authority pursuant to Clause 66.01, 66.02 and 66.04 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme because:
- (a) The proposal does not successfully achieve the urban run-off objectives and Standard C25 of Clause 56.07-4 of the Planning Scheme.
4. The proposal has not sufficiently achieved the vegetation protection objectives or the guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.
5. The proposal is contrary to the decision guidelines at Clause 65.02 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme, specifically:
- (a) The subdivision pattern having regard to the physical characteristics of the land including existing vegetation.
 - (b) The provision and location of reserves for public open space and other community facilities.
 - (c) The availability and provision of utility services, including water, sewerage, drainage and electricity.
 - (d) Whether, in relation to subdivision plans, native vegetation can be protected through subdivision and siting of open space areas.

Part B

That Council authorise the Statutory Planning Department to do all things necessary to undertake Council's role in the VCAT process without again bringing the matter before Council, including without limitation consideration of amendments to the application and the power to decide on the application at the conclusion of the VCAT process.

Existing conditions and relevant history

Subject land

The subject land is at 25 Ashbourne Road, Woodend and is irregular in shape, with an almost triangular layout. The total area of the land is 3.118ha with a frontage to Ashbourne Road to the south, a newer subdivision (including properties along Sproule Place, Beaumont Place and Long Court) to the north and open pastureland to the west. The site is located along the western edge of the Woodend township and straddles the Woodend Protected Settlement Boundary.

The land has a gentle fall towards its centre and western edge, influenced by an unnamed ephemeral watercourse that traverses the site in an east–west direction. The site is largely open and currently used for intermittent grazing. Scattered semi-mature and mature vegetation is present across the property, with a more densely vegetated area established in the south-western corner.

Vegetation located along Ashbourne Road and within the Baker Street road reserve provides partial visual screening, while more open views are available from the northern interface with the adjoining subdivision. The site also contains several small dams and is defined by post-and-wire fencing along both internal divisions and external boundaries.

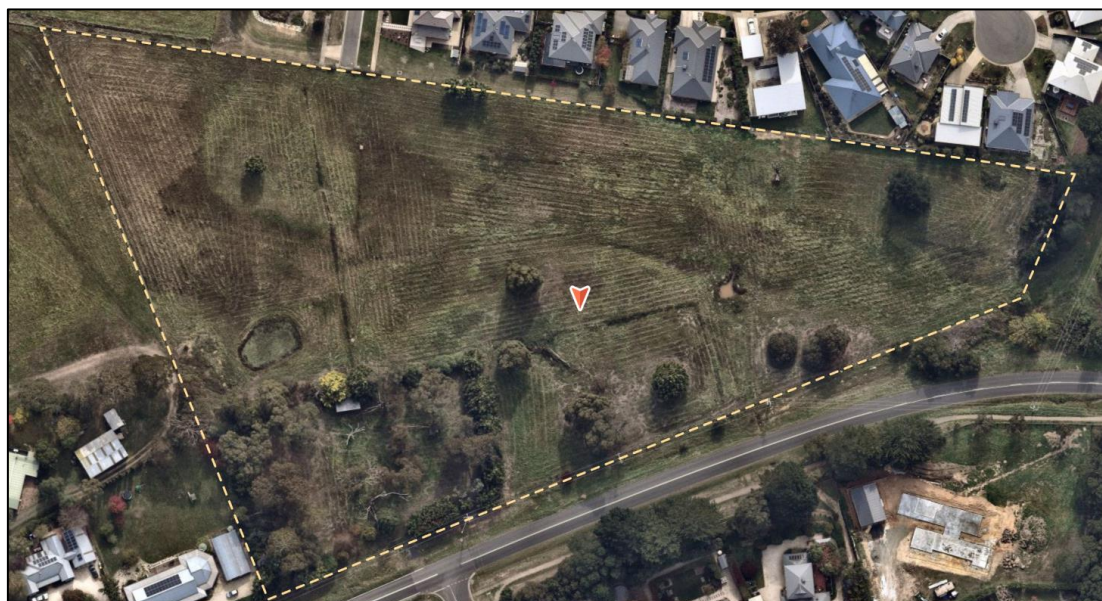


Figure 1: Aerial image of the site (Nearmap – dated 30 April 2026)

Surrounds

North of the subject site is a recent residential subdivision including supporting infrastructure with nine dwellings having a direct rear interface with the subject site. As with the subject site, this land is located within the Neighbourhood Residential Zone, Schedule 3 (NRZ3). Lot sizes average around 700sqm. A stormwater retention facility (drainage basin) lies adjacent to the subject site along the north-western boundary and Sproule Place terminates at the boundary with the subject site.

To the east of the subject site is an unmade road reserve known as Baker Street, with larger lots within the NRZ3 across the reserve. Ashbourne Road returns to central Woodend and Woodend station further east, with a mixture of residential allotments interspersed.

To the south of the subject site is Ashbourne Road, a Council-managed collector road running south-west to north-east. Across Ashbourne Road is the continuation of Woodend township's residential areas within the Neighbourhood Residential Zone, Schedule 5 and 6 (NRZ5 & NRZ6) with lot sizes averaging approx. 2,000sqm.

To the west of the subject site is open pastureland located within the Rural Conservation Zone, Schedule 1 (RCZ1) accessed further north from Mahoneys Road. The rural hinterland extends to the west of the site. The ephemeral waterway running through the site discharges into Slatey Creek to the west.

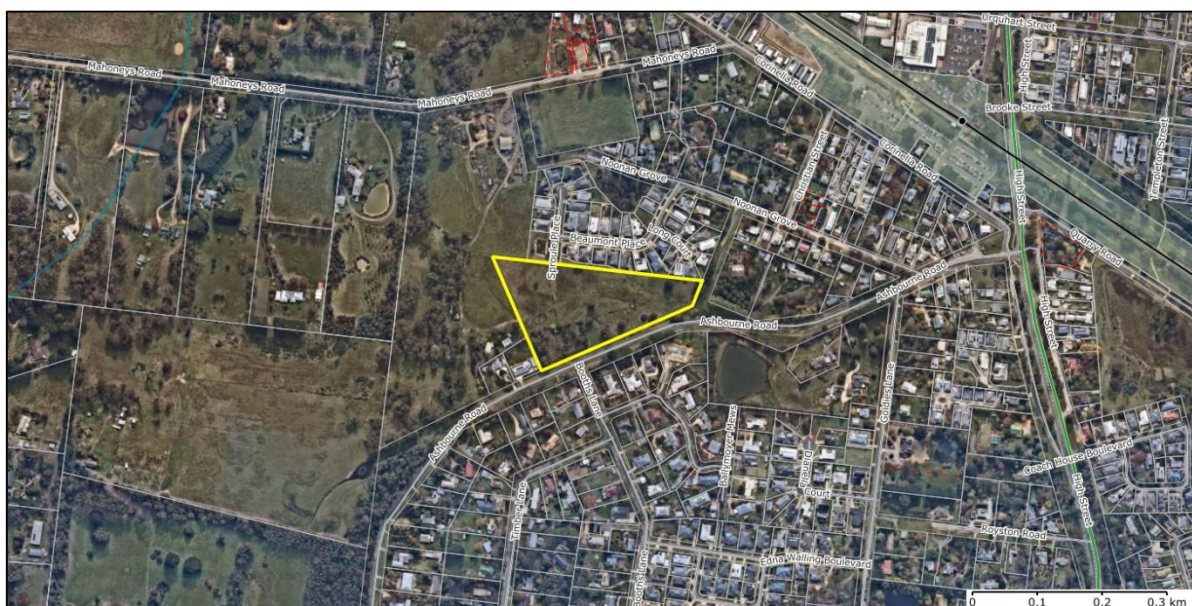


Figure 2: Aerial image of site and surrounds (Council GIS)

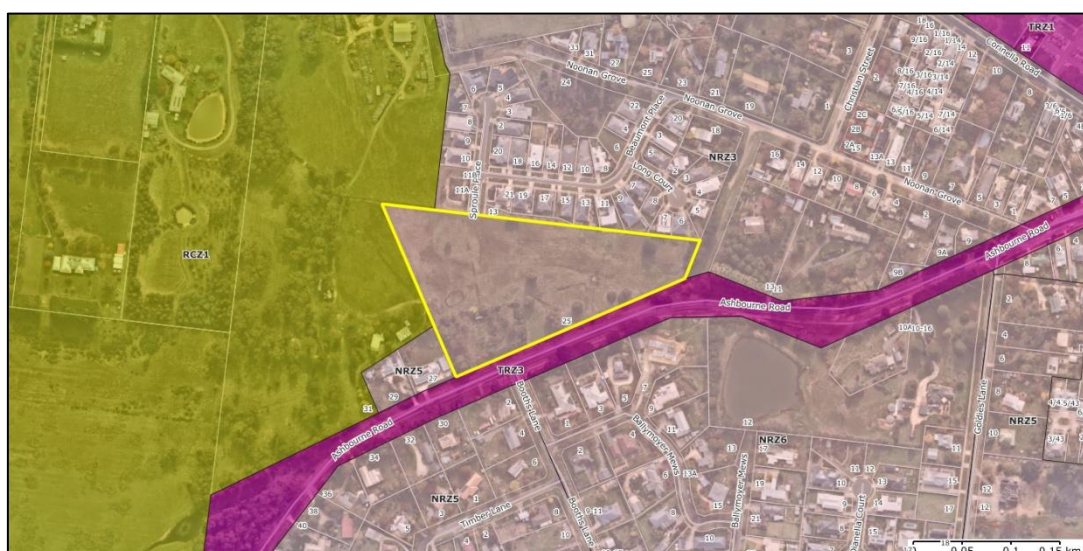


Figure 3: Zoning map of site and surrounds (Council GIS)

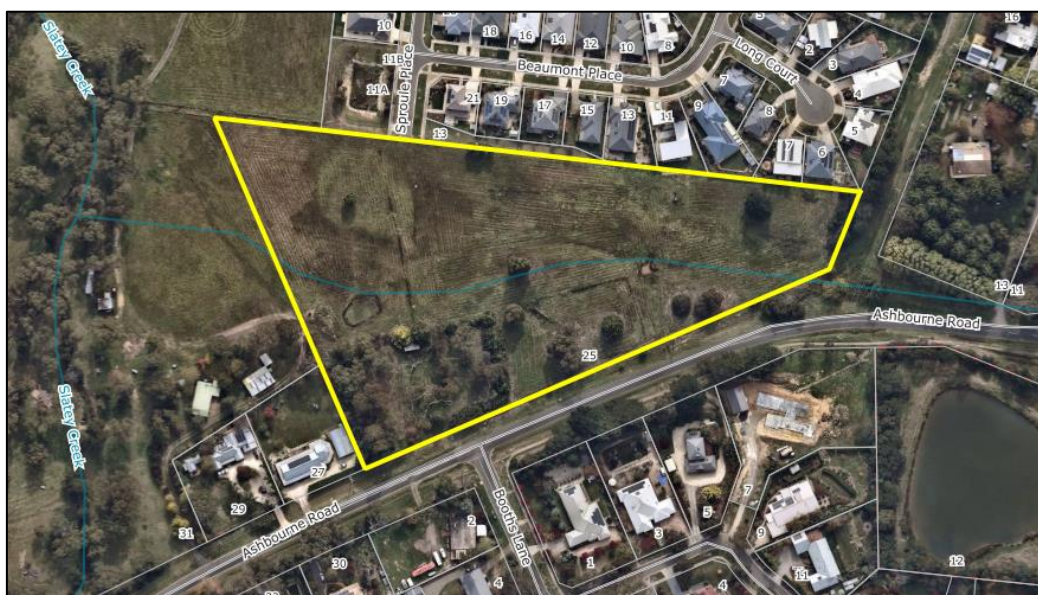


Figure 4: Aerial image of subject site including approx. location of waterways (Council GIS)

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

A current copy of title has been provided with the application which shows no Covenants, Section 173 Agreements or restrictions have been registered on the title to this property.

Previous planning permit history

A search of Council's records has found no planning permit history for the site.

Proposal

The application proposes a 26-lot subdivision and the removal of native vegetation as follows:

Subdivision

The site is proposed to be subdivided into 26 residential allotments, ranging in size from 603sqm to 1,706sqm with an average lot size of 846sqm and a density of 9 lots per hectare. The lots are generally regular in shape with some changes in layout to respond to the topography and site layout.

The lots have been designed to front a proposal internal road network, except for Lot 20 which proposes access from Ashbourne Road.

The proposal includes a reserve for stormwater drainage in the north-western aspect of the site. This has been designed to co-locate with an existing drainage reserve in the subdivision along Sproule Road to the north.



Figure 5: Excerpt of Subdivision Layout Plan (Application documents)

Internal access

An internal road network is proposed within the site with an intersection with Ashbourne Road proposed in the south-eastern aspect of the site. The application proposes to connect the internal road network to Sproule Place to the north-west. Reduced width road pavements connect vehicle access to Lots 1-3 and a cul-de-sac arrangement is proposed as an extension of Sproule Place.

The internal road network has been designed to be responsive to existing sewerage easements that run through the site. The location of the internal roads loosely follows the existing east-west watercourse through the site, to assist with stormwater management and run-off treatment.

Site drainage

The application includes a Stormwater Management Strategy focusing on conveying overland flows from upstream catchments. On-site runoff is proposed to be managed through a range of engineering solutions, including capturing overland flows within the internal road network.

Overland flows are proposed to be managed via the reserve in the north-western aspect of the site. According to the application, this would allow external 1% AEP flows to pass through and spill westward towards downstream Slatey Creek.

Vegetation removal

Vegetation removal is proposed to facilitate the proposed development, with 31 of the existing 140 trees proposed to be removed, and two more trees removed within Council's road reserve. 10 indigenous trees, 4 native trees and 17 exotic trees are proposed to be removed.

The application's Planning Report notes that all 17 protected Black Gums on-site are proposed to be retained. However, the application's Ecological Assessment notes that the Black Gums are 'deemed lost' due to their location within proposed residential allotments. The ecological assessment notes that under the current design, Commonwealth referral under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) would be required.

Relevant Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme controlsSection 46AZK of the Planning and Environment Act 1987

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.

The subject site is located within Woodend township, which is recognised as a district town in the SoPP.

Whilst both the vision and a number of the policy domains contained within the SoPP are of relevance to this application and the potential impacts on the natural environment, the site is not in close proximity to any of the landscape features referenced within the SoPP. As such, limited weight can be given to the SoPP in the context of the assessment of this application.

Planning Policy Framework

Clause no.	Clause name
02.03-1	Settlement
02.03-2	Environmental and landscape values
02.03-3	Environmental risks and amenity
02.03-5	Built environment and heritage
02.03-6	Housing
02.03-9	Infrastructure
02.04	Strategic framework plans
11.01-1S	Settlement
11.01-1R	Settlement – Regional Victoria
11.01-1L	Settlement – Woodend
11.03-5S	Distinctive areas and landscapes
11.03-6S	Regional and local places
12.01-1S	Protection of biodiversity
12.01-1L	Protection of biodiversity – Macedon Ranges
12.01-2S	Native vegetation management
12.03-1L	River corridors, waterways, lakes and wetlands – Macedon Ranges
13.01-1S	Natural hazards and climate change
14.02-1S	Catchment planning and management
14.02-1L	Catchment planning and management – Macedon Ranges
15.01-1S	Urban design
15.01-1L	Urban design – Macedon Ranges
15.01-3S	Subdivision design
15.01-3L	Subdivision design – Macedon Ranges
15.01-5S	Neighbourhood character

15.01-5L	Neighbourhood character – Woodend
16.01-1S	Housing supply
16.01-1L	Housing supply – Macedon Ranges
18.01-1S	Land use and transport integration
18.02-1S	Walking
18.02-4S	Roads
19.03-3S	Integrated water management
19.03-3R	Integrated water management – Loddon Mallee South
19.03-3L	Integrated water management – Macedon Ranges

Zoning

Clause no.	Clause name
32.09	Neighbourhood Residential Zone, Schedule 3 (NRZ3)

Overlay

Clause no.	Clause name
42.01	Environmental Significance Overlay, Schedule 4 (ESO4)
42.02	Vegetation Protection Overlay, Schedules 1, 2 & 6 (VPO1, VPO2 & VPO6)

Particular provisions

Clause no.	Clause name
52.02	Easements, Restrictions and Reserves
52.17	Native Vegetation
52.37	Canopy Trees
53.01	Public Open Space and Subdivision
53.18	Stormwater Management in Urban Development
56	Residential Subdivision

General provisions

Clause no.	Clause name
65.02	Approval of an application to subdivide land

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> ?	Yes
2	Does the application proposal include significant ground disturbance as defined	Yes

	Assessment criteria	Assessment response
	in Part 1 Regulation 5 of <i>Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018</i> ?	
3	Is the application proposal an exempt activity as defined in Part 2 Division 2 of <i>Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018</i> ?	No
4	Is the application proposal a high impact activity as defined in Part 2 Division 5 of <i>Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018</i> ?	Yes

Based on the above assessment, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is required in accordance with Part 2 Division 1 of *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*.

A Cultural Heritage Management Plan approved under Part 4 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* has been submitted and has formed part of the overall assessment of this application.

The process to date

The application was submitted to Council on 17 December 2025. On 14 April 2026, Council was given notice of an application for review being lodged with VCAT under section 79 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Referral

Authority (Section 55)	Response
North Central CMA	Further information requested
Powercor Bendigo	Supported – subject to conditions
Goulburn Murray Water	Supported – subject to conditions
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Not supportive of the proposal in its current iteration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking a vegetation reserve for ecological purposes
Western Water	Supported – subject to conditions

Authority (Section 52)	Response
MRSC Engineering	Does not support the application in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stormwater treatment Potential flooding impacts
MRSC Environment	Does not support the application in relation to Black Gums and other vegetation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking a vegetation reserve for ecological purposes
MRSC Parks and Gardens	Supportive of a vegetation reserve for ecological purposes

Advertising

The application for review was lodged with VCAT prior to notice of the application being given pursuant to Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Notice of the application was prescribed by VCAT and officers understand that numerous residents have

or intend to lodge a Statement of Grounds and / or join as party to these proceedings. At the time of the officer report being finalised, two parties had lodged a Statement of Grounds.

That said, no objections were submitted as part of the planning application process and cannot be considered under Council's assessment and forming of a position.

Officer assessment

In assessing this application, the following matters require consideration:

- Whether the proposal is consistent with the Municipal Planning Strategy, Planning Policy Framework and purpose of the zone.
- Whether the proposal is consistent with the relevant neighbourhood character objectives within the schedule to the Neighbourhood Residential Zone.
- Whether the proposed subdivision is consistent with the objectives and standards of Clause 56 (Residential subdivision).
- Whether the proposed subdivision responds appropriately to the decision guidelines within the Eppalock Special Water Supply Catchment (ESO4) overlay.
- Whether the removal of native vegetation sufficiently achieves the vegetation protection objectives.
- Whether the proposal achieves the general decision guidelines at Clause 65.02 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.

Each of these matters are addressed in the following assessment.

Is the proposal consistent with the Municipal Planning Strategy, Planning Policy Framework and the purpose of the zone.

It is important to note from the outset that Officer assessment is that a well-considered, modest residential subdivision of the subject site could be supported, noting that there is broader level strategic policy support for a subdivision in this location. However, any residential subdivision of this site must respond appropriately to the environmental constraints within the site and surrounds to achieve overarching policy support.

A range of planning policies support the residential subdivision of this site, with reference to the most relevant policies below:

- Woodend is a district town, where modest growth can be anticipated – new development must respond to identified environmental constraints and present a compact urban form (Clause 02.03-1).
- New development should protect and enhance the distinctive built form and landscape character of the Shire's towns (Clause 02.03-5).
- There is demand for new housing in proximity to town centres and a diversity of housing options may cater to the longer-term needs of residents (Clause 02.03-6).
- The site is contained within the Woodend township boundary where infill development and subdivision are supported (Clause 11.01-1L – see Figure 6 below).
- Larger lots should be maintained along town entrances to Woodend including landscaped setbacks along gateway roads (Clause 15.01-1L).
- Vacant land within the Garden Setting Precinct of Woodend should be subdivided to achieve a minimum of 600sqm to preserve and enhance the existing character of this area (Clause 15.01-5L).

- Plan movement networks and adjoining land uses to minimise disruption to residential communities and their amenity (Clause 18.01-1S).
- The purpose of the Neighbourhood Residential Zone is to manage and ensure the development is responsive to identified character, environmental and landscape characteristics (Clause 32.09).

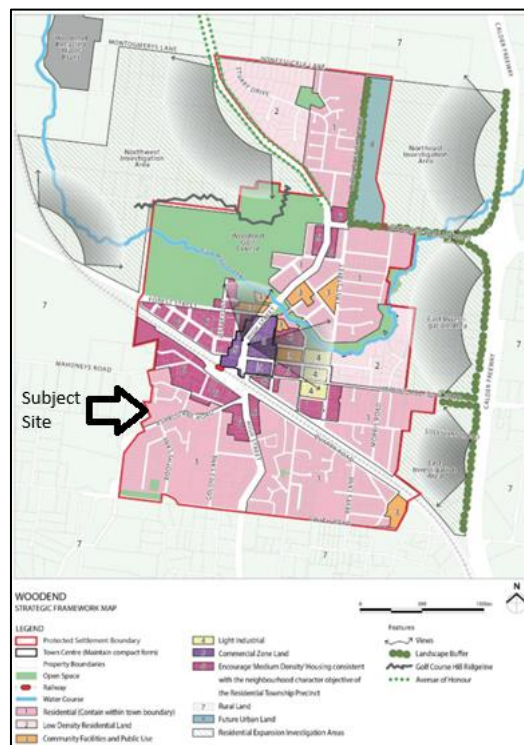


Figure 6: Subject site within Woodend Strategic Framework Plan (Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme)

However, a balance of policy considerations must be given to the site's environmental risks and ability to readily manage these risks for future residents. Numerous planning policies provide guidance for the assessment of these risks, including:

- The biodiversity values of the Shire should be conserved by protecting, enhancing, managing and restoring indigenous vegetation (Clause 02.03-2).
- Future use and development of land prone to flooding should minimise the consequences of inundation to the site and its surrounds (Clause 02.03-3).
- Development must ensure it does not exacerbate stormwater capacity issues and measures should be implemented to improve stormwater management (Clause 02.03-9).
- Enhance conservation of the environment, including the unique habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity of these areas (Clause 11.03-5S).
- Areas of vulnerable flora and high ecological value should be protected by avoiding fragmentation of existing lots (Clause 12.01-1L).
- Avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (Clause 12.01-2S).
- Site and design development to minimise risk to life, health, property, the natural environment and community infrastructure from natural hazards (Clause 13.01-1S).
- Restrict development and growth in the Eppalock designated water supply catchment area (Clause 14.02-1L).

- Plan and coordinate integrated water management to take into account the catchment context and protect downstream environments and provide urban environments that are more resilient to the effects of climate change (Clause 19.03-3S).

Officer assessment is that the balance of planning policy is supportive of the siting, design and layout of the proposal. The site is within the Woodend township boundaries and proposes a layout which is responsive to the existing character, particularly within the northern subdivision.

However, the balance of support for this proposal rests on appropriate management of stormwater and flooding risks, and the protection of biodiversity value and retention of high-value vegetation. The application in its current form does not achieve these benchmarks, therefore does not currently receive a suitable level of planning policy support.

Officer recommendation: the proposal in its current form is not in accordance with the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.

Whether the proposal consistent with the neighbourhood character objectives of the schedule to the zone.

This site is located within the Woodend Garden Setting precinct within the Neighbourhood Residential Zone, Schedule 3 (NRZ3). The relevant neighbourhood character objectives within this precinct are:

- *Encourage landscaped front and rear gardens with mature vegetation, including canopy trees.*
- *Retain a consistent pattern of detached dwellings...and allow vegetation to dominate.*
- *Support absent or low front fences that allow front gardens to merge into the nature strip.*

Officer assessment is that the proposal successfully achieves the neighbourhood character objectives within this precinct for the following reasons:

- The proposal includes the retention of numerous canopy trees which can be retained and enhanced during and post-subdivision.
- The layout and pattern of subdivision is appropriately responsive to the character of lots to the north of the site – the functional layout is generally appropriate, and the lot sizes will enable an appropriate future pattern of the development.
- Conditions on a future planning permit could be implemented to limit the visual intrusion of front fences, achieving an appropriate transition between public and private gardens.

For the reasons outlined above, officer assessment is that the proposal appropriately responds to the neighbourhood character objectives within the NRZ3.

Officer recommendation: the proposal responds appropriately to the neighbourhood character intent within the Neighbourhood Residential Zone, Schedule 3 (NRZ3) and this aspect of the proposal is worthy of support.

Whether the proposed subdivision is consistent with the objectives and standards of Clause 56 (Residential subdivision) of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.

A detailed officer assessment of the standards of Clause 56 is included at *Attachment 1*. Only those standards deemed to have not been achieved are assessed within this section of the report.

It is prudent to discuss the operation of Clause 56 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme; that is that a standard should normally be met but should Council be satisfied that

an alternative design solution meets the objective, then it may be considered. Therefore, when a standard is deemed to not comply, the objective is the desired outcome for assessment.

Officer assessment is that the following standards of Clause 56 have not been achieved:

- Standard C13 (Public Open Space Provision)
- Standard C17 (Neighbourhood Street Network)
- Standard C25 (Stormwater Management)

Each of these non-compliant standards are assessed via their objective in more detail below.

Public open space provision objectives

Officer assessment is that the proposal has not sufficiently achieved the objectives for public open space. While the proposal allows for two separate public open spaces within the subdivision layout, they are minor in nature and generally reserved for internal function, as opposed to the measures within Standard C13. This standard asks for public open space to be, as relevant:

- Integrated with floodways and unencumbered land that is accessible for public recreation.
- Integrated with urban water management systems, waterways and other water bodies.
- Incorporate natural and cultural features where appropriate.

The south-western aspect of the subject site is where much of the vegetation on-site remains and where the ephemeral watercourse drains towards and through to Slatey Creek to the west. Should a greater area of the site be set aside for public open space, this would support a range of planning policy outcomes associated with the proposal, including achieving the public open space provision objectives.

The reservation of this land for public use is supported by both the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA – via recommending referral response) and Council's Environment team. Each of these stakeholders have sought a conservation reserve in the south-western corner of the site. Indeed, the application's own Ecological Assessment seeks this outcome for the preservation of vulnerable Black Gums on-site.

For these reasons, Officer assessment is that the proposal in its current form is not in accordance with the public open space provision objective, although this could potentially be achieved through a mediated delivery of a conservation reserve.

Neighbourhood street network objectives

Council's Engineering Department have raised queries regarding the detailed layout of the internal street network and its connection to Ashbourne Road. Officers understand that the matter of additional traffic, a functional street network and upgrades to surrounding roads is of interest to neighbouring residents (although noting that these matters cannot be considered under section 60 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*).

As the detailed design of the intersection with Ashbourne Road has not been outlined or provided at this stage of the application process, officer assessment is that the proposal does not comply with Standard C17. With that said, relevant conditions on a future planning permit could likely sufficiently achieve the relevant objective.

Further to that, Council's Engineers do not believe that a surface upgrade to Noonan Grove or adjacent Baker Street is warranted. This is based on VCAT's Orders in *Dallarex Pty Ltd v Macedon Ranges SC [2013] VCAT 1995* which allowed the subdivision of land to the north

of the subject site. In that matter, the Tribunal found that “Noonan Grove is a safe road and capable of carrying additional traffic without upgrade” and ordered the applicant to fund 40% of the works to upgrade the road.

Although there would be additional traffic movements generated by the future development of this proposed subdivision, officers are satisfied that – subject to detailed designs showing two-way traffic movement via the intersection with Ashbourne Road – the objective can be satisfactorily achieved.

Stormwater management objectives

Council's Engineers are not supportive of a range of matters relating to stormwater management within the site, namely:

- Given the stormwater basin to the north-west of the site is within separate ownership, this cannot reasonably be relied upon unless the relevant agreements are in-place.
- Given this, the stormwater engineering plans must be redesigned and recalculated, including proposed outlet structures and flow control mechanisms.
- Further, the runoff from the proposed on-site stormwater basin would need to discharge into Slatey Creek to the west – details of this much be further understood and an easement provided in favour of MRSC within that property.
- Rainwater tanks within greenfield subdivisions are not supported for stormwater treatment - these should be removed and the relevant engineering calculations updated.

Owing to this, the stormwater management system has not been designed in accordance with Council's requirements and Standard C25 is not achieved. Given these concerns, the stormwater management objectives cannot reasonably be achieved without support from Council's Engineering Department. While the permit applicant may revisit their documentation to better achieve these requirements, for now officer assessment is that the proposal does not achieve the stormwater management objectives.

This extends to potential flooding risks within the subject site. Notice of the application was given to North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) as the relevant catchment management authority. This agency outlined that flood levels for a 1% AEP probability have not been determined for the area under the supporting *Water Act 1989*. However, preliminary mapping (shown at Figure 7 below) indicates that in a 1% flood event it is likely that the property may be subject to inundation from a tributary of Slatey Creek.

NCCMA recommended that the applicant undertake additional work to investigate this possibility. The applicant's addendum provided to both Council and NCCMA questioned the need to assess potential future flooding scenarios, when best practice assessments considered today's flooding risk.

Importantly, strategic work has not been completed or approved to implement statutory flood controls on the subject site. Therefore the flood mapping provided by NCCMA cannot be given weight under a statutory assessment. However, when considering stormwater management and integrated flood risks within the site and surrounds, it is prudent to apply this mapping for guidance. Further, the implementation of infrastructure within the site should manage current and future risks, which is outlined in both Clause 13.01-1S and Clause 19.03-3S of the planning scheme.

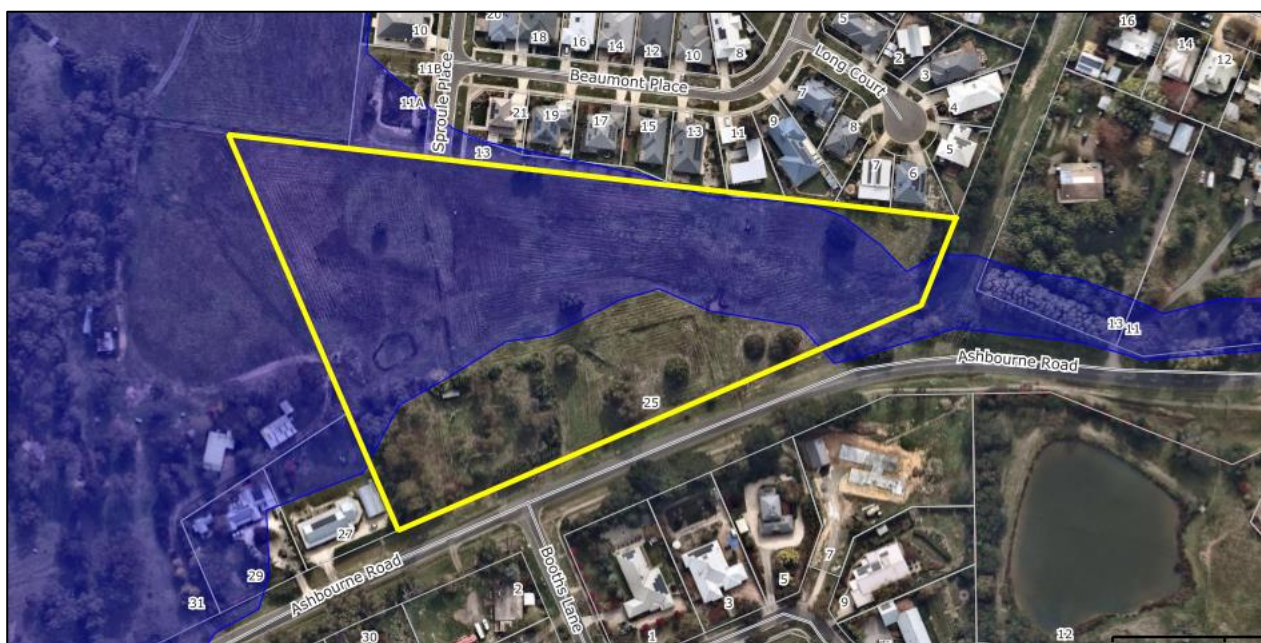


Figure 7: Mapped extent of potential future 1% AEP Flood Risk (North Central CMA)

For these reasons, officer assessment is that further investigations and research is required to provide a design response that achieves both Standard C25 and the relevant stormwater management objectives within Clause 56 of the planning scheme.

Officer recommendation: the proposal in its current form is not in accordance with Clause 56 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme in that it does not achieve the public open space provision or stormwater management objectives.

Whether the proposed subdivision respond appropriately to the decision guidelines within the Environmental Significance Overlay, Schedule 4 (ESO4).

The site lies within the Eppalock Special Water Supply Catchment and is entirely within the Environmental Significance Overlay, Schedule 4. As such, the application was referred to both Greater Western Water and Goulburn Murray Water as the relevant (determining) water authorities for the application.

Both determining referral authorities returned responses of conditional support for the application prior to the VCAT appeal being lodged. Most significantly, Goulburn Murray Water conditionally required the stormwater management to be compliant with urban run-off objectives and Standard C25 of Clause 56.07-4 of the Victoria Planning Provisions. Given the matters outlined in this section above, officer assessment is that determining authority support for this proposal requires compliance with Standard C25. As such, the application in its current form cannot be supported under the consideration.

Officer recommendation: the application is not currently supported by a determining referral authority and cannot be supported for this reason.

Whether the proposed removal of native vegetation (both direct and indirect) sufficiently achieve vegetation protection objectives and / or ensure there is no net loss of biodiversity.

According to the application documents, 140 trees have been identified across the site. The application proposes removal of 31 trees to facilitate the functional layout of internal infrastructure and future residential development, with a further two Council road reserve trees proposed to be removed to facilitate access.

Significantly, 17 Black Gum trees were identified within the site, all of which are 'deemed lost' under the current layout – that is, as these vulnerable specimens would be located

within private lots of less than 4,000sqm, they can be removed without consideration under Clause 52.17. For this reason, should the application proceed in its current iteration, referral to the Commonwealth under the EPBC Act would be required.

Protection of vegetation within the subject site is stratified in its protection under the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme. Areas covered by Vegetation Protection Overlays (shown in Figure 8 below) require a planning permit for the removal of any vegetation specified in schedules. Three Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO) schedules impact the site:

- VPO1 – Black Gum Areas
 - North and west part of the site
 - Permit required to remove, destroy or lop remnant Black Gum vegetation
- VPO2 – Roadside Vegetation
 - Extending approx. 10 metres within the site along part of the Ashbourne Road frontage
 - Permit required to remove, destroy or lop any vegetation
- VPO6 – Wildlife Corridors
 - Extending approx. 2 metres within the site along the Ashbourne Road frontage
 - Permit required to remove, destroy or lop any vegetation



Figure 8: Extent of Vegetation Protection Overlays within site and surrounds (Council GIS)

The VPO controls applying to the site are supported by a second level of native vegetation protection via Clause 52.17 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme. 14 of the 31 trees proposed to be removed require a planning permit under Clause 52.17 as they are native and / or indigenous species.

The application has been referred to the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA) as a recommending referral authority under Clause 66.02-2 of the planning scheme. It was also referred internally to Council's Environment and Parks and Gardens Departments.

A consensus emerges when these expert areas review the application documents, which is summarised below:

- Further coordination is required to align and understand both direct tree and biodiversity impacts within the application documents, particularly when framed through the installation of stormwater management.
- Unresolved stormwater management matters may affect native vegetation on-site and should be resolved prior to a permit granting.
- A range of exemptions available to future landowners under Clause 52.17 means that additional trees should be considered 'deemed lost' through the biodiversity assessment and cannot reasonably and practically be protected.
- DEECA notes that, from a desktop review of aerial imagery, other vegetation may have been removed from the site which has not been reported as a part of this application.
- Both DEECA and Council's Environment Department do not consider that the functional layout of the site has sufficiently demonstrated a commitment to the principles of 'avoid and minimise' native vegetation removal.

Significantly for this application, the applicant's own Ecological Assessment has recommended a conservation reserve be set aside in the south-western corner of the site for the protection and retention of vulnerable trees. The application documents have not addressed this nor has it been proposed or addressed within the applicant's Planning Report.

DEECA, Council's Environment Department and Council's Parks & Gardens Department concur with the need for this reserve. In fact, Council's Environment Department has provided a desktop survey in their referral response to guide a potential future reserve. This is included in Figure 9 below.



Figure 9: Recommended conservation reserve in yellow within subject site (Environment internal referral)

In the absence of these sensitive environmental issues being addressed, officer assessment is that the application cannot be supported. The presence of Black Gums and other mature native vegetation within the site requires careful design and protection. The implementation of this proposed reserve could be an asset for a future subdivision while also ensuring that best practice native vegetation objectives are met.

Officer recommendation: the proposal has not responded to the vegetation protection objectives or the avoid and minimise principles for the removal of native vegetation, therefore is not worthy of support in its current iteration.

Whether the proposed subdivision achieve the general decision guidelines at Clause 65.02 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.

Clause 65.02 of the planning scheme requires consideration of a range of matters before deciding on an application, as appropriate. These matters often extend beyond the scope of applied planning controls and relate to whether a site can be appropriately subdivided.

As outlined elsewhere in the body of this report, officers do not believe that the proposal has sufficiently achieved the following key decision guidelines:

- The subdivision pattern having regard to the physical characteristics of the land including existing vegetation.
- The provision and location of reserves for public open space and other community facilities.
- The availability and provision of utility services, including water, sewerage, drainage and electricity.
- Whether, in relation to subdivision plans, native vegetation can be protected through subdivision and siting of open space areas.

Officer recommendation: as these fundamental aspects of the proposal remain unaddressed and / or unresolved, officers recommend they are not supported.

AI use disclosure

For this report no artificial intelligence was used or applied. Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All analysis, judgements and recommendations were undertaken by Council officers in accordance with Council governance and accountability requirements.

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.

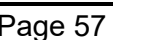
Clause 56 Assessment

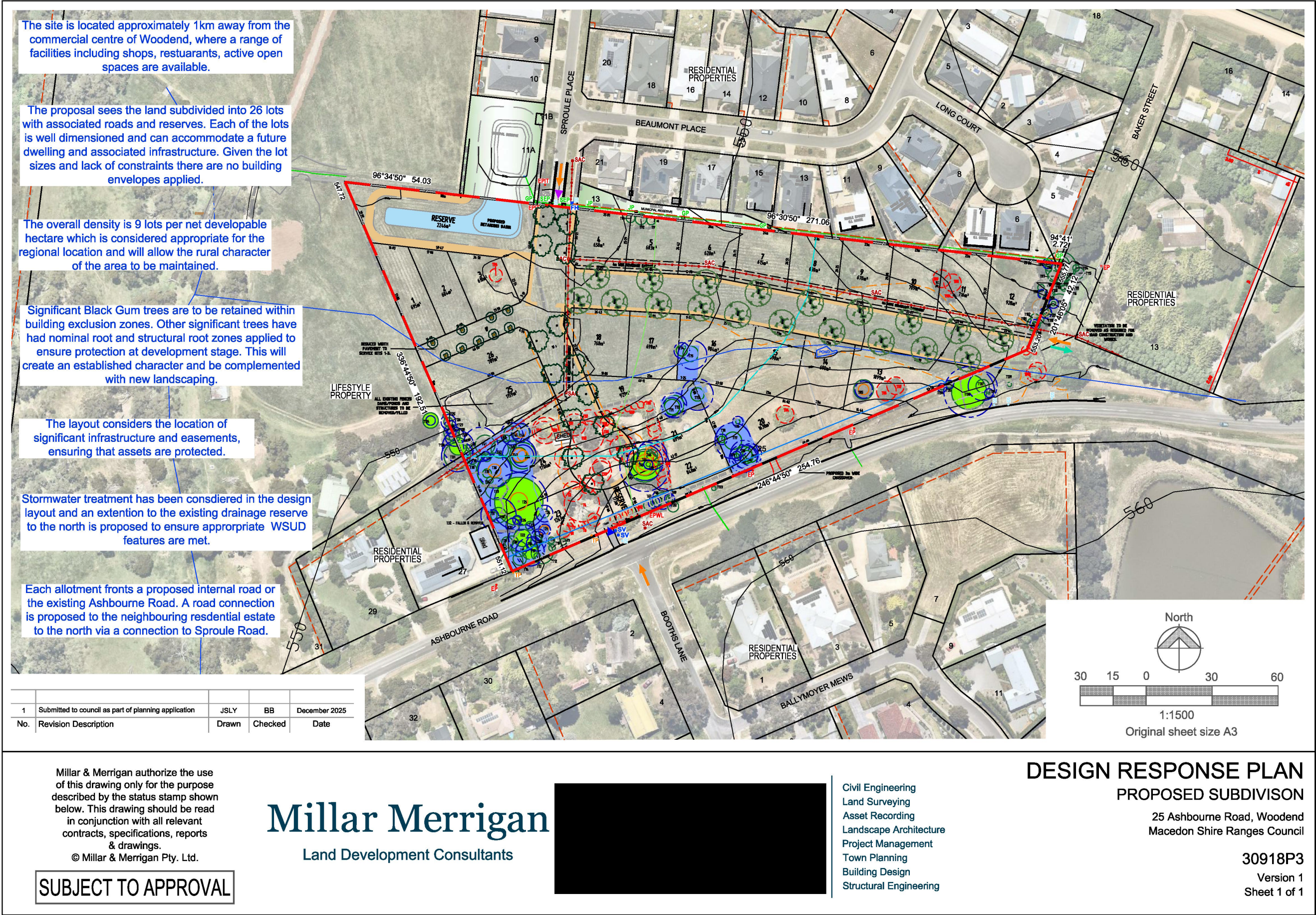
Standard	Is standard fully met?	If the standard is not met, assessment of whether the development meets the corresponding objective having regard to the corresponding decision guidelines
Standard C1 Strategic implementation (Clause 56.02-1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C5 Built environment (Clause 56.03-4)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C7 Lot diversity and distribution (Clause 56.04-1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C8 Lot area and building envelopes (Clause 56.04-2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C9 Solar orientation of lots (Clause 56.04-3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C10 Street orientation (Clause 56.04-4)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C11 Common area (Clause 56.04-5)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C12 Integrated urban landscape (Clause 56.05-1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C13 Public open space provision (Clause 56.05-2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Given the environmental constraints in the south-western aspect of the site, officers consider that greater public open space could be provided. Further commentary on this is provided within the body of the report.
Standard C15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	

Standard	Is standard fully met?	If the standard is not met, assessment of whether the development meets the corresponding objective having regard to the corresponding decision guidelines
Walking and cycling network (Clause 56.06-2)	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C17 Neighbourhood street network (Clause 56.06-4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Further detail is required regarding the detailed design of the intersection with Ashbourne Road and connectivity with Sproule Place. Further commentary on this is provided within the body of the report.
Standard C18 Walking and cycling network detail (Clause 56.06-5)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C19 Public transport network detail (Clause 56.06-6)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C20 Neighbourhood street network detail (Clause 56.06-7)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C21 Lot access (Clause 56.06-8)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C22 Drinking water supply (Clause 56.07-1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C23 Reused and recycled water (Clause 56.07-2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C24 Waste water management (Clause 56.07-3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C25	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Concerns have been raised in relation to the stormwater management and flooding issues proposed within the site. Council's Engineers have raised matters which have not been resolved by the application, at this

Standard	Is standard fully met?	If the standard is not met, assessment of whether the development meets the corresponding objective having regard to the corresponding decision guidelines
Stormwater management (Clause 56.07-4)		stage. Further commentary on this is provided within the body of the report.
Standard C26 Site management (Clause 56.08-1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C27 Shared trenching (Clause 56.09-1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C28 Electricity and telecommunications (Clause 56.09-2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C29 Fire hydrants (Clause 56.09-3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Standard C30 Public lighting (Clause 56.09-4)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	







PE.6	DRAFT STATUTORY PLANNING FEE WAIVER AND REBATE POLICY
Officer:	Adele Hayes, Manager Statutory Planning
Council Plan relationship:	Our Performance
Attachments:	Draft Statutory Planning Fee Waiver and Rebate Policy ↓

Summary

This report presents the final draft Statutory Planning Fee Waiver and Rebate Policy. The purpose of the policy is to provide a clear, consistent and transparent framework for the consideration of requests for a waiver, reduction or refund of fees relating to any statutory planning services (both statutory and non-statutory fees). The policy sets out the sets out the circumstances in which Council would exercise its discretion to waive or rebate statutory planning fees along with the procedure for considering such requests.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the draft Statutory Planning Fee Waiver and Rebate Policy.

Background

Section 47(1)(b) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* states a permit application must be accompanied by the prescribed fee. Fees are calculated with reference to the nature and scale of what is being proposed and are intended to cover the cost of the service provision. Statutory planning application fees are set out in the Regulations and are updated on 1 July each year by the Victorian State Government.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council has the power to wholly, or in part, waive or rebate planning and subdivision application fees under the *Planning & Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016* and the *Subdivision (Fees) Regulations 2016*. Other non-statutory fees are charged for certain types of planning applications, in accordance with fee values set in Council's annual budget.

Discussion

The policy sets out the circumstances in which Council would exercise its discretion to waive or rebate fees in accordance with the Regulations, or otherwise, including the following:

- No permit required
- Application is incomplete or void
- Refund of withdrawn applications (at various stages throughout the process)
- Lapsed applications
- Refusals
- Charitable purposes
- Simple applications
- Council initiated applications
- Extension of time and secondary consent requests

- **Exceptional circumstances**

Further to this, the policy sets out the procedure for making such a request, including the process to request a review of any fee waiver/rebate related decision.

The Statutory Planning Department have been considering fee waiver and reduction requests for many years, with the decision-making process to date occurring generally in accordance with the contents of the draft policy. This power is delegated to the Manager Statutory Planning and Coordinators in accordance *S6 Instrument of Delegation – Members of Staff*.

In essence, the policy would not result in a shift in approach but rather create a formal policy backing for decision making to provide clarity, transparency and consistency to all users.

Consultation and engagement

Internal consultation was undertaken during development of the draft Statutory Planning Fee Waiver and Rebate Policy. The draft policy was circulated to the Statutory Planning team for operational feedback, and the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) reviewed the policy to ensure alignment with organisational priorities and financial considerations. Councillors were also briefed on the policy intent, scope and proposed application.

Feedback received through this process resulted in minor refinements to the draft, including clarification of eligibility criteria and administrative processes. These changes have strengthened the policy and informed the recommendation presented to Council for adoption.

No community engagement has been undertaken, as the policy relates to internal statutory processes rather than changes to the Planning Scheme or broader community-facing services. The policy will be published on Council's website following adoption to ensure clarity for applicants.

Collaboration

Collaboration was not required in relation to this report.

Innovation and continuous improvement

The proposed Statutory Planning Fee Waiver and Rebate Policy reflects Council's commitment to innovation and continuous improvement by establishing a clear, consistent and transparent framework for assessing fee waiver requests. Development of the policy included benchmarking against the approaches of comparable councils, ensuring that the proposed model aligns with contemporary sector practice and incorporates improvements identified through this review.

Relevant law

- *Planning and Environment Act 1987* – requires a planning application to be accompanied by the prescribed fee.
- *Planning & Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016 and Subdivision (Fees) Regulations 2016* – provides Council with the power to wholly, or in part, waive or rebate planning and subdivision application fees.

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment has been conducted in relation to the subject matter of this report. This Policy is administrative in nature and applies equally to all applicants, regardless of gender. The Policy provides a clear, consistent and transparent framework for considering fee waivers and rebates in appropriate circumstances for all statutory planning matters which attract a fee.

No adverse gender impacts have been identified.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

N/A

Relevant Council plans and policies

- Shaping the Ranges – Council Plan 2025-2035
- Financial Plan 2025-2035
- Financial Hardship Policy 2019

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile? N/A

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services? N/A

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios? N/A

Financial viability

Adoption of the Statutory Planning Fee Waiver and Rebate Policy will streamline internal processes by providing clear eligibility criteria and decision pathways. Existing staff resources are sufficient to implement and administer the policy.

Sustainability implications

The policy has modest but meaningful social benefits by improving equitable access to the planning system for community based, not-for-profit organisations, enabling them to progress projects that deliver community benefit. The policy also enhances fairness and consistency in decision-making, which contributes to improved community trust in Council's statutory processes.

AI use disclosure

No AI tools were used in the preparation of this report.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

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.

Policy



Draft Statutory Planning Fee Waiver and Rebate Policy

Date of Adoption			
Adoption Method	<input type="checkbox"/> Council	<input type="checkbox"/> CEO	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>)
CEO Signature			Date
Responsible Officer and Unit	Manager Statutory Planning, Statutory Planning		
Nominated Review Period	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annually	<input type="checkbox"/> Every 4 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>)
Last Endorsement Date			
Next Endorsement Date			

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

DOCUMENT HISTORY	Version	Date	Author
Initial Draft			
Second Draft			
Final Draft			
Approval			

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Purpose/Objective

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear, consistent and transparent framework for the consideration of requests for a waiver, reduction or refund of fees relating to any statutory planning services (both statutory and non-statutory fees).

Unless formally approved by a Delegated Officer, fees shall be in accordance with the *Planning & Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016*, *Subdivision (Fees) Regulations 2016* or Council's adopted fees and charges.

Background/Reasons for Policy

Section 47(1)(b) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* states a permit application must be accompanied by the prescribed fee. Fees are calculated with reference to the nature and scale of what is being proposed and are intended to cover the cost of the service provision. Statutory planning application fees are set out in the Regulations and are updated on 1 July each year by the Victorian State Government.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council has the power to wholly, or in part, waive or rebate planning and subdivision application fees under the *Planning & Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016* and the *Subdivision (Fees) Regulations 2016*. Other non-statutory fees are charged for certain types of planning applications, in accordance with fee values set in Council's annual budget.

Statutory fees are charged in relation to the following items:

- Planning permit applications
- Amendments to planning permits
- Subdivision certifications
- Certificate of Compliance applications
- Matters to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority

Non-statutory fees apply to:

- Secondary Consent applications
- Extension of time requests
- Miscellaneous consent applications
- Written advice requests
- Advertising materials associated with relevant application types

Circumstances can arise where it is appropriate for consideration to be given to waiving, reducing or refunding fees and charges associated with planning applications including:

- No permit required
- Applications are withdrawn
- Charitable purposes
- Where specific circumstances exist and it is considered appropriate for the policy to be applied (i.e. simple applications, exceptional circumstances)
- Council initiated applications

Policy

This policy applies to all requests received in writing from an applicant or applicant contact person requesting a waiver, reduction or refund of fees relating to any statutory planning services which attract a fee.

The circumstances in which Council will exercise its discretion to waive or rebate fees in accordance with the Regulations, or otherwise, is outlined below.

1. No permit required

Where a request for permit is made, and assessed that no permit is required, a refund is payable, less the cost of written planning advice (noting that an assessment is required to be made to determine that no planning permit is required).

2. Refund of withdrawn applications

Refund percentage	Circumstances
100%	Application received but not yet lodged.
75%	Application received, lodged, entered into the information management system and allocated to a Planner.
50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application received, lodged, entered into the information management system and allocated to a Planner. • Application initially assessed and referrals to authorities or internal departments commenced, additional information requested.

25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application received, lodged, entered into the information management system and allocated to a Planner. • Application initially assessed and referrals to authorities or internal departments commenced, additional information requested. • Further assessment undertaken.
0%	Refunds will not be applied where the application has progressed to the final stages prior to decision, unless exceptional circumstances exist.

3. Lapsed applications

The Regulations do not afford Council the discretion to refund or waive fees associated with lapsed applications or for applications submitted subsequent to the lapsing of an application. Council is not responsible for an application lapsing, regardless of whether courtesy reminders are issued from the council to applicants about upcoming deadlines (lapse dates). No refunds will be provided if an application is lapsed, and fees will not be waived for subsequent applications.

4. Refusals

The Regulations do not afford Council the discretion to refund or waive fees for applications that are refused. A refusal is a formal decision on an application, and the application fee is payable under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to enable Council to assess, determine, and issue a decision on every planning application.

Note: the applicant may be given the opportunity to withdraw a planning permit application prior to the application being refused (decided). Under this circumstance, the refund policy for withdrawing an application will apply.

5. Charitable purposes

In accordance with Regulation 20(d) of the *Planning & Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016*, Council will reduce permit application fees for land to be used and/or developed exclusively for charitable purposes if all of the following circumstances apply:

- The beneficiary of the permit is a recognised not-for-profit community-based group or organisation.

- The request sets out the community benefit that will derive from the project or activity.
- The request states the reasons as to why the full amount of fees and charges payable would be an impediment to the total realisation of the project or activity.

On request, eligible community-based organisations may have fees or charges payable for a planning permit application reduced by:

Reduction percentage	Circumstances
50%	Standard reduction for or eligible not-for-profit, community or charitable organisations demonstrating community benefit.
75%	<p>A reduction of up to 75% may be granted where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application fee is high relative to the organisation's financial capacity; and/or • The proposal delivers a significant and clearly demonstrated community benefit.

6. Simple applications

An applicant may be eligible for a fee waiver or reduction if the permit application is of a minor nature or the service imposes no appreciable burden.

- In certain circumstances, the fee may be reduced to the minimum statutory fee applicable within the Planning & Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016. To be eligible, the permit application must meet the following criteria:
 - An amendment to an existing planning permit that is minor in nature.
 - A planning permit application that is minor in nature and does not fit within a VicSmart category.
- In certain circumstances, the fee may be waived if the permit application meets the following criteria:
 - Amending an application after notice has been given where little, if any, change will occur in the processing of that application.

For the purposes of this policy, the following are not considered simple applications:

- VicSmart applications
- Any fees relating to an application for subdivision permit or statement of compliance.

7. Council initiated applications

Council projects or activities where internal Macedon Ranges Shire Council units are the applicant will have planning application fees waived for the full amount.

8. Extension of time and secondary consent requests

The provision to waive or reduce fees for an extension of time or secondary consent will not be supported unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Where an Extension of Time to a permit expiry is requested and found to have been made in error (that is, not required), 75% of application fees are refundable.

9. Exceptional circumstances

Notwithstanding the above requirements and other provisions of this policy, a Delegated Officer may authorise a waiver, reduction or refund of fees at a different rate in exceptional circumstances, including the following:

- Resolve a situation where Council has caused or contributed inadvertently to planning fees or charges or related costs being unnecessarily incurred by an applicant.
- A planning permit application that is minor in nature and the processing of that application will cost less than the prescribed fee.
- Applications made under Section 57A of the Act where the changes are made to respond to/address objections.
- The application assists the proper development of the State, region or municipal district; or the preservation of buildings which are of historical or environmental interest to the community.
- The proposal represents the 'proper development' of the State, region or municipality in accordance with Regulation 20(c) of the *Planning and Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016* and is of either State, regional or municipal significance, and consistent with the relevant provisions of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.

- Exceptional circumstances where an applicant can demonstrate genuine financial hardship, consistent with the intent and objectives of Council's Financial Hardship Policy.

Exceptional circumstances are generally those that where council has made a clear error in either deciding on an application, providing information or where the council has otherwise not performed to a satisfactory standard. This must be clearly evident without significant research and establishment of facts being required. The personal circumstances of an applicant are not an exceptional circumstance.

Procedure for making a request

Any request to waive, reduce or refund application fees must be made in writing to Council. Requests can be submitted together with a planning permit application or prior to lodgement.

The reasons for the decision will be recorded in writing on the internal form 'Consideration of request to waive fees for a planning permit application' and the applicant will be informed of Council's decision.

A copy of the 'Consideration of request to waive fees' form will be registered in the electronic document management system against the relevant application number.

An applicant who is dissatisfied with a fee waiver, reduction or refund decision may request an internal review. Requests must be submitted in writing and will be considered by the Manager Statutory Planning. The outcome of the internal review will constitute Council's final position on the matter.

Reporting of fee waiver and rebate requests

All fee waiver and rebate requests, along with the decisions made, will be reported to Councillors on a quarterly basis.

Gender Impact Assessment

In accordance with the Gender Equality Act 2020, a Gender Impact Assessment has been conducted in relation to the subject matter of this report.

This Policy is administrative in nature and applies equally to all applicants, regardless of gender. The Policy provides a clear, consistent and transparent framework for considering fee waivers and rebates in appropriate circumstances for all statutory planning matters which attract a fee.

No adverse gender impacts have been identified.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Not-for-profit community-based organisation	<p>A community based organisation means a <u>recognised not-for-profit group or organisation</u> that carries out one or more of the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides services to the community such as positive ageing, childcare, health services, charity service or services of a similar type • Reinvests or applies revenue it receives predominantly for public interest services or activities • Principally provides social or junior sporting or recreational activities • Supports public events or information of an historical, cultural or community arts focus. <p>A community based organisation <u>does not</u> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any political organisation • Profit making organisations • State or Federal Government agencies and departments • Any organisation where more than 50% of its income is derived from any State or Federal government programs or other sources of funding.
Council	Macedon Ranges Shire Council
Delegated Officers	The Council officers delegated to enforce this policy as set out in the Instrument of Delegation.
The Act	<p>Planning and Environment Act 1987</p> <p>Subdivision Act 1988</p>
The Regulations	<p>Planning and Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016</p> <p>Subdivision (Fees) Regulations 2016</p>

References

- > *S6 - Instrument of Delegation from Council to Members of Staff*

Related Policies

- > *Delegations and Authorisations Policy*
- > *Delegations Framework, Policy and Procedures*
- > *Staff Code of Conduct*
- > *Financial Hardship Policy 2019*

Related Legislation

- > *Gender Equality Act 2020*
- > *Local Government Act 2020*
- > *Monetary Units Act 2004*
- > *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- > *Planning & Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016*
- > *Subdivision Act 1988*
- > *Subdivision (Fees) Regulations 2016*

12 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

CX.1	KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOUR RECIPIENTS 2026
Officer:	Debbie Peter, Executive Administration Officer
Council Plan relationship:	Our People
Attachments:	Nil

Summary

The 2026 King's Birthday Honour Awards recognised:

- Mrs Patricia Kaye recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for her service to the community of Gisborne.
- Ms Pam Ahern recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for service to animal welfare.
- Mary-Jane Welsh (Vic) recipient of the Meritorious Award Australian Police medal (APM) for distinguished service as a member of an Australian Police force.

Recommendation

That Council send a letter to the following award recipients in recognition of their 2026 King's Birthday honours:

- **Mrs Patricia Kaye OAM**
- **Ms Pam Ahern OAM**
- **Mary-Jane Welsh APM**

Background**Discussion****Consultation and engagement****Collaboration****Innovation and continuous improvement****Relevant law**

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment has been conducted in relation to the subject matter of this report.

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment was not required in relation to the subject matter of this report.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**Relevant Council plans and policies**Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile?

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services?

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios?

Financial viability

Sustainability implications

AI use disclosure

Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. For this report:

-

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

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 CORPORATE REPORTS

COR.1	BUDGET 2026-27
Officer:	Travis Harling, Manager Finance and Reporting
Council Plan relationship:	Our Places Our Environment Our Economy Our People Our Performance
Attachments:	1. Draft Annual Budget 2026-27 (under separate cover) 2. Budget 2026-27 Submission Responses - Round 1 ↓ 3. Budget 2026-27 Submission Responses - Round 2 ↓ 4. Budget 2026-27 Written Submissions Received - Round 2 (Redacted) (under separate cover)

Summary

The draft Budget 2026-27 has been prepared consistent with the requirement of Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA) and forms part of the Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework developed as Part 4 of the LGA.

Council undertook a community engagement and consultation process in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's *Community Engagement Policy* in late 2025. A further opportunity was provided to the community to allow feedback on the highlights, breakdowns and fees and charge which are proposed to be included in the draft Budget 2026-27 during May 2026.

Therefore, the purpose of this report is to (1) decide on the responses to community submissions, and (2) adopt the Budget, with or without amendment

Recommendation**That Council**

- 1. Adopts the draft Budget 2026-27, prepared in accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 as attached with this agenda, effective from 1 July 2026.**
- 2. Approves new loan borrowings of up to \$1,000,000 in line with the proposed Budget, and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
 - i. negotiate the loan;**
 - ii. approve the successful tender;**
 - iii. execute the loan documentation; and**
 - iv. delegate to the Director Corporate and/or Manager Finance and Reporting to undertake the required process as outlined in points 2 (i), (ii) and (iii)**

3. Adopts the following rates:

	Cents/\$CIV
General Rate for rateable residential properties – 100%	0.00201290
Agricultural land rate – 80%	0.00161032
Commercial/Industrial rate – 120%	0.00241548
Recreational land rate – 50%	0.00100645
Not-for-profit housing rate – 50%	0.00100645

- 4. Gives public notice of its decision to adopt the Budget 2026-27 and the availability of the Budget 2026-27 to the public on Council's website and at Council offices and service centres.**
- 5. Notes submissions received and officer responses to submissions in Attachment 2, Attachment 3 and Attachment 4 to this report.**
- 6. Thanks and responds to all submitters to this process in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.**

Background

Council's Annual Budget forms part of the Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework, which includes the Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial Plan, Revenue and Rating Plan, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, Disability Action Plan, Workforce Plan and Asset Plan.

This Budget supports the delivery of the strategic objectives and priorities outlined in Council's new integrated strategic plan, [Shaping the Ranges 2025-2035](#), which brings together Council's Community Vision, Council Plan, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Disability Action Plan into a single integrated framework to guide Council's long-term planning, advocacy and service delivery.

During late 2025, the community was invited to help shape the Budget by providing ideas, feedback and suggestions for projects, infrastructure and initiatives. A further opportunity was provided during May 2026 for the community to provide feedback on elements of the draft Budget 2026-27 prior to final consideration by Council. Both consultation processes were undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Discussion

The Budget 2026-27 outlines Council's planned investment in services, infrastructure and community priorities for the coming financial year, while continuing to support long-term financial sustainability and responsible financial management. The Budget supports the delivery of the Council Plan - Shaping the Ranges 2025-2035 and includes investment in important infrastructure and community projects that support liveability across the shire.

Appropriately allocating resources to deliver essential community services remains a key responsibility of Council. From maintaining roads and community facilities to supporting public safety, recreation, environmental outcomes and cultural activities, Council services play an important role in supporting a connected, healthy and resilient community.

Council continues to face broader economic and inflationary pressures, including rising service delivery costs, increasing community demand and limitations on revenue growth.

These pressures require careful prioritisation of resources to ensure Council can continue delivering essential services while maintaining financial sustainability into the future.

The key features of the Budget 2026-27 are:

Rates and Charges

General rates and service charges will raise \$70,918,000 as follows:

General Rates	\$ 50,215,000
Municipal Charge	\$ 5,262,000
Service Charges	\$ 14,741,000
Supplementary Rates	*\$ 700,000

** Supplementary rates are the result of Supplementary Valuations. A Supplementary Valuation occurs when there is a significant change to a property that affects the valuation such as construction of a dwelling or shed, installation of a swimming pool, or a demolition.*

This is an increase in budgeted income from general rates revenue of \$1,900,000 compared with the 2025-26 adopted budget. This increase is within the maximum permitted increase of 2.75% under the Fair Go Rates System for 2026-27.

The Budget includes a General Rate and four (4) differential rates to be declared as detailed in the following table:

	Cents/\$CIV
General Rate for rateable residential properties – 100%	0.00201290
Agricultural land rate – 80%	0.00161032
Commercial/Industrial rate – 120%	0.00241548
Recreational land rate – 50%	0.00100645
Not-for-profit housing rate – 50%	0.00100645

Operating initiatives

Included in the draft Budget 2026-27 are several new operating initiatives that respond to community priorities and support delivery of Shaping the Ranges 2025-2035 – Year Two Actions. New initiatives proposed for 2026-27 are:

- Increased contributions to Thriving Villages projects
- Food relief funding for our Foodbank
- Additional support to Neighbourhood housing
- 'Fees Freeze' for several small-business related fees
- Reduced fees for Hanging Rock Season Passes
- Malmsbury Irrigation project
- Increase to the 2025-26 initiative of increasing green waste passes from two to six "free weeks" for green waste disposal

- Continuance of reduced outdoor pool entrance fees
- Tony Clark Reserve Masterplan

Fees and Charges

Council has carefully reviewed fees and charges to balance rising service delivery costs with affordability for the community. While most User Fees and Charges are proposed to increase broadly in line with CPI, some fees have increased above this level where service delivery and operational costs have risen beyond CPI or where full cost recovery is required.

The review also considered market benchmarking, legislative requirements and the ongoing sustainability of Council services and facilities. Appendix 2 of the Budget document includes detailed information on proposed User Fees and Charges.

The Budget also includes several measures aimed at supporting residents, community groups and local businesses in response to ongoing cost-of-living pressures. These include the continuation of reduced outdoor pool family pass fees, increased free green waste disposal periods to support seasonal clean-up and fire prevention activities which have been extended to a total period of six weeks and the reduction in the Hanging Rock seasonal pass fee.

The draft Budget 2026-27 includes increased provisions for fuel costs, with a contingency allowance incorporated to address the uncertainty of fuel pricing due to ongoing activity in the Middle East.

Capital Works of \$16,226,000

The Budget includes a capital works program of \$16.226 million to support the renewal and upgrade of community infrastructure across the shire.

Major projects and programs include:

- Kyneton Showgrounds Grandstand Roof renewal works
- Woodend Clocktower renewal works
- Change room detailed design of Woodend Racecourse Reserve Changerooms
- Plan and design works for accessible toilet renewal – Red Brick Building
- Road works including High Street (Lancefield), Hamilton Road (New Gisborne), Aitken Street (Gisborne), and Burke and Wills Track (Baynton).
- Drainage works including Howey Street, Gisborne, Eucalypt Court and Candlebark Court, Riddells Creek
- Digital works - Supporting Council's Digital Strategy, focusing on improving service reliability, operational efficiency, self-service and data-led decision-making.

The broader renewal program includes:

- \$9,195,000 for roads
- \$2,245,000 for buildings
- \$2,665,000 million for plant and equipment renewal
- \$518,000 for recreation, leisure and community facilities
- \$540,000 for drainage
- \$660,000 for footpaths and cycleways
- \$403,000 for other infrastructure

Loan Borrowings:

New borrowings of \$1,000,000 are proposed for Kyneton Grandstand Roof Renewal, Asset Management System and Digital Capex focusing on improving service reliability and operational efficiency.

This level of borrowing is consistent with the responsible borrowing limits and financial sustainability principles in Council's Borrowing Policy, adopted earlier this year.

Community Submissions

Council invited the community to contribute to the development of the Budget 2026-27 through a community engagement process undertaken between 30 October and 11 December 2025.

Preparing Council's annual budget requires consideration of many competing priorities, and this consultation process provided an opportunity for the community to share ideas, feedback and suggestions for projects, infrastructure and initiatives that are important to them. The process also supported Council to better understand current community priorities and help inform the development of a balanced and financially sustainable budget.

A copy of the submissions received, including both general feedback and project proposals, was presented to Council at the Submitters Delegated Committee Meeting held on 4 February 2026. A total of 89 submissions were received, with all submitters provided the opportunity to present their feedback directly to Councillors as part of the process.

As a result of the feedback received through the consultation process, the following projects and initiatives are included in the Draft Budget 2026-27:

- Additional funding for Neighbourhood Houses across the shire.
- Supporting funding for Thriving Village projects.
- Malmsbury Botanic Garden irrigation works.
- Increased footpath renewal funding.

Please see Attachment 2 to this Report for the list of submissions, officer responses and recommendations.

Targeted Engagement

A second round of community engagement, including targeted consultation, was undertaken from 28 April to 22 May 2026. During this period, the community was provided with the draft Budget Highlights 2026-27, Budget Breakdown 2026-27 and proposed Fees and Charges 2026-27 information to support understanding of the proposed budget settings and priorities.

A total of 42 submissions were received through the Have Your Say engagement platform, with a further 43 written submissions received directly by Council, reflecting a strong level of community interest and participation in the budget process. These submissions with proposed officer response are included as Attachment 3. A copy of all the written submissions received is included as Attachment 4 to this report. Personal information has been redacted from these submissions; however, full copies have been shared with Councillors.

Feedback received demonstrates that Council has actively listened to community input, including from earlier consultation phases, with many respondents acknowledging the complexity of balancing competing priorities within available resources. Overall sentiment indicates moderate community support for the Draft Budget, with around half of respondents

considering the proposed budget balances competing demands well or very well, and a majority indicating alignment with the proposed Council Plan priorities.

At the same time, feedback highlights a clear expectation that refinements be considered prior to adoption, with many respondents providing constructive suggestions to strengthen outcomes for the community.

Feedback received through the Have Your Say process highlighted a strong focus on roads, infrastructure, community facilities, waste services, recreation and support for local communities and businesses.

In addition, written submissions received during the consultation period included themes relating to:

- Support for the Thriving Villages program for Gisborne and Kyneton
- Business fee relief initiatives
- Requests for infrastructure funding including:
 - Kyneton Football Netball Club
 - Gisborne Bowling Club – Bowling Green Roof
 - Barkly Square Pavilion Upgrade
 - Support for further Neighbourhood House funding
 - Tourism ideas and activation initiatives
 - Requests for additional waste bins along the Campaspe River Walk

Please refer to Attachment 3 to this report for the full list of submissions, officer responses and recommendations.

Following consideration of the submissions received, officers are proposing inclusion of the following initiatives within the Draft Budget 2026-27:

- Additional support for the Thriving Villages program - \$27,000
- Support for the Foodbank program - \$10,000
- Funding to commence development of the Tony Clarke Reserve Master Plan - \$40,000

As outlined in the officer responses, several of the matters raised in submissions are already being addressed through ongoing processes, with further work required before they can be considered for funding in a future budget.

Following the engagement process, only one legislative update was required to the Fees and Charges Schedule, relating to the confirmation of units for Land Information Certificates.

Consultation and engagement

Under Section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, community consultation on the draft Budget 2026-27 was undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy. This included a formal community submission process from October to December 2025, and a further targeted engagement period in April - May 2026.

Collaboration

The draft Budget 2026-27 has been prepared by officers with input from Councillors through a series of Councillor Briefings and Workshops.

Benchmarking and other data have also been sought from neighbouring municipalities when considering service costs, fees and charges.

Innovation and continuous improvement

The draft Budget 2026-27 is an important part of Council's integrated strategic planning framework; and the process to draft, develop, refine and endorse the budget is reviewed each year with Councillors and officers, to improve effectiveness and efficiency of the process. Officers also reference and share information with other municipalities in Victoria and across Australia to identify opportunities for improving the development and adoption of Council's annual budget. Local Government Victoria also provides a range of planning and reporting guides and templates to assist councils with planning, budgeting and reporting, and we use these resources to help Council meet its legislative obligations to plan and report on their performance over the short, medium and long term.

Relevant law

Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires councils in Victoria to prepare a budget for each financial year. *The Local Government (Performance Reporting and Accountability) Act 2014* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* specify the requirement for a budget to include major initiatives, and the Regulations prescribe the relevant information disclosure requirements.

Individual programs, projects and initiatives will undertake Gender Impact Assessments (GIAs) in accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020* as part of their implementation, if not already completed.

Gender is a fundamental consideration for the Budget, as it:

- provides for Council operations that include services, assets, facilities, programs and activities.
- incorporates the major initiatives identified by the Council as priorities in the Council Plan, to be undertaken during the next financial year.

Completion of these GIAs highlights the importance of continued reflection on available data, and consultation processes.

For the implementation of the Draft Budget, Council undertook a GIA on the consultation and engagement processes proposed in line with our Community Engagement Policy. A range of consultation approaches and methods, including written, verbal and online were used to ensure that all community members had equal access to engage with and contribute to the development of the Draft Budget. A Submitters Delegated Committee was held online, and outside of work and school hours, to improve accessibility for people with work and caring responsibilities, particularly.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

Nil

Relevant Council plans and policies

The preparation of the Budget supports Council's priority of Our Performance and provides funding to deliver the services, infrastructure and initiatives outlined within the Shaping the Ranges 2025-2035.

Proposed borrowings and investments included within the Budget are consistent with the principles and requirements of Council's Borrowing Policy and Investment Policy and

support Council's ongoing commitment to responsible financial management and long-term financial sustainability.

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile?

The draft Budget 2026-27 includes funding for projects aimed at reducing energy use and emissions, such as the replacement of Council's plant and equipment and transitioning to hybrid and electric vehicles where feasible. This plant renewal program will contribute to reducing Council's overall emissions footprint.

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services?

The budget provides for asset renewal and infrastructure upgrades designed to build resilience to climate-related impacts. This includes upgrades to drainage systems, investment in sustainable open space and park maintenance, and continued implementation of sustainable waste and recycling practices under the full cost recovery model at Resource Recovery Centres.

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios? Council is continuing delivery of initiatives under the Climate Emergency Action Plan, including community education and healthy landscapes programs. Targeted investment in active transport infrastructure such as shared trails and footpaths supports community resilience by reducing car dependence. Funding has also been allocated to increase urban tree planting and maintain green spaces that help manage heat and improve liveability

Financial viability

The draft Budget 2026-27 includes all currently identified financial, resource, IT, and asset management requirements for Council in 2026-27. It is a balanced budget prepared in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, ensuring Council's ongoing financial sustainability and service delivery obligations are met.

Sustainability implications

The draft Budget 2026-27 supports Council's environmental and social sustainability objectives. It provides for investment in energy-efficient infrastructure upgrades, expanded waste diversion and resource recovery programs, enhanced tree planting and open space maintenance, and continued delivery of the Climate Emergency Action Plan. It also supports social sustainability through investment in community facilities, sport and recreation, active transport infrastructure, and programs that promote inclusion, safety and wellbeing.

AI use disclosure

Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. For this report:

- AI tools were used for editing or quality improvement only, for example grammar, readability or formatting.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not

replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

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.

It should be noted that a range of Council officers are ratepayers of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

Community Submissions Round 1

Budget 2026/27
Community Submissions
Round 1 - November / December 2025

Number (P=Project, C=Comment)	Proposal name / title	Describe your idea:	Response to Community Submission
P1	More footpath access to new development areas out of town	The newer/ slightly out of town housing estate developments have no safe footpath access into town. Areas such as Tylwinda and the new development past the Piper St bridge. It would be awesome if there was a wide path with a low divider to stop kids from running in to the 80-100kmph traffic.	Thank you for your submission highlighting the need for safe footpath access from newer housing estates into Kyneton, particularly around Tylwinda and the development past the Piper Street bridge. Council recognises the importance of providing safe pedestrian connections, especially in areas with higher traffic speeds, to support both safety and community access. The Kyneton Movement Network Plan 2024–2033 includes a recommendation for a footpath along Lauriston–Reservoir Road between Mollison Street and Harpers Lane. This section is not currently identified within Council’s Shire Wide Footpath Plan 2018–2027. A footpath has recently been constructed along the frontage of the development at 85 Harpers Lane as part of developer works, improving access in that area. Council officers will record your request and consider this section for potential inclusion when the Shire Wide Footpath Plan is next reviewed. Your feedback helps to highlight community priorities and will inform future planning for safer pedestrian connections in Kyneton.
P2	Main Road Romsey pedestrian crossing	The pedestrian crossing on Main Road Romsey is very dangerous due the road is much lower than the crossing and it is impossible to cross with a wheelchair or any other aids use by anyone with a disability. I live in 1 Stawell Street and go to the doctors quite frequently and I can’t use the crossing and have witnessed others like myself that are in electric wheelchairs or cart and they too have to cross the road incorrectly and I feel one day soon someone will become a victim of not being able to cross the main road correctly due to a bad design for a pedestrian crossing.	Thank you for your submission highlighting the accessibility and safety issues with the pedestrian crossing on Main Road, Romsey. Council understands the challenges this presents for people using wheelchairs, mobility aids, and prams, and acknowledges the importance of ensuring safe and inclusive crossings for all members of the community. Main Road, Romsey is managed by the Department of Transport and Planning, and it is their responsibility to undertake upgrades to crossings and road infrastructure along this section. Council is aware of community feedback seeking improved and accessible crossings across Main Road and will continue to advocate for these improvements. We will also explore opportunities to secure grant funding to deliver such projects in partnership with the Department of Transport and Planning.
P3	Riddells Creek Geese	Riddells Creek has an icon for the town. The local geese are what people love to see when visiting or passing through the town. We need to protect these geese but also make it safe for the public & traffic. We need adequate signage, reduced speed limits & deterrents to also protect the wildlife.	Thank you for your submission highlighting the importance of protecting the local geese in Riddells Creek while ensuring public and traffic safety. Council recognises the value these geese bring as a unique feature of the town and the need to balance wildlife protection with safe access for residents and visitors. A speed reduction project is proposed for delivery in the central business area of Riddells Creek, following previous community consultation. This will result in lower speed limits within the township centre. As Main Road, Riddells Creek is managed by the Department of Transport and Planning, it is their responsibility to implement any speed limit reductions and install signage along this section of road. Council will continue to advocate for measures that improve safety and protect local wildlife, and your feedback will help inform ongoing discussions with the Department of Transport and Planning.
P4	Improve Bicycle access to the train station	Improving independent bicycle access to the train station is focus on safety for cyclists and the public. The current bridge linking Kyneton town to the train station is narrow and lacks road shoulders. This is dangerous, especially when the weather is poor and at night. Separating vehicles from cyclists and pedestrians is a tremendous public safety improvement!	Thank you for your submission highlighting the safety concerns for cyclists and pedestrians accessing the Kyneton train station via the current bridge. Council recognises the importance of improving independent bicycle access and the benefits of separating vehicles from cyclists and pedestrians, particularly in poor weather and at night. The Kyneton Movement Network Plan 2024–2033 does not currently identify improved bicycle access along Mollison Street within its top 30 priority projects. As Mollison Street is an arterial road, it is managed by the Department of Transport and Planning.
P5	Footpath to the Ecotherapy Park	To construct a footpath alongside the unmade road in William St, ROMSEY, from Murphy St to the Ecotherapy Park southern entrance. This safe access should have been provided as part of the Ecotherapy Park development.	Thank you for your submission regarding the need for a footpath along William Street, Romsey, from Murphy Street to the Ecotherapy Park southern entrance. Council acknowledges the importance of safe pedestrian access to the Park and surrounding areas. At present, William Street is maintained as a Category 5 unsealed road under Council’s Road Management Plan. The Shire Wide Footpath Plan 2018–2027 does not currently identify a footpath along this section between Murphy Street and Palmer Street. However, Council officers will record this request and consider it for potential inclusion when the Footpath Plan is next reviewed. Your feedback helps highlight community priorities and will inform future planning to improve pedestrian safety and connectivity in Romsey.
P6	Barkly Square Pavillion Project	Our project is a joint submission from Kyneton District Soccer Club and Kyneton Obedience Dog Club for the provision of a new shared pavilion facility to replace the existing outdated buildings. This would enable both clubs the opportunity to attract and retain members as well as offering a suitable place for other groups to access in the future. The growth of both clubs relies on providing accessible facilities.	Thank you for your joint submission seeking support for the development of a new shared pavilion facility to replace the existing ageing buildings used by both the Kyneton District Soccer Club and the Kyneton Obedience Dog Club. Council officers acknowledge the importance of modern, accessible, and fit-for-purpose community facilities to support the growth, retention, and long-term sustainability of local clubs. The proposal to provide an upgraded shared pavilion would enhance participation opportunities, improve user experience, and create a facility that could also benefit other community groups into the future. Council supports the project in principle, noting that delivery is contingent on securing significant external grant funding from State and/or Federal Government programs. Council will continue to monitor available grant opportunities and work collaboratively with the clubs, as appropriate, to support the project’s progression.

Community Submissions Round 1

Number (P=Project, C=Comment)	Proposal name / title	Describe your idea:	Response to Community Submission
P7	Riddells Creek Skate park	I have lived in Riddells creek for almost 10 years, i moved here with my family when i was 10 years old, and well, now I'm almost 19 years old and the skatepark in Riddells creek has looked exactly the same as it did when I was a child, I would love for it to get a makeover with more ramps and rails to skate on, as I would like to develop a passion for skateboarding but have to travel to lance field or Gisborne to practice. I think the community would love to see it improved. Thanks	Thank you for sharing your experience and passion for skateboarding, and for highlighting the importance of upgrading the Riddells Creek skatepark for the local community. Council recognises that facilities like skateparks play a valuable role in supporting recreation, youth engagement, and community wellbeing. The Riddells Creek skatepark has also been identified within Council's Skate and BMX Strategy, reinforcing its importance and potential for future improvement. Council is scheduled to commence development of a Master Plan for the Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve in early 2026. This process will provide the first structured opportunity to identify and plan for upgrades across the Reserve, including the skatepark. Through the Master Plan, Council will engage with the community to understand priorities and explore potential enhancements such as new ramps, rails, and other skating features. Following endorsement of the Master Plan, funding for individual projects will be considered through future budget processes. Your submission is valuable in ensuring the skatepark remains a priority within this planning process and will help inform the long-term vision for recreation facilities in Riddells Creek.
P8	Magnolia Drive Footpath Extension	Footpath extension for Magnolia Drive, Romsey	Thank you for your submission highlighting the safety issues along the northern section of Magnolia Drive, Romsey. Council acknowledges the concern that the current lack of a connecting footpath between Silverdale Drive and Digby Drive results in pedestrians, including school children accessing the bus stop, walking on the road. We understand the risks this presents for residents and the importance of safe pedestrian access in this area. At present, the Shire Wide Footpath Plan 2018–2027 does not identify a footpath along this section of Magnolia Drive. However, Council officers will record this request and ensure it is considered when the Footpath Plan is next reviewed. This review process provides an opportunity to reassess community needs, incorporate updated safety priorities, and explore options for improved pedestrian connectivity. Community input will be an important part of this process, and your submission helps to highlight the issues faced by residents in Romsey. While the footpath cannot be committed to at this time, your feedback will inform future planning and ensure that the matter is appropriately considered when the Plan is updated.
P9	Secure off lead dog park	20% of Woodend population is aged 65 plus. I am 68, my partner 66. We walk our dog daily. We meet many people of our age and older who have companion dogs and love to get them out and about. Having a pet has been proven to help people age healthier and happier. As we age it is difficult to let our dogs free in the designated off leash area as big dogs not controlled, also getting them back if they run off. Off leash dog park will help aging people to keep their dogs longer, healthier and social whilst still getting out and about themselves and continuing socialise with like minded people.	Thank you for your submission and for sharing your experience. Council recognises the importance of pet ownership in supporting health, wellbeing and social connection, particularly for older members of the community. We also acknowledge the challenges you have highlighted regarding the use of existing off-leash areas. As part of the actions outlined in our Domestic Animal Management Plan, Council has committed to reviewing and improving off-leash dog areas across the Shire. Your feedback regarding the need for a suitable space in Woodend will be considered as part of this broader community input. We appreciate you taking the time to contribute to the budget process.
P10	Macedon Ranges Indoor AFL Hub	So many local junior and senior clubs struggle for training grounds during bad weather, so this would be amazing! And what an awesome place to hold birthday parties and indoor footy competitions for all ages!	Thank you for your submission and for highlighting the benefits that an indoor training and community facility could bring to local clubs and residents. At this stage, Council's current Sport and Active Recreation Strategy does not identify an indoor facility as a priority need or opportunity within the Macedon Ranges. Council intends to seek funding in future years to undertake a comprehensive update of this Strategy. If supported, the updated Strategy will include community consultation, providing an appropriate opportunity to explore initiatives such as indoor training facilities, expanded sporting opportunities, and spaces for social and community use. Your feedback is valuable and will help inform future strategic planning discussions as Council reviews and updates its approach to sport and active recreation across the municipality.
P11	Greenhills Estate/ Robert crt Playground	Upgrade the Greenhills estate/ Robert crt playground and park. The playground is highly used due to the significant amount of families living nearby. Desperately needs new and more equipment as well as native planting in area where there is nothing but weeds.	Thank you for your submission regarding the upgrade of the Greenhills Estate / Robert Court playground and park. Council acknowledges that this space is well-used by local families and understands the interest in improving the play equipment, landscaping, and overall amenity of the reserve. The desire for additional play elements and native planting to replace areas currently dominated by weeds is noted. Council's investment in play spaces is guided by the Council Play Space Strategy, which outlines renewal schedules and priorities across the Shire to support a fair and equitable distribution of upgrades. This particular park is not currently identified for renewal works under the existing Strategy. The Council Play Space Strategy is currently under review, which will provide an opportunity for community engagement and input into future priorities. While the space will continue to be maintained through regular operational activities, it is not scheduled for an upgrade in the near term under the current strategic framework. Council appreciates community interest in enhancing local play spaces and will continue to consider feedback as part of future strategic reviews and long-term planning.
P12	Community Pocket Play Development	Residents of Morrow Road, Slattery Cres and surrounds currently lack access to nearby park facilities without crossing major roads, creating accessibility barriers. This proposal recommends transforming an unused parcel of land (26 Morrow Rd) into a small community pocket park to address this gap. The park would include native landscaping and a small play area, providing a safe, walkable green space for all ages. Developing the site would enhance neighbourhood wellbeing, support social connection, and improve the visual appeal of the area whilst reducing weed and grass maintenance problems.	Thank you for your submission proposing the development of a small community pocket park at 26 Morrow Road to address the lack of nearby accessible open space for residents of Morrow Road, Slattery Crescent and the surrounding neighbourhood. Council acknowledges the importance of walkable green spaces in supporting wellbeing, social connection, and local amenity. However, the land identified for this project is not owned by Council. The parcel at 26 Morrow Road is under the ownership and management of the Department of Transport, and therefore Council is not in a position to directly develop or designate the site as a public park. In addition, the proposed pocket park is not identified within Council's Play Space Strategy, which guides planning, prioritisation, and investment in play spaces and recreational facilities across the Shire.

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Number (P=Project, C=Comment)	Proposal name / title	Describe your idea:	Response to Community Submission
P13	All-access Drinking Fountains in Macedon Ranges Libraries	Libraries are welcoming, inclusive spaces serving diverse community needs, and Macedon Ranges library branches attract over 20,000 visitors each month. Access to potable, sustainable drinking water is essential to the health and wellbeing of our users and is currently lacking. This project aims to install drinking fountains in each library. The initiative supports health and wellbeing, reduces single-use plastics and encourages refilling, particularly important as extreme heat days increase. The project enhances wellbeing, safety and environmental responsibility across our library network.	Thank you for your submission proposing the installation of drinking fountains across all Macedon Ranges library branches. Council acknowledges the important role that our libraries play as welcoming, inclusive community spaces, with more than 20,000 people visiting each month. Accessible drinking water is a fundamental amenity that supports community health, wellbeing, comfort and safety, particularly as the region experiences more extreme heat days. The proposal to install accessible drinking fountains aligns strongly with key strategic objectives in the Council Plan, including the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and the Disability Action Plan. Providing sustainable, potable drinking water would address an identified community need by improving inclusion and accessibility for all users, including children, older adults, and people with disability. In addition to enhancing wellbeing, the initiative would contribute to environmental sustainability by reducing reliance on single-use plastics and supporting refill and reuse behaviour across the library network. Council officers recognise the value and positive community impact of this proposal and are supportive in principle; however, funding was not available within the current year’s budget to deliver such a project.
P14	Upgrade to Kyneton Social Club at Kyneton Showgrounds	The existing Social Club is no longer fit for purpose or compliant and needs an upgrade to survive the hundreds of users of the Social Club. The upgrade involves - upgrade to toilets, upgrade for disabled compliance, upgrade to kitchen and bar, extra social club useable are (approx. 100m2), upgrade for more user friendly access, upgrade for better viewing from the Club to the oval. a Concept Plan has been undertaken, along with renders, and is attached in the supporting documents	Thank you for your submission outlining the need to upgrade the existing Social Club facilities. Council acknowledges the significant community use of the Social Club and understands the concerns raised regarding its current condition and compliance limitations. The proposed upgrades - including improved toilets, accessibility compliance, kitchen and bar upgrades, an expanded social space of approximately 100m², enhanced access, and improved sightlines to the oval - are noted. Council also appreciates the work undertaken to date, including the development of concept plans and visual renders. Council acknowledge the submission. The facilities at this site will continue to be monitored for appropriateness, particularly in relation to safety, accessibility, functionality and alignment with Council’s asset renewal priorities. It is also noted that significant funding has recently been committed to the surrounding area, and officers must remain mindful of the need to allocate resources equitably across the entire Shire. Council is committed to ensuring that all community facilities remain safe, fit-for-purpose and aligned with broader community needs, while also managing budgetary considerations and renewal requirements across the full asset portfolio. Council thanks the club for its ongoing contribution to the community and for proactively planning for the future needs of its users.
P15	Hesket Primary School - Additional Access to Alleviate Congestion on Bowens Road	We are seeking Council’s support to complete works on Bowens lane that would enable Hesket Primary to install a second access point to the school. Once complete, the school would then self-fund an internal road that would significantly reduces traffic and congestion on Bowens Road, creating traffic flow that Council and Hesket PS agree is a significant on ongoing safety concerns.	Thank you for your submission regarding the completion of works on Bowens Lane to support the establishment of a second access point for Hesket Primary School. Council acknowledges the importance of this proposal and the potential benefits it would deliver for the school community, particularly in improving traffic flow and addressing ongoing safety concerns associated with congestion on Bowens Road. The provision of a secondary access point, together with the school’s commitment to self-fund internal road works, represents a proactive approach to improving safety for students, families and the broader community. While Council supports the intent of this proposal, funding was not able to be allocated in the 2026/27 budget. Opportunities for external funding, including potential State Government contributions, may be explored to progress this project in future. Thank you again for bringing this matter to Council’s attention. Council appreciates your advocacy for improved safety and traffic management outcomes in the Hesket area and will retain this proposal for future consideration should funding opportunities arise.
P16	Gisborne Community Food Plan	The Gisborne Food Community Mapping Project, led by Gisborne Town Teams, is a foundational initiative to map and understand the food connections between residents, workers, and visitors in the 3437 postcode. Data is collected via a Community Food Sourcing Survey to identify sourcing habits and gaps in the local supply chain. The primary outcome is the Gisborne Food Plan (V1.0), which will provide data-driven recommendations to strengthen local "Connections through Food in Gisborne" and guide future community action.	Thank you for your submission regarding the Gisborne Food Community Mapping Project led by Gisborne Town Teams. Council acknowledges the value of this initiative in building a clearer understanding of local food systems and strengthening connections between residents, workers and visitors within the 3437 postcode. The proposed approach, including the Community Food Sourcing Survey and development of the Gisborne Food Plan (V1.0), represents a thoughtful, evidence-based method to identify gaps and opportunities within the local food network. Council recognises that initiatives such as this can play an important role in fostering community wellbeing, resilience and local economic activity. This project demonstrates strong alignment with the Shaping the Ranges Plan, particularly in relation to Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing objectives. It is also noted as a community-driven initiative that presents a relatively low cost to Council while offering potentially meaningful community outcomes. While Council officers recognise the merits of the proposal, unfortunately funding was not able to be allocated to this project as part of the 2026/27 budget. However, Council encourages the group to explore alternative pathways for support. The project may be eligible for consideration under Council’s Community Funding Scheme, subject to the group’s incorporation status or the identification of an appropriate auspicing organisation.
P17	Bike/walking trail Gisborne to Bullengarook	A bike/walking trail between Gisborne and Bullengarook in land along Bacchus Marsh Rd.	Thank you for your submission highlighting the need for a safe walking and cycling connection between Gisborne and Bullengarook along Bacchus Marsh Road. Council acknowledges the safety concerns raised, particularly for school children accessing bus stops and for residents seeking safe cycling access into Gisborne. A trail between Bullengarook and Gisborne is recognised in Council’s Walking and Cycling Strategy 2014. However, this project is not currently funded or scoped due to the significant distance involved, land access constraints, and the high construction costs associated with rural shared paths. Council will continue to note community interest in this proposal, and your feedback will help inform future reviews of the Walking and Cycling Strategy and consideration of priorities for investment.

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Number (P=Project, C=Comment)	Proposal name / title	Describe your idea:	Response to Community Submission
P18	A public toilet at Quarry Reserve in Piper St., Kyneton	Installation of a public toilet at Quarry Reserve, Kyneton. Note: This project aligns with several Council objectives: People, Places and Economy.	Thank you for your submission. Council acknowledges the interest in improving facilities at Quarry Reserve, Kyneton. A plan and design project was completed in the 2023/24 financial year, which identified an estimated construction cost of \$350,000, including mandatory requirements such as accessible parking and compliant pathway connections. This scoping work was undertaken at a similar time when the Council's Public Toilet and BBQ Strategy was endorsed. At this stage, the proposal is not supported due to the significant funding required and its misalignment with the priorities identified in the endorsed Strategy. We appreciate you taking the time to provide your feedback as part of the budget process.
P19	Woodend Golf Club car park upgrade	The club continues to seek council support to upgrade the car park at the Woodend Golf Club to ensure that it is safe and accessible for all people to use. The club has experienced significant growth and the existing car park is not safe, particularly in the wetter months and at night. Under the lease, council is responsible for the maintenance of the car park and drive way, and the current state of the car park presents risks to council from slips and trips. The car park does not need to a major project rather it needs a couple of trees removed and some areas levelled with crushed rock.	Thank you for your submission outlining the ongoing concerns regarding the condition of the car park at the Woodend Golf Club. Council acknowledges the significant growth in club membership and understands that the current state of the unsealed car park - particularly during wet conditions and at night - presents safety and accessibility challenges for users. We also recognise that, under the existing lease arrangements, Council is responsible for maintenance of the car park and driveway. The issues you have raised regarding slips, trips, uneven surfaces, and poor drainage are noted, as is your request for relatively minor works, such as the removal of a small number of trees and levelling with crushed rock, rather than a full-scale redevelopment. A maintenance/operational budget amount will be allocated to undertake minor car park and drainage improvement works to enhance the safety and usability of the existing unsealed car park. These works would help address the identified risks and improve access for all users, particularly during periods of wet weather. Council thanks the Woodend Golf Club for its continued advocacy and collaboration on this matter.
P20	European Wasp Control	Council to supply and provide distribution points for wasp bait mixture to allow ratepayers to collect and set up in properties. Shire of Mansfield has a good model of doing this.	Thank you for your submission proposing that Council supply and provide distribution points for wasp bait mixture for ratepayers, similar to the model used by the Shire of Mansfield. Council understands the community's interest in managing European wasps and acknowledges the nuisance and potential safety risks associated with large wasp populations. However, it is important to note that Agriculture Victoria is the lead agency responsible for biosecurity matters, including invasive pest species, across Victoria. This means that any formal programs related to wasp control, baiting or broader biosecurity interventions fall under their jurisdiction. While Council does not currently have evidence of a widespread wasp issue within the Shire that would warrant establishing a stand-alone bait distribution program, we will continue to liaise with Agriculture Victoria through regular meetings, including raising and discussing approaches undertaken by other councils such as Mansfield where relevant. Council remains committed to assisting the community in practical ways and can support residents by promoting wasp trap information and control methods through our communication channels if and when wasps become a notable issue in the region. Council has a strong ability to reach the community through: Social media platforms, where timely updates and practical advice can be shared, Our eNews, which has over 2,000 subscribers and regularly promotes ways residents can support and enhance biodiversity, and Our Environmental Engagement Program, which works directly with stakeholders and the community to address emerging environmental and pest-related issues as they arise. Based on current conditions and community feedback, a dedicated wasp bait distribution program is not warranted at this time, but Council will continue to monitor the situation and respond appropriately should the need increase.
P21	Wall art	You may have seen on social media, so many countries have wonderful artwork on buildings now. I propose that Council fund artwork on blank building walls to decorate and enhance our lovely town.	Thank you for your submission. Council acknowledges the value that public art can bring in enhancing the visual appeal of towns, supporting local artists, and strengthening community identity. At present, Council does not have a dedicated public art fund to support projects of this nature. Establishing a public art fund would provide a consistent and equitable approach to investing in creative projects across the Shire, enabling funding to be distributed fairly while contributing to more vibrant and culturally distinctive public spaces. This will be considered alongside the development of Council's forthcoming Public Art Policy, which is being progressed following initial community consultation. We appreciate your suggestion and thank you for contributing to the budget process.
P22	Pedestrian bridge across Riddell's Creek	Complete the long-promised pedestrian and cycling bridge across the southern creek. The current bridge has school children, social cyclists and walkers crossing the creek 0.5m away from 70kmph traffic, including trucks. It is part of the cycling track that has been promised for years. It is incredibly dangerous and a fatality is inevitable. Just fast-track the pedestrian bridge. It was promised to the community for completion in 2022/23.	Thank you for your submission regarding the need to complete the long-promised pedestrian and cycling bridge across Riddells Creek. Council acknowledges the concerns raised about safety at the existing crossing, particularly for school children, walkers and social cyclists who must currently travel in close proximity to high-speed traffic. We understand the community's frustration regarding delays and the strong desire to see this connection delivered as soon as possible. The proposed pedestrian bridge is included in Stage 3 of the Shared Trails Project, which outlines the planned sequence of works for improving pedestrian and cycling connections across the Shire.

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Number (P=Project, C=Comment)	Proposal name / title	Describe your idea:	Response to Community Submission
P23	Seating for Tower St/Jacobs Ave reserve	To install two seats at the centre of Tower St / Jacobs Ave Reserve and plant a deciduous tree and shrubs behind it. Two seats creates a welcoming social node that encourages people to share space together without having to sit right up next to someone. A deciduous tree such as a Melia, (chosen from Councils plant palette), will ensure thermal comfort for most days of the year while its canopy adds to the sense of containment around the sitting space. This project will make the space feel cared-for and encourage people to spend time in nature and get to know their neighbours.	Thank you for your submission proposing the installation of two seats, along with a deciduous tree and surrounding shrubs, at the centre of Tower Street / Jacobs Avenue Reserve. Council acknowledges the intent of the proposal—to create a welcoming social node that encourages community interaction, provides seasonal comfort, and enhances the overall experience of the reserve. While Council appreciates the placemaking benefits identified, the development plan for this site has not yet been finalised. As a result, it is appropriate to defer any new infrastructure investment, including seating and landscaping, until future planning directions for the reserve are confirmed. Council thanks you for your thoughtful contribution and your interest in improving local public spaces.
P24	Fund Repairs and Upgrades to Malmsbury Mechanics' Institute	The front part of the Malmsbury Mechanics Institute will be 150 years old in 2026. Fund already identified essential works to bring Malmsbury Mechanics Institute up to standard, and deliver modifications to make it fit for growing community demand, and environmental sustainability for another 150 years.	Thank you for your submission regarding funding for repairs and upgrades to the Malmsbury Mechanics' Institute, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2026. Council acknowledges the importance of this historic community asset and recognises the need to ensure it remains safe, functional and sustainable for future generations. Council also acknowledges the current condition of the building, with previous investigative works identifying key structural and drainage issues that require attention to bring the facility up to an appropriate standard. Safety works have been undertaken at the site in the past to address priority risks, and the building continues to be assessed on an annual basis in the context of broader Council asset management priorities. Council recognises the significant heritage value of the Institute and appreciates the community's continued commitment to preserving and activating this valued facility. However, unfortunately funding was not able to be allocated to this project as part of the 2026/27 budget.
P25	Anslow St Footpath, Woodend	A long need and promised Footpath from Schaw/Jeffery St to Forest St, Woodend.	Thank you for highlighting the safety concerns along Anslow Street, Woodend and the need for a footpath. Council understands the risks faced by residents, including families, children, and older community members, particularly given the increase in traffic volumes and heavy vehicle movements in this area. The section of footpath between Schaw Street and Forest Street is identified as a high-priority link in Council's adopted Shire-wide Footpath Plan. While this demonstrates Council's recognition of the importance of improved pedestrian safety along Anslow Street, there are currently a number of other footpath projects across Woodend that sit at a higher priority for delivery. Council will continue to monitor pedestrian safety needs and traffic conditions in Anslow Street, and your submission will be considered as part of future reviews and updates to the Footpath Plan.
P26	Fix glare in MRRSP	We have over 200 members in MRBPC. Currently, we cannot play at MRRSP due to the excessive amount of glare in the stadium. We recommend that blinds or similar light cut outs be fitted along the large eastern window and also along the windows at the southern end of the stadium to mitigate the large light spillage and glare into the stadium.	Thank you for raising concerns about glare within the stadium at the Macedon Ranges Regional Sports Precinct. Council recognises the importance of providing a safe and functional playing environment for all users, including the Macedon Ranges Badminton and Pickleball Club. This matter is considered an operational issue and will be addressed through Council's maintenance and renewal activities. Officers will work directly with the user group to assess the extent of the glare and identify practical solutions to improve playability and ensure safe use of the facility. Council appreciates the club's feedback and its ongoing contribution to local sport and recreation.
P27	Refurbishment of Gisborne Tennis Court 5 - 8	The Gisborne Tennis Club seeks support to upgrade Courts 5–6 and 7–8, which independent assessments (Tennis Victoria & 2MH Consulting) have deemed unsafe due to flooding, poor drainage, and surface deterioration. These conditions restrict play during winter and wet weather, limiting community access. A cost effective upgrade—improved drainage and new playing surfaces—will restore safe, year round use. This investment will strengthen community health, encourage participation, and ensure the club remains a vital hub for sport and wellbeing..	Thank you for your submission seeking support to upgrade Courts 5–6 and 7–8 at the Gisborne Tennis Club. Council acknowledges the independent assessments undertaken by Tennis Victoria and 2MH Consulting, both of which have identified flooding, inadequate drainage and significant surface deterioration as safety concerns. We recognise that these issues limit winter and wet-weather play and restrict broader community access to the courts. Council officers support the project in principle, subject to funding availability, noting that the courts are likely to fail if renewal works are not undertaken. The need for drainage improvements and resurfacing has been identified through Council's asset management processes, and the project aligns with the objective of maintaining safe, accessible and fit-for-purpose community sporting facilities. Officers are currently actively seeking external grant funding to assist in delivering this project. Securing appropriate State or Federal funding will be essential for progressing the works given the scale of investment required. Council recognises the important role the Gisborne Tennis Club plays in supporting participation, community health and active recreation, and will continue to work with the club as funding opportunities arise.
P28	New Gisborne Tennis Club - Courts 3 & 4 Replacement	The New Gisborne Tennis Club (NGTC) requests \$528,000 in the 2026–27 Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC) budget for the initial phase of the Ross Watt Reserve Master Plan. This funding, which includes a 10% contingency and 10% project management fees, will cover two new synthetic grass tennis courts to replace existing courts 3 and 4, as outlined in the approved master plan. Please refer to detailed submission letter.	Thank you for your submission regarding the condition of the New Gisborne Tennis Club courts at Ross Watt Reserve. Council acknowledges the concerns raised about the ageing and deteriorating condition of the courts and understands the impact this has on the club's operations, coaching programs, and its growing junior membership base. The current state of the courts - being outdated, failing, and approaching unsafe condition - is recognised as a significant barrier to supporting continued growth and community participation. Council officers support the project in principle, recognising that the courts have reached the end of their functional life and require renewal. The need for works has already been identified through Council's asset assessments. Officers are currently actively seeking external grant funding to assist in delivering this project. Securing appropriate funding will be essential to progressing the renewal of the tennis courts and improving the broader Ross Watt Reserve facilities to meet community expectations. Council appreciates the New Gisborne Tennis Club's strong contribution to local sport and will continue to work collaboratively with the club as funding opportunities arise.

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Number (P=Project, C=Comment)	Proposal name / title	Describe your idea:	Response to Community Submission
P29	An Actual festival at the Autum Festival at the football and tennis centre in Macedon	We thought we would like to put our food trailer near Honour Avenue making dumplings and spring Rolls . We also thought we should invite stall holders to sell and promote the regions wine and food along with any other local products. Then we thought we could look for someone to put a music event on the football oval. That's about as far as we did get with it and were wondering if we would have the councils support to run an event like this over a couple of weekends while all the tourists are here. So would we have the councils support ? Would the council help with organising ?	Council appreciates the interest in creating opportunities for local businesses and producers during the Autumn Leaves period. However, any promotion or activation in or around Honour Avenue during April would be inconsistent with Council's current approach to managing significant visitor impacts in Macedon at this time of year. Council continues to receive feedback from Macedon residents regarding high visitor numbers, traffic congestion and parking pressures associated with the Autumn Leaves period. In response, Council has deliberately avoided initiatives that encourage additional visitation to Honour Avenue. Instead, the Autumn Festival has been established to help disperse visitors to other parts of the shire, reducing pressure on Macedon while still providing opportunities for local businesses and community groups elsewhere. For these reasons, Council is not supporting additional events or commercial activities in the vicinity of Honour Avenue during April. Opportunities to participate more broadly in the Autumn Festival may be explored through the existing event framework, which aims to activate locations outside Macedon township.
P30	Gisborne bypass	Think about a link road that connects Ross Watt rd. to Bacchus Marsh rd. Specifically the interchange of the Calder Freeway, Mt Macedon rd. and Ross Watt rd. to Bacchus Marsh rd. There will need to be a Northbound freeway ON ramp incorporated at the Ross Watt rd.	Thank you for your suggestion regarding a potential link road connecting Ross Watt Road to Bacchus Marsh Road, including a northbound freeway on-ramp. A Gisborne Bypass was identified in the Gisborne Movement Network Study (2016) as a possible long-term project. However, responsibility for such major road and freeway interchange projects rests with the Department of Transport and Planning. At present, Council is not aware of this project being identified as a current priority by the Department. Council will continue to advocate for improved transport connections and safety outcomes across the Shire, while working within its role and responsibilities.
P31	Teaching young drivers how to drive from 14 years and older to drive safely before they are 18 years old	We teach juniors how to drive we are backed by cams motor sport Australia at the Rowlands a reserve every 4 weeks juniors must be accompanied by there parents we supply the cars that juniors can drive or with there parents car	Council acknowledges the intent behind this initiative and the commitment to supporting young people to develop safe driving skills. It is important to note that the Department of Transport and Planning currently operates the L2P Program, which provides a structured and supervised pathway for young people who require additional support to achieve the required driving hours for their licence. The program is delivered with trained volunteer mentors, and a vehicle is supplied, ensuring it meets regulatory and safety standards for learner drivers. Given the alignment between the aims of your proposal and the existing L2P framework, it is recommended that this submission be referred to Council's Community team to provide further comment on available programs and potential opportunities for connection.
P32	Reduce speed limit on Quarry Road	Reduce the speed along Quarry Road Woodend to 50km/h along its entire length consistent with other residential streets in Woodend. This should include traffic infrastructure to reduce speeding as well as new speed signs.	Thank you for your submission regarding the speed limit along Quarry Road, Woodend. Council understands the concerns raised about pedestrian and cyclist safety and the desire for consistency with other residential streets in the township. Quarry Road currently has a speed limit of 60km/h. As this road is under the responsibility of the Department of Transport and Planning, it is unlikely that a reduction to 50km/h would be supported given the current road environment. Council is, however, progressing the shared trail project in this area, which will provide safer and more accessible connections for pedestrians and cyclists along Quarry Road. This project is intended to improve safety outcomes and reduce the need for people to walk or cycle directly on the roadway.
P33	Improve Ross Watt Reserve, New Gisborne	The condition of the New Gisborne Tennis Club tennis courts at Ross Watt Reserve are an embarrassment and require immediate improvement. The courts are old, dilapidated, and borderline unsafe. The New Gisborne Tennis Club is a great club with a fantastic coaching program and growing junior membership base, however the courts and surrounding Ross Watt Reserve facilities are holding the club back from providing crucial services to the growing community of New Gisborne.	Thank you for your submission regarding the condition of the New Gisborne Tennis Club courts at Ross Watt Reserve. Council acknowledges the concerns raised about the ageing and deteriorating condition of the courts and understands the impact this has on the club's operations, coaching programs, and its growing junior membership base. The current state of the courts—being outdated, failing, and approaching unsafe condition—is recognised as a significant barrier to supporting continued growth and community participation. Council officers support the project in principle, recognising that the courts have reached the end of their functional life and require renewal. The need for works has already been identified through Council's asset assessments. Council is actively seeking external grant funding to assist in delivering this project. Securing appropriate funding will be essential to progressing the renewal of the tennis courts and improving the broader Ross Watt Reserve facilities to meet community expectations. Council appreciates the New Gisborne Tennis Club's strong contribution to local sport and will continue to work collaboratively with the club as funding opportunities arise.
P34	Roundabout at Hamilton St and Brantome St intersection & at Brantome St and Robertson St Intersection, in Gisborne	Both these intersections cause a lot of traffic congestion and I believe a roundabout would help ease that congestion	Thank you for raising your concerns about traffic congestion at the intersections of Hamilton Street/Brantome Street and Brantome Street/Robertson Street in Gisborne. Council is pleased to advise that a roundabout at the Hamilton Street and Brantome Street intersection is already planned. This project is grant-funded, currently in the design stage, and scheduled for delivery in early 2026. More information about the project can be found here: Hamilton and Brantome Streets Intersection Project. The Brantome Street and Robertson Street intersection falls under the responsibility of the Department of Transport and Planning, as Robertson Street is an arterial road. Any queries or requests regarding improvements at this intersection should be directed to the Department.

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P35	Ongoing disability support workshops and peer support	We successfully completed a peer led disability support workshop series with MRC in 2025, with 28 participants. The aim was to improve peoples understanding of the disability sector, available funding, how to access services, plan for emergencies, connect to community and improve their confidence and ability to self-advocate. People included those living with new disabilities, chronic health conditions, family supporters, disability support workers, and disability support providers. It was a great success and it would be enormously beneficial to continue the program with yearly roll outs.	<p>Thank you for sharing the outcomes of the peer-led disability support workshop series delivered with MRC in 2025. Council is pleased to hear of its success and the positive impact it had for participants, including people living with disability, those with chronic health conditions, family supporters, and disability sector workers and providers.</p> <p>This proposal aligns strongly with the Council Plan and the Disability Action Plan, reflecting our commitment to inclusion, safety, and equitable access to community life. It also connects closely with the delivery of P-CEP (Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness), supporting people to plan for emergencies and build resilience.</p> <p>Council recognises that the program has previously been delivered within the Shire with positive outcomes, supporting participants to build connections, access services and strengthen confidence in self-advocacy. It addresses an identified gap in local guidance and peer support and demonstrates clear potential to improve community wellbeing and resilience.</p> <p>While Council acknowledges the benefits of this initiative and its alignment with strategic priorities, unfortunately it was not able to be funded within the 2026/27 budget.</p>
P36		upgrading the road to improve pedestrian safety. Measures such as a footpath, crossings, pedestrian islands (similar to the Templeton st and Urquhart St intersection) and/or a bitumen road upgrade with speed bumps would make a meaningful difference in slowing traffic for young cyclists and creating a place for pedestrians to walk that is not the road, protecting children who use this route every day going to school	<p>Thank you for your submission highlighting the need to improve pedestrian safety through measures such as footpaths, crossings, and traffic-calming treatments. Council recognises the importance of creating safer routes for children, families, and cyclists, particularly in areas with high pedestrian activity.</p> <p>The upgrading of unsealed roads is managed under Council’s Special Charge Scheme for Infrastructure Works. In addition, Council is currently progressing a township-wide speed reduction to 40km/h in Woodend, which aims to improve safety for all road users. More information about this project is available here: Proposed Speed Limit Reduction – Woodend.</p> <p>As part of the Shire-wide Footpath Plan, Wood Street between Urquhart Street and Brooke Street has been identified as a high-priority location for new footpath construction. This will provide a safer walking connection in the area.</p> <p>Council officers continue to explore opportunities for road safety improvements across the Shire. Recent works have included the construction of a raised pedestrian crossing on the High Street Service Road, and similar treatments will be considered where they can deliver the greatest benefit</p>
P37	Kyneton Botanic Gardens	To further enhance, improve and develop the historically significant Kyneton Botanic Gardens in accordance with the Council adopted 2011 Master Plan to create a community event space and tourism destination for the benefit of the wider Macedon Ranges community and businesses.	<p>Thank you for your submission seeking further enhancement, improvement and development of the historically significant Kyneton Botanic Gardens in line with the Council-adopted 2011 Master Plan. Council acknowledges the importance of the Gardens as a valued community event space, a key tourism destination, and a significant heritage landscape that benefits the wider Macedon Ranges community and local businesses.</p> <p>An allocation of \$150,000 is included in Council’s base budget to support projects across the Shire’s three botanic gardens. This funding is applied having regard to the highest priority projects identified within each garden’s master plan, with Council officers responsible for prioritising and distributing resources in accordance with identified needs, strategic priorities, and available opportunities.</p> <p>This framework allows officers to allocate resources where they will have the greatest impact across the botanic gardens network, including the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, and ensures ongoing maintenance, renewal and improvement of these important public spaces.</p> <p>Council appreciates the strong community interest in the continued development of the Gardens and the alignment of your proposal with the long-term vision for the site.</p>
P38	Make Autumn festival actually good	Lots of people come and look at the Autumn leaves- I know council makes lots of money by trying to trap them with parking fines. Instead- why don’t Council organise food trucks, coffee trucks and local businesses to set up each weekend. This would be great for locals and visitors.	<p>Council appreciates the feedback regarding visitor activity along Honour Avenue during the Autumn Leaves period. However, actively promoting additional activities in this location—such as food trucks or weekend trading—would not align with Council’s current approach to managing significant visitor impacts in Macedon during April.</p> <p>Council receives regular feedback from local residents about the pressures created by high visitation, particularly relating to traffic volumes, parking, and congestion along Honour Avenue. For this reason, careful consideration is given to avoid further encouraging visitation to the area at peak times.</p> <p>It is also important to clarify that the Autumn Leaves period is not a Council-run event. Council’s role is limited to implementing traffic management and safety measures to help manage congestion and maintain public safety during a time when large numbers of visitors choose to come to the area independently. Given these constraints, Council is not facilitating or coordinating additional activities or commercial offerings in Honour Avenue during this period.</p>
P39	Wombat Mountain Bike Park Trailhead facilities proposal	This submission requests the development of trailhead facilities at the Wombat Mountain Bike trails to enhance user experience, improve safety and support growing participation in mountain biking within our community.	<p>Thank you for your submission requesting the development of trailhead facilities at the Wombat Mountain Bike trails to enhance user experience, safety and participation.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the benefits that improved trailhead infrastructure could provide to the growing mountain biking community, including enhanced accessibility, safety and overall visitor experience.</p> <p>However, the area in question is managed by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), which holds responsibility for the planning, development and management of these trails and associated facilities. As such, requests for funding or installation of trailhead infrastructure, including car parking, are best directed to DEECA for consideration.</p> <p>While Council is responsible for the maintenance of some roads within the area, including sections of Fingerpost Road, the provision of car parking facilities at trailheads falls outside Council’s Road Management Plan obligations.</p> <p>Council would be pleased to assist in facilitating discussion with DEECA, should that be of benefit, to help progress this matter.</p> <p>Thank you again for bringing this matter forward and contributing to the ongoing discussion about recreational infrastructure in the region.</p>

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P40	Kyneton Shimmy	Kyneton Shimmy is a dedicated bike route along the council-own back streets Kyneton that connects key landmarks around town by the installation of sharrows. Key landmarks are family friendly and keep us off the main roads so we can get to school, the Kyneton Showgrounds, Barkly Square, Kyneton Library, the Kyneton train station, the Kyneton Aquatic Centre, and the shopping strips and friends' places.	Thank you for your submission regarding the Kyneton Shimmy bike route and proposed sharrows. Council recognises the value of this initiative in improving safe, family-friendly cycling connections between key destinations in Kyneton. The Kyneton Movement Network Plan supports the use of sharrows alongside speed reductions and traffic calming on suitable routes, and aspects of the proposal align with this approach.While Council is supportive of these types of improvements in principle, unfortunately the project was not able to be funded as part of the 2026/27 budget. Thank you again for your submission and for your contribution to improving active transport opportunities within Kyneton.
P41	Thriving Villages Project	The Macedon Ranges Thriving Villages Project is a grassroots initiative that supports businesses, residents, land-owners and local government to work together to create meaningful change and ensure the future prosperity of their town centres via Town Centre Action Plan Workshops to deliver individual Town Centre Action Plans for nine towns of the Macedon Ranges. Town Centre Action Plans have already been delivered for Romsey, Lancefield and Malmsbury with plans for Kyneton, Gisborne, Woodend and Macedon/Mount Macedon over the next 3 years.	Council recognises the value of the Macedon Ranges Thriving Villages Project as a meaningful community-led initiative and acknowledges the positive outcomes already achieved through the development of Town Centre Action Plans in Romsey, Lancefield and Malmsbury. The Economic Development and Visitor Economy team supports the intent of the project and continues to assist community groups by helping shape initiatives that strengthen local economies and enhance visitation. Council's role includes providing guidance on pathways within Council, assisting with regulatory and permit requirements, and helping identify and pursue relevant grant opportunities to support community-driven ideas. While Thriving Villages has been undertaken previously, Council is pleased to note that funding has been allocated in the 2026/27 draft budget to continue the program. This includes plans to support further delivery in Woodend, Gisborne and Kyneton, building on the work already completed in other townships. The inclusion of these projects in the 2026/27 budget will see the Thriving Village program fully rolled out across all identified townships. Council remains committed to supporting community groups as they work to deliver outcomes that contribute to the vibrancy and long-term prosperity of our town centres.
P42	Kilmore Road Footpath	I am proposing the construction of a new footpath along Kilmore Road, New Gisborne, from the Calder Freeway to Joseph Avenue. This section currently has no pedestrian infrastructure, despite being a busy arterial road with two large roadside culverts that make walking unsafe and impractical. A footpath would provide a safe connection between the existing township footpath network, local bus stops, and residential areas, improving safety and accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists, school children and families.	Thank you for your proposal regarding a new footpath along Kilmore Road, New Gisborne. Council acknowledges the safety concerns you have highlighted, particularly the challenges for pedestrians near bus stops, culverts, and busy traffic areas. The Macedon Ranges Shire-wide Footpath Plan currently identifies a possible extension of the existing footpath on the west side through to Peavey Road. However, this section is listed as a low priority compared with other footpath projects across Gisborne and the wider Shire. As such, it is not expected to be constructed in the near future, given the higher-priority projects already scheduled. Council will continue to monitor pedestrian safety and accessibility needs as part of its ongoing review and delivery of the Footpath Plan. Your submission ensures that these concerns are considered when priorities are reassessed in future planning cycles.
P43	New Gisborne tennis court replacement with lights	Supporting the Council owned Ross Watt Reserve replacement of two tennis courts with lights as per the Reserve Master Plan	Thank you for your submission regarding the condition of the New Gisborne Tennis Club courts at Ross Watt Reserve. Council acknowledges the concerns raised about the ageing and deteriorating condition of the courts and understands the impact this has on the club's operations, coaching programs, and its growing junior membership base. The current state of the courts—being outdated, failing, and approaching unsafe condition—is recognised as a significant barrier to supporting continued growth and community participation. Council support the project in principle, recognising that the courts have almost reached the end of their functional life and require renewal. The need for works has already been identified through Council's asset assessments. Council are currently actively seeking external grant funding to assist in delivering this project. Securing appropriate funding will be essential to progressing the renewal of the tennis courts and improving the broader Ross Watt Reserve facilities to meet community expectations. Council appreciates the New Gisborne Tennis Club's strong contribution to local sport and will continue to work collaboratively with the club as funding opportunities arise.
P44	MRSRG Healthy Homes Pilot Program	MRSRG Healthy Homes pilot project will provide energy audits and retrofits for 2–3 low-income households, improving indoor warmth, reducing energy costs, and cutting carbon emissions. This pilot will serve as a test case to demonstrate outcomes, build evidence, and inform future funding applications to expand the program to more households across the Shire.	Thank you for your submission regarding the MRSRG Healthy Homes pilot project. Council acknowledges the value of this initiative in supporting low-income households to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy costs and enhance indoor comfort, while also contributing to reduced carbon emissions. This proposal aligns with Flagship Project 4 of Council's Climate Emergency Plan, which focuses on enabling an equitable transition to solar and energy efficiency upgrades so all residents can thrive in a low-carbon future. Council recognise the potential of this targeted pilot program to provide meaningful outcomes, including addressing household energy stress and contributing to emissions reduction, noting that residential electricity and gas usage currently accounts for approximately 29% of the Shire's total emissions. A previous budget submission was developed by officers for the 2025/26 budget to co-design and deliver a similar program over two years, including provision for project management and pilot delivery. Council continue to support the intent of this proposal and its potential to build evidence for future expansion. However, despite the recognised benefits and alignment with Council priorities, unfortunately this submission was not able to be funded as part of the 2026/27 budget. Thank you again for your submission and for your continued commitment to advancing sustainability and equity outcomes within the Macedon Ranges community.
P45	Buffalo Sports Precinct Change Rooms	We would like to see the external change room facilities upgraded to ensure they are fit-for-purpose for all community groups, offering a safe and accessible option for children, teenagers, and adults of all genders.	Thank you for your submission regarding the upgrade of the external change room facilities at Buffalo Stadium. Council acknowledges the importance of providing fit-for-purpose, safe and accessible facilities that cater to people of all genders, ages and abilities. The need to improve these facilities aligns with broader objectives to support inclusive participation in sport and recreation, and to meet the expectations of governing bodies and community organisations, including initiatives such as those led by Proud2Play and Football Victoria. Council also recognises the strong community support for the Woodend Eagles Soccer Club and the positive foundation established through the Woodend Racecourse Reserve Master Plan. While the delivery of the Master Plan will take time, the upgrade of existing facilities represents an important interim step to support current and future participation. Council support the submission and are pleased to note that funding has been included in the 2026/27 budget for the detailed design of upgraded changeroom facilities. This will be an important step toward delivering improved, inclusive amenities that meet the needs of the growing sporting community in Woodend.

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P46	Seeking support to continue the work they have been facilitating for the past three years with the Water Think Tank (WTT)	<p>A network of people who care about the Maribyrnong River and want to understand water, waterways, the way they are managed, and the options ahead.</p> <p>Many environmental groups working in the upper reaches of the Maribyrnong catchment, including numerous groups within the Macedon Ranges Shire and have directly benefited from partnering with MRWA. We wish to express our strong support for MRWA's role, and in particular the need for financial assistance to ensure the continuation of the Water Think Tank and the valuable work of MRWA.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission expressing support for the continuation of the Water Think Tank (WTT) and the important work undertaken by the Maribyrnong River Water Alliance (MRWA).</p> <p>Council acknowledges the value of collaborative, community-led initiatives that strengthen understanding of waterway management and support positive environmental outcomes across the Maribyrnong catchment. The contribution of MRWA and its partners in fostering knowledge sharing, coordination and stewardship of the river system is recognised.</p> <p>Macedon Ranges Shire Council is currently represented on the Maribyrnong Catchment Collaboration Steering Committee, chaired by Melbourne Water, and supports the vision for a coordinated and strategic approach to the management of the Maribyrnong catchment. Council also supports Melbourne Water's proposal for a dedicated role to lead the Maribyrnong Collaboration project, recognising the importance of strong coordination across stakeholders to deliver catchment-wide outcomes.</p> <p>In addition to supporting the WTT, Council has been successful in securing a significant Federal Government grant to undertake repair and restoration works along sections of creeks in and around Gisborne, further contributing to improved waterway health outcomes in the upper catchment.</p> <p>Council also notes that water and land management initiatives for waterways are delivered through a range of targeted projects and partnerships. As such, the identification and prioritisation of specific projects is not within the scope of the Planning Scheme Review process, but instead occurs through dedicated environmental programs, strategies and collaborative frameworks.</p> <p>At this stage, as priorities and projects continue to be identified and agreed through this collaborative process, individual groups are encouraged to seek support through existing mechanisms, including Council's Environment grants program.</p> <p>Council's Environment team is also actively contributing to this work through an ongoing program of on-ground projects (currently resourced at 0.6 FTE), focused on improving riparian conditions across waterways in the upper Maribyrnong catchment in partnership with Melbourne Water and the Federal Government.</p> <p>Thank you again for your advocacy and ongoing commitment to the health and sustainability of the Maribyrnong River catchment.</p>
P47	Seeking support to continue the work they have been facilitating for the past three years with the Water Think Tank (WTT)	<p>We are writing to emphasise the importance of this program from the perspective of upper-catchment stewardship and community-based land and water management at Mount Gisborne Bushland Reserve, Bunjil Creek and Jackson Creek.</p> <p>Mount Gisborne forms part of the headwaters of Bunjil Creek, which flows into Jacksons Creek and ultimately the Maribyrnong River system. The protection and restoration of these upper reaches is fundamental to the long-term health, resilience and water quality of the entire catchment downstream.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission expressing support for the continuation of the Water Think Tank (WTT) and the important work undertaken by the Maribyrnong River Water Alliance (MRWA).</p> <p>Council acknowledges the value of collaborative, community-led initiatives that strengthen understanding of waterway management and support positive environmental outcomes across the Maribyrnong catchment. The contribution of MRWA and its partners in fostering knowledge sharing, coordination and stewardship of the river system is recognised.</p> <p>Macedon Ranges Shire Council is currently represented on the Maribyrnong Catchment Collaboration Steering Committee, chaired by Melbourne Water, and supports the vision for a coordinated and strategic approach to the management of the Maribyrnong catchment. Council also supports Melbourne Water's proposal for a dedicated role to lead the Maribyrnong Collaboration project, recognising the importance of strong coordination across stakeholders to deliver catchment-wide outcomes.</p> <p>In addition to supporting the WTT, Council has been successful in securing a significant Federal Government grant to undertake repair and restoration works along sections of creeks in and around Gisborne, further contributing to improved waterway health outcomes in the upper catchment.</p> <p>Council also notes that water and land management initiatives for waterways are delivered through a range of targeted projects and partnerships. As such, the identification and prioritisation of specific projects is not within the scope of the Planning Scheme Review process, but instead occurs through dedicated environmental programs, strategies and collaborative frameworks.</p> <p>At this stage, as priorities and projects continue to be identified and agreed through this collaborative process, individual groups are encouraged to seek support through existing mechanisms, including Council's Environment grants program.</p> <p>Council's Environment team is also actively contributing to this work through an ongoing program of on-ground projects (currently resourced at 0.6 FTE), focused on improving riparian conditions across waterways in the upper Maribyrnong catchment in partnership with Melbourne Water and the Federal Government.</p> <p>Thank you again for your advocacy and ongoing commitment to the health and sustainability of the Maribyrnong River catchment.</p>
P48	It would be a great improvement if we were to provide two more beds – to be planted on the southern side towards the new Coles Supermarket.	<p>I can guarantee provision of the 42 roses (21 per bed) that are required for the new beds, and I do hope that you will assist once again with the preparation of the beds. I am more than happy to meet your representative at the site to discuss if required.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding the proposed expansion of the rose garden beds.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the value of the existing rose gardens in providing an attractive and respectful display for residents and visitors, and appreciates your generous offer to contribute the roses required for additional plantings.</p> <p>At this time, officers consider that the current rose beds in front of the Cenotaph are appropriately sized and located, balancing visual amenity with the need to maintain safe working conditions for staff undertaking maintenance along the roadside. Any expansion of the garden beds in this location would also require approvals from the Department of Transport and Planning, as the road falls under their authority.</p> <p>Thank you again for your continued interest and contribution to enhancing local public spaces.</p>
P49	Light up the Big Tree Roundabout	<p>We propose the installation of lights on the big tree on the roundabout connecting Melbourne Road, Hamilton Street and Kilmore Road. We believe installing lights onto trees in our town centre will encourage locals to visit the town centre more often, will be a warm and inviting entry into Gisborne (particularly in the cooler months), and instil pride in residents, nurturing connectedness. We propose to start with lights on the big tree on the aforementioned roundabout, as it is one of the main roads into Gisborne and therefore seen by the majority of locals and visitors.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission proposing to light the large tree within the roundabout at the intersection of Melbourne Road, Hamilton Street and Kilmore Road.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the intent of this initiative to create a welcoming and visually appealing entry point to Gisborne, particularly during the cooler months. Enhancements such as decorative lighting can contribute to a sense of pride, place activation and increased visitation within town centres.</p> <p>However, the roundabout is located on a road under the authority of the Department of Transport and Planning, and any installation of lighting or infrastructure in this location would require their approval. Consideration would also need to be given to road safety, maintenance requirements and potential impacts on surrounding infrastructure. Council will raise this matter with DTP at the next available meeting to ensure they are aware of the community interest in lighting the tree.</p> <p>While Council recognises the potential community benefits of this concept, unfortunately funding was not able to be allocated to this project as part of the 2026/27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you again for your submission and for your interest in enhancing the Gisborne town centre.</p>

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P50	Provide recreation and sporting facilities in Lancefield	MRSC to offer sporting and recreation facilities to Lancefield, just as it does for every other township in the Macedon Ranges. Since all neighbouring communities already enjoy the amenities provided by MRSC, it's only fair that Lancefield receives the same opportunities. Providing local spaces to play, connect, and stay active helps keep the whole region healthy, vibrant, and supported.	Thank you for your submission regarding the provision of additional recreation and sporting facilities in Lancefield. Council acknowledges the importance of equitable access to recreational opportunities across all townships, and recognises the role that quality sporting and community infrastructure plays in supporting health, wellbeing and social connection. At this time, the provision of new facilities in Lancefield is not identified through current structure planning processes, and the purchase of additional land for this purpose is not required. Council is, however, working in partnership with the Lancefield Park Committee of Management to advocate to the State Government for appropriate funding to support the ongoing maintenance and improvement of existing facilities. Thank you again for raising this matter and for your interest in supporting the wellbeing and vibrancy of the Lancefield community.
P51	Queerthentic	Queerthentic is a regional LGBTQIA+ art exhibition and community celebration held in Kyneton. It provides a platform for queer artists to share their stories and creativity while fostering visibility and pride across the Macedon Ranges. The event is needed because LGBTQIA+ people in regional areas often face isolation, limited representation, and fewer safe spaces. Queerthentic creates an inclusive environment that strengthens connection, wellbeing, and belonging within the local queer community	Thank you for your submission regarding Queerthentic, the regional LGBTQIA+ art exhibition and community celebration held in Kyneton. Council acknowledges the important role this event plays in providing a platform for queer artists, fostering visibility, and creating inclusive spaces that support connection, wellbeing and a sense of belonging for LGBTQIA+ people in the Macedon Ranges. The initiative aligns strongly with Council Plan priorities, particularly under the theme of Our People through promoting social inclusion and addressing discrimination, and Our Economy by supporting local artists and creative activity. Council notes that Queerthentic has previously been supported through the Small Project Grants program. However, Council's current grants framework does not provide funding for recurrent initiatives, and as such the project is not eligible for ongoing funding under this program. Council encourages the organisers to continue applying through the Community Grants Program where eligible, including identifying opportunities for new or expanded elements of the event that meet program criteria. Thank you again for your submission and for your continued contribution to building an inclusive and vibrant community.
P52	Continuation of footpath on Kilmore Rd from after the bridge to Saunders Rd	A continuous footpath is essential for safety because the area currently has no sidewalk, forcing people to walk on a busy road. Many families use this route daily, including parents with young children, & they are exposed to unnecessary danger when stepping onto the roadway. The lack of a footpath is especially risky near the bus stop & school bus stop, where groups of children gather & cross including elderly walking to the bus stop. Prams can only go on the road & elderly people have difficulties walking on the road, where cars drive frequently or walk on uneven gras, stones and ditches.	Thank you for raising your concerns about the need for a continuous footpath in this area. Council understands the importance of safe walking connections, particularly near bus stops and routes used daily by families, children, and older residents. The Macedon Ranges Shire-wide Footpath Plan currently identifies a possible extension of the existing footpath on the west side through to Peavey Road. However, this section is listed as a low priority compared with other footpath projects across Gisborne and the wider Shire. As a result, it is not expected to be constructed in the near future, given the higher-priority projects already identified. Council will continue to monitor community needs and safety considerations as part of its ongoing review and delivery of the Footpath Plan. Your submission helps ensure these concerns remain visible when priorities are reassessed in future planning cycles.
P53	Mount Macedon Memorial Reserve Cross	Restoration of Mount Macedon Memorial Cross stage 2. Without restoration to balustrade of podium area our Cross remains indefinitely closed to the public. This War memorial is a site for remembrance and second largest to the Shrine in Victoria. Help is needed to complete this project	Thank you for your submission regarding Stage 2 of the restoration works for the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross. Council acknowledges the significance of this memorial as one of Victoria's most important sites of remembrance, second only to the Shrine of Remembrance, and understands the community's strong desire to see the podium balustrade restored so the area can be safely reopened to the public. Council is pleased to note that the Committee has recently received a \$150,000 grant from the Federal Government to progress these essential works. This funding represents an important step toward enabling the restoration of the balustrade and supporting the broader renewal of this highly valued heritage and commemorative site. Council appreciates the Committee's ongoing stewardship of the Memorial Cross and its commitment to preserving this landmark for current and future generations.
P54	Wildlife Road-Strike Reduction Project	This proposal seeks co design and funding support to deliver a comprehensive initiative aimed at reducing wildlife road strike across the Macedon Ranges. The project will combine targeted road safety interventions to reduce wildlife collisions. Included is long term shooter/darter capability to ensure humane responses to injured wildlife. The proposal outlines a clear pathway for data collection, co-design, implementation, governance, and evaluation. By addressing both prevention and response, the project will contribute to safer roads, healthier ecosystems, and stronger community partnerships	Thank you for your submission regarding the Wildlife Road-Strike Reduction Project. Council acknowledges the importance of reducing wildlife road trauma and recognises the broad community benefits of improving outcomes for both road users and native fauna. This issue is already reflected within Council's adopted Mobility and Road Safety Strategy 2023–2032, which includes a specific focus on improving wildlife–vehicle collision outcomes through targeted, evidence-based interventions. In addition, Council's Biodiversity Strategy has now been endorsed and will further guide Council's role in protecting native flora and fauna, strengthening partnerships, and supporting coordinated, landscape-scale environmental outcomes. Recent research and reviews into wildlife road-strike mitigation highlight that many commonly proposed measures can deliver limited or inconsistent results unless they are highly targeted, evidence-led and tailored to local conditions. In this context, Council's approach remains focused on prioritising proven, data-driven treatments at identified high-risk locations, integrating wildlife considerations into broader road safety and asset management programs, and continuing to work with relevant agencies and community groups within available resources. Council also recognises the importance of robust data to inform effective interventions and will continue to advocate for external funding opportunities to support improved data capture and monitoring of wildlife road-strike incidents across the network. While Council acknowledges the intent and potential benefits of the proposal, it is not proposed to establish a standalone, Shire-wide wildlife road-strike program or develop additional operational capabilities, such as the provision of shooter or darter response services, at this time. Matters raised in the submission will continue to be considered through the implementation of the Mobility and Road Safety Strategy and the forthcoming Biodiversity Strategy, alongside other priorities and available funding. Thank you again for your submission and your commitment to improving environmental and road safety outcomes across the Macedon Ranges.

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Number (P=Project, C=Comment)	Proposal name / title	Describe your idea:	Response to Community Submission
P55	Connected Catchments: Building Water Literacy Through Learning, Design and Creative Culture	Connected Catchments strengthens community understanding of waterway health in the Macedon Ranges. It combines the Water Think Tank, which builds local water literacy; a partnership with RMIT Landscape Architecture to develop concepts for local waterways; and a Quilting initiative that fosters connection, wellbeing and shared responsibility for the Maribyrnong headwaters. Together, these programs build community capacity, support Council’s Urban Rivers and Catchments Project, and ensure restoration and planning are informed by science, creativity and meaningful involvement.	Thank you for your submission expressing support for the continuation of the Water Think Tank (WTT) and the important work undertaken by the Maribyrnong River Water Alliance (MRWA). Council acknowledges the value of collaborative, community-led initiatives that strengthen understanding of waterway management and support positive environmental outcomes across the Maribyrnong catchment. The contribution of MRWA and its partners in fostering knowledge sharing, coordination and stewardship of the river system is recognised. Macedon Ranges Shire Council is currently represented on the Maribyrnong Catchment Collaboration Steering Committee, chaired by Melbourne Water, and supports the vision for a coordinated and strategic approach to the management of the Maribyrnong catchment. Council also supports Melbourne Water’s proposal for a dedicated role to lead the Maribyrnong Collaboration project, recognising the importance of strong coordination across stakeholders to deliver catchment-wide outcomes. At this stage, as priorities and projects continue to be identified and agreed through this collaborative process, individual groups are encouraged to seek support through existing mechanisms, including Council’s Environment grants program. Council’s Environment team is also actively contributing to this work through an ongoing program of on-ground projects (currently resourced at 0.6 FTE), focused on improving riparian conditions across waterways in the upper Maribyrnong catchment in partnership with Melbourne Water and the Federal Government. Thank you again for your advocacy and ongoing commitment to the health and sustainability of the Maribyrnong River catchment.
P55	Ground works for deep Creek Jacksons Creek and Riddells Creek and garden Hut Creek.	The Water literacy education we have been doing with the Community was in relation to water quality of both stormwater and waste water and the adverse impacts on the waterways that they work on. We also looked at the impact of rapid urbanisation and climate change.	Thank you for your submission expressing support for the continuation of the Water Think Tank (WTT) and the important work undertaken by the Maribyrnong River Water Alliance (MRWA). Council acknowledges the value of collaborative, community-led initiatives that strengthen understanding of waterway management and support positive environmental outcomes across the Maribyrnong catchment. The contribution of MRWA and its partners in fostering knowledge sharing, coordination and stewardship of the river system is recognised. Macedon Ranges Shire Council is currently represented on the Maribyrnong Catchment Collaboration Steering Committee, chaired by Melbourne Water, and supports the vision for a coordinated and strategic approach to the management of the Maribyrnong catchment. Council also supports Melbourne Water’s proposal for a dedicated role to lead the Maribyrnong Collaboration project, recognising the importance of strong coordination across stakeholders to deliver catchment-wide outcomes. At this stage, as priorities and projects continue to be identified and agreed through this collaborative process, individual groups are encouraged to seek support through existing mechanisms, including Council’s Environment grants program. Council’s Environment team is also actively contributing to this work through an ongoing program of on-ground projects (currently resourced at 0.6 FTE), focused on improving riparian conditions across waterways in the upper Maribyrnong catchment in partnership with Melbourne Water and the Federal Government. Thank you again for your advocacy and ongoing commitment to the health and sustainability of the Maribyrnong River catchment.
P56	Various Projects	Could you please provide funding and support for the following: * MRSC net zero by 2030 projects. * MRSC membership of the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment. * Support for the Maribyrnong River Waterways Association program. * Increase the Backyard Biodiversity program, and awareness of the importance of indigenous flora and fauna. * Review the Street-Tree-Planting-Preferred-Species-List-2023, to reflect current best environmental practices and prioritise indigenous plantings. * Provide funding for a member of the mowing crew to have knowledge of horticulture, environment and hygiene practices to work with the environment team in bushland reserves to stop the ecological damage currently being caused. * Establish an Environmental Advisory Committee to work alongside council with local knowledge and experience. * Advocate for the return of the Gisborne Pine Plantation to the people of Gisborne from the state government. * Support Action A8 from the Stanley Park Environmental Management Plan: Raise awareness with local community and nurseries about the weed threats posed by species available at local nurseries	Thank you for your submission outlining a range of environmental initiatives and proposals. Council acknowledges the breadth of matters raised and recognises the strong community interest in advancing environmental sustainability, biodiversity protection and climate action outcomes across the Macedon Ranges. In response to the items raised: Net zero by 2030 initiatives – Council continues to progress actions aligned with its Climate Emergency Plan, with priorities delivered in line with available resources and adopted strategies. Membership of the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) – This initiative aligns with the work of the Environment Unit; however, future involvement is subject to the direction of the partnership beyond its current term and resourcing capacity to support ongoing engagement. Support for the Maribyrnong River Waterways Association (MRWA) – Council’s position on this matter is consistent with previous advice. Community groups may also be eligible to seek support through Environment and Bioink grant programs. Backyard Biodiversity program – This program is continuing as part of Council’s broader environment engagement and events calendar, with Gisborne identified as a focus area in 2026. Street Tree Planting Preferred Species List review – This matter sits with Council’s Assets and Operations team and is considered as part of ongoing asset management and policy review processes. Specialist environmental capability within mowing crews – Operational staffing and service delivery models are managed by the Assets and Operations team and are considered within broader service planning and resourcing frameworks. Environmental Advisory Committee – This concept has been raised through Biodiversity Strategy engagement. The proposed approach under the refreshed strategy is to strengthen collaboration with local environmental groups through mechanisms such as partnerships, memoranda of understanding and regular forums, rather than establishing a formal advisory committee. Council also currently supports a Climate Emergency Working Group. Gisborne Pine Plantation advocacy – This matter is not currently identified as a Council priority within adopted strategies, including Gisborne Futures or the Open Space Strategy. Stanley Park Environmental Management Plan (Action A8) – This action is identified as a lower priority within the Plan and is being progressed as part of general operational activities where feasible. While Council recognises the merit of many of the ideas presented, initiatives are progressed in alignment with adopted strategies, identified priorities and available resources. Thank you again for your submission and your ongoing commitment to environmental outcomes within the Macedon Ranges.

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Number (P=Project, C=Comment)	Proposal name / title	Describe your idea:	Response to Community Submission
P57	Various Projects	<p>Allocation Request 1. Implementation of the Five Mile Creek Master Plan</p> <p>- The implementation of the Master Plan will not only improve the amenity of the Five Mile Creek and Romsey, it will provide an injection to the visitor economy with the Five Mile Creek "project" complimenting and supporting the award-winning community and visitor resource in Romsey Ecotherapy Park.</p> <p>Allocation Request 2 -Capital Support for redesign and/or refurbishment of the Romsey Roundabout - The Romsey Town Centre Action Plan references the Romsey Roundabout (p.21) in the context of "town entry" and the need for its aesthetic enhancement to provide an announcement of arrival feature in the town centre.</p> <p>Allocation Request 3 – Ongoing support for Thriving Villages Project's Town Centre Action Plans groups -Following on from the Thriving Vilages Project, both Romsey, Lancefield and Riddells Creek have Town Centre Actions Plans that include projects to enhance the town centres.</p> <p>The Action Teams have continued to work beyond the plan to scope and refine projects and is looking for the support of Council and others to assist with the implementation and maintenance of Projects.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission in relation to a number of projects, a list of responses are provided below:</p> <p>- Five Mile Creek Master Plan Implementation</p> <p>Council acknowledges the request to progress implementation of the Five Mile Creek Master Plan and recognises its potential to enhance local amenity and support the visitor economy in Romsey. Council will continue to explore funding opportunities to progress the implementation of the Master Plan.</p> <p>- Main Street and Barry Street Roundabout</p> <p>The roundabout at the intersection of Main Street and Barry Street falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). As such, any proposed upgrades or works at this location are the responsibility of DTP, including funding and delivery. Council may advocate on behalf of the community where appropriate but is not the funding authority for this infrastructure.</p> <p>- Support for Thriving Villages Project and Town Centre Action Plans</p> <p>Council recognises the value of the Macedon Ranges Thriving Villages Project as a meaningful community-led initiative and acknowledges the positive outcomes already achieved through the development of Town Centre Action Plans in Romsey, Lancefield and Malmsbury. The Economic Development and Visitor Economy team supports the intent of the project and continues to assist community groups by helping shape initiatives that strengthen local economies and enhance visitation. Council's role includes providing guidance on pathways within Council, assisting with regulatory and permit requirements, and helping identify and pursue relevant grant opportunities to support community-driven ideas. While Thriving Villages has been undertaken previously, Council is pleased to note that funding has been allocated in the 2026/27 draft budget to continue the program. This includes plans to support further delivery in Woodend, Gisborne and Kyneton, building on the work already completed in other townships.</p> <p>This commitment recognises the value of the initiative and responds to this request on an ongoing basis, with funding committed annually for a further two years to support continued delivery and momentum.</p> <p>Council remains committed to supporting community groups as they work to deliver outcomes that contribute to the vibrancy and long-term prosperity of our town centres.</p>
P58	Woodend Community Cultural Centre	<p>As a follow up to our July 2025 presentation to Councillors, we are excited that the submission for full Stage 1 Funding for the Macedon Ranges Cultural Centre was made on 17 October 2025. The funding stream was originally suggested by Fiona's Deppeler-Morton, the Minister 's Advisor from the Department of Regional Development, who identified the Regional Precincts & Partnership Program as appropriate funding for the project. We wish to thank Lydia Sorensen's team for putting together such a thorough application on this project's behalf.</p> <p>Over the past ten years, community members have dedicated significant volunteer hours and worked tirelessly to keep this project on Council's agenda. The community has supplemented Council efforts with a community survey, market stalls, presentations to community organisations, articles for the Woodend Star, and press events. During this period, we have cemented many valued partnerships within the local Shire and with State and Commonwealth levels of Government as well. Everyone's dedication to this project has been paramount to us achieving this funding milestone.</p>	<p>Thank you for your continued interest in the Woodend Community Cultural Centre project and for your support following the July 2025 Councillor briefing. Council acknowledges the significant work undertaken to prepare and submit the Stage 1 funding application to the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program on 17 October 2025. Council acknowledges and appreciates the continued advocacy and strong community support for the Macedon Ranges Cultural Centre, including the submission of letters of support and the request to progress planning for Stage 2 of the project.</p> <p>The request to include funding of \$80,000 - \$100,000 in the 2026-2027 Council budget for the design of Stage 2—a multi-purpose event and performance space - is noted. Council recognises the importance of this component in delivering flexible, contemporary cultural infrastructure to serve residents, businesses, and visitors.</p> <p>However, consideration of further budget allocation for Stage 2 is dependent on the outcome of the Stage 1 funding application, which was submitted to the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program on 17 October 2025 and is currently under assessment. Progression of subsequent project stages will be informed by the funding decision, overall project scope, and Council's broader financial and strategic priorities.</p> <p>Council remains committed to advocating for and progressing the Cultural Centre project where feasible and will consider next steps, including future budget provisions, once the outcome of the Stage 1 application is known. Updates will be provided to the community as further information becomes available.</p>
C1	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>Fully Demolish, and Brand-New Build of the Woodend Campaspe Park/Five-Mile Creek Toilets (Male & Female) Blocks, that's been their since the Early 1960's/1970's, Better/More, Lighting within the Park with more or better Upgraded BBQ's and to Seal/Asphalted the Road within and around and, out of the Woodend Campaspe Park instead of it being a Dirt and Pot-Hole all the time</p>	<p>The Woodend Five Mile Creek Master Plan identifies a range of long-term improvement opportunities across the reserve; however, there is currently no funded project to demolish and rebuild the toilet facilities. The unsealed access road and car park are not identified for upgrade to a sealed standard but are maintained regularly by Council's operational staff.</p> <p>Opportunities for additional infrastructure, such as BBQs and improved amenities, have been considered through Council's Open Space Strategy, which has now been completed. The Strategy will guide future planning and prioritisation of upgrades across the open space network, including Five Mile Creek, subject to available funding.</p>

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C2	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>I've been waiting for an opportunity to express how much we would love to see a bike track connecting some of the country roads into Lancefield. We live on Ashworth Road</p> <p>We around the area would love to see a safe bike track connecting some of the country roads into Lancefield. We live on Ashworth Road, and like many local families, we'd love a way to ride into town safely.</p> <p>A path along Burke and Wills Track or Three Chain Road would be ideal.</p> <p>With new business park developments planned on Three Chain Road, a bike track would fit perfectly and improve safety for cyclists and walkers.</p> <p>Right now, riding on the roadside is far too dangerous, especially for kids.</p> <p>A proper bike track would make a huge difference for families and the whole community.</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing your thoughts on the need for a safe bike track connection into Lancefield. We understand how important safe cycling and walking routes are for families, children, and the wider community, and we appreciate the vision you've outlined for Ashworth Road and surrounding areas.</p> <p>At present, the Walking and Cycling Strategy and the Shire-wide Footpath Plan do not identify a connection along Burke and Wills Track or Three Chain Road as a priority project for Council. We do, however, acknowledge the value of the existing Federation Trail between Romsey and Lancefield, which already provides an off-road link into Lancefield.</p> <p>Constructing new off-road trails requires careful consideration of factors such as cost, vegetation impacts, and cultural heritage. While this particular connection is not currently planned, your feedback highlights the community's strong interest in safer cycling infrastructure and will continue to inform future planning, strategy reviews and advocacy efforts.</p>
C3	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>I just want to share my perspective on the role of Council and what my rates should and shouldn't cover. My top priority is those things that other community groups (particularly activist groups) don't cover. Ie. Roads, rubbish, council amenities and maintenance. My lowest priority is activist areas like climate change, environment newsletters, and indigenous politics that are the domain of other levels of government, or other community organisations, e.g. Landcare. Whilst these issues are important, there are community-focused groups that work well in those areas, and council need not duplicate or fund them, particularly as extra levies are then contemplated to cover the resultant shortfall for basics like roads and rubbish.</p>	<p>Thank you for taking the time to make a budget submission. Council values community input and has carefully considered all submissions received as part of the budget development process, having regard to strategic priorities and available funding.</p>
C4	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>Build a swimming pool and gym facilities in either Romsey or Lancefield due to rise of people in the community</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission, Lancefield currently has an outdoor swimming pool that provides seasonal aquatic facilities for the community. At this time, there is no funded project for the development of a new swimming pool or gym facility in Romsey.</p> <p>The planning and provision of aquatic and recreation facilities are guided by Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, which sets out priorities based on community need, participation trends and long-term planning considerations. This Strategy will also be subject to future review to ensure it continues to reflect changing community expectations and growth across the municipality.</p> <p>Future aquatic and recreation facility provision will continue to be considered through this strategic framework and will be subject to funding availability, population growth and broader Council priorities.</p>
C5	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>We have no footpaths on the west (quarry) end of Tylden. It is impossible to push a pram over the open drains, overgrown grass and creeks.</p> <p>There are planned paths in the latest Macedon Ranges footpath plan. It would make a huge difference to the community. Especially families walking to school each day. It would also open these areas up for casual walkers and dog walkers in the town. Any type of path will do. I would love sealed paths but anything would be better than the mud we walk through now. Thanks for your help.</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing your experience and highlighting the challenges faced by families and walkers in Tylden without footpaths on the west (quarry) end of town. We understand how important safe and accessible paths are for everyday activities such as walking to school, pushing prams, and enjoying the outdoors.</p> <p>The Shire-Wide Footpath Plan 2018–2027 identifies four new footpaths to be delivered in Tylden. Council officers have scheduled these for construction in future financial years, subject to available budget. At this stage, however, no new footpaths are proposed for Tylden in the 2026/27 financial year, as Council must balance priorities across the wider Shire.</p> <p>We appreciate your feedback, which reinforces the value of footpaths to the community, and it will continue to inform our planning and advocacy for improved pedestrian infrastructure in Tylden.</p>
C6	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>As a ratepayer for over 45 years (now retired), I would like to express my disappointment regarding the recent removal of one of the small budget items, being the receipt of a free pass for parking at Hanging Rock when you have a meal at the cafe there. I feel that whilst there would be some saving in the parking costs, this would be more than offset by ratepayers like me and my wife ceasing to use the cafe, including us bringing our friends and relatives. I am aware that visitors to the area can obtain such a free parking pass and this disappoints me more, as I believe ratepayers should be prioritized to receive such a benefit. One possible part-concession could be to allow the free pass for ratepayers who hold a Seniors Card? Your consideration of this suggestion would be greatly appreciated.</p>	<p>Thank you for your budget submission and for taking the time to share your views. Council acknowledges your long-standing contribution as a ratepayer and appreciates your feedback regarding parking arrangements at Hanging Rock and access to the café.</p> <p>Council understands that many community members, including pensioners and seniors, are experiencing cost-of-living pressures. However, when setting fees and charges, Council must consider the ongoing costs of operating and maintaining facilities, which remain consistent regardless of who is visiting the site.</p> <p>Introducing free or discounted parking for specific groups, including ratepayers or Seniors Card holders, would require further investigation. This would include assessing how such an arrangement could be managed within the current self-service ticketing system and how eligibility could be verified to ensure fairness and consistency.</p> <p>Council also notes that a lower annual pass fee for Hanging Rock has been included in the 2026/27 budget to help improve affordability for regular visitors to the site.</p> <p>Council values community feedback and will continue to consider comments and suggestions as part of ongoing discussions around accessibility, affordability, and the management of Hanging Rock.</p>

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C7	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	I would like to shine a light on the ridiculous speeds being travelled down McGeorge road in the Willow estate in Gisborne. I live on McGeorge Road near Brooking road and what is evident is not a single car travels at the required 50km speed, unfortunately to make things worse cars are accelerating hard after the roundabout which has led to unreasonable vehicle sound levels within my home despite double glazed windows and insulation. It is also becoming increasingly dangerous to enter and exit my short driveway as it is impossible to judge the car speed around me. I fear for my wife and kids and the people and children that wait at the bus stop nearby. This has been raised several times with council and police with no luck as I have been advised it's somehow not council problem despite speed calming measures or initiatives sitting with council. As a local resident I am fed up at the lack of care shown to address what I believe is a serious problem.	Thank you for sharing your concerns about traffic speeds along McGeorge Road. We understand how distressing and unsafe this situation feels for you, your family, and others in the area, particularly near the bus stop. Road safety is a priority, and we appreciate you raising this issue with us. While the enforcement of speed limits is the responsibility of Victoria Police, Council officers recognise the need to remind drivers of the 50km/h limit in this section. We will therefore seek approval from the Department of Transport and Planning to install additional speed limit signage along McGeorge Road to help reinforce safe driving behaviour.
C8	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	Redesdale Rd between Kyneton Resource Recovery Facility and Rollinson Reserve entrance has a very bumpy section of road...in our ute and truck particularly. The problem is mostly when you head north on that side of the road. Would it be possible to redo that bit of road? Thanks for doing the edges of the road too it has made a big difference when it rains.	Thank you for letting us know about the condition of Redesdale Road and for acknowledging the recent edge works—we're glad to hear they've already made a difference during wet weather. The bumpy section you've highlighted between the Kyneton Resource Recovery Facility and Rollinson Reserve entrance has been identified, and it is scheduled to be addressed as part of our road maintenance program in the 2025/26 financial year
C9	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	The highest priority for the 2026/27 Budget should be the full funding and expedited completion of the Woodend-Riddells Creek Shared Trail. As Gisborne residents who enjoy running and cycle long distances, we view this trail as the critical "spine" of active transport in the Macedon Ranges. We urge Council to ensure there are no delays in the staged construction of this project. Secondly, we ask Council to invest in the Daylesford to Hanging Rock Rail Trail (feasibility and design). Our goal is to see a continuous off-road network exceeding 50km. By completing the Woodend-Riddells Creek trail and linking it to the Daylesford corridor, the Council would create a nationally significant asset. This scale is required to support local endurance athletes and attracts high-yield cycle tourism, similar to the success of the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. Please prioritise the completion of the Woodend-Riddells Creek Shared Trail above all else.	Thank you for sharing your passion for active transport and the vision of a connected trail network in the Macedon Ranges. We understand how important the Woodend–Riddells Creek Shared Trail is for local runners, cyclists, and the broader community, and we're pleased to confirm that the project continues to make steady progress. It is currently on track for completion by December 2026. We also acknowledge the strong community interest in the Daylesford to Hanging Rock Rail Trail. However, the scale and cost of delivering this project are beyond Council's current financial capacity, and it is not included in Council's most recent prioritised projects list. Your feedback reinforces the value of these types of trail connections, not only in supporting local recreation and active transport, but also in enhancing regional tourism and visitation.
C10	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	I live quite close to Ross Watt reserve and I look at all that wonderful space that could be transformed to benefit the local community. In Gisborne/New Gisborne we have an abundance of organised sporting activities but not much for casual activities. Ross Watt would be perfect to put in facilities for casual recreational activities. A half basketball court for shooting practice, soccer nets for goal practice, a BMX track or skate park, a handball court. When I walk around the area I see so many basketball nets in the front gardens of houses. How good would it be if the kids could gather together and practice their shots. Ross Watt is so close to New Gisborne primary school, so there are so many young people in the area that would benefit from casual physical activity. These facilities would not be too expensive and would be wonderful for the area.	Thank you for sharing your ideas for Ross Watt Reserve and for highlighting the importance of casual recreation opportunities for young people and families in Gisborne and New Gisborne. We appreciate the vision you've outlined and the community benefits you see in facilities such as a half basketball court, soccer goals, or a skate park. Following community consultation, Council adopted the Ross Watt Reserve Master Plan at its meeting on 27 September 2023. The plan includes a range of improvements such as upgraded tennis facilities, enhanced BMX humps, new picnic areas, improved pathways, and passive kickabout spaces. While the current plan does not include a half basketball court, any addition of new elements would require a review of the Master Plan and further community consultation. At this stage, a review of the Master Plan is not considered a priority, but Council acknowledges the value of your suggestion and will keep it in mind for future planning discussions.

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Number (P=Project, C=Comment)	Proposal name / title	Describe your idea:	Response to Community Submission
C11	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	More spots at Kyneton Kindergarten. Our 3 year old missed out on a spot at Kyneton Kindergarten next year which would have been a short walk from our home. We will now need to drive to Woodend to pick him up and drop him off from the Kindergarten there.	Thank you for your budget submission and for taking the time to share your experience. Council understands how disappointing it can be when a local kindergarten placement is not available, particularly when this results in additional travel for families. Kindergarten enrolments are capped based on the physical capacity of each facility, and unfortunately Kyneton Kindergarten has reached its maximum enrolment for the 2026 year. Officers are aware that demand for free sessional kindergarten places currently exceeds the capacity available within existing facilities. Council is actively advocating with the Department of Education for additional funded kindergarten places and expanded provision within the Kyneton township to help meet growing community demand. Community feedback such as yours is important in informing this advocacy and future planning. Thank you again for your submission and for raising this matter.
C12	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	Hi, I would like to request a left hand passing lane on the corner of Saunders Rd and Colman CRT New Gisborne. I was nearly involved in an accident turning right into Colman CRT when a large truck with a trailer came up very fast behind me and was unable to stop. The truck had to swerve off the road to the left on to the verge to avoid a collision.	We appreciate you sharing your experience and understand how concerning that situation must have been. Road safety is very important to us, and we take these kinds of reports seriously. Saunders Road is classified as an arterial road, which means it is managed by the Department of Transport and Planning. While Council is not the responsible authority for upgrades along this road, we encourage you to raise your request directly with the Department of Transport and Planning so they can consider possible improvements. If you would like assistance in identifying the appropriate contact or would prefer to discuss your concerns further, Council staff would be pleased to support you.
C13	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	Our smaller towns and villages have fallen under a single "small towns" strategy plan since 1999. Whilst some of them have grown only marginally in that time, others have doubled or even tripled in population. Within the next budget can the strategic planning department please allocate funds to updating and rezoning (where appropriate) each of these small towns growth strategies within the next 12 months. I would really appreciate a focus on Tylden and providing a plan for infrastructure and growth in coming decades.	Thank you for your budget submission and for taking the time to provide thoughtful feedback on planning for smaller towns and villages within the Shire. Council appreciates your interest in ensuring that future growth and infrastructure planning reflects population change and community needs. The most recent strategic work guiding growth in smaller towns was undertaken through the Macedon Ranges Shire Settlement Strategy (2011), which established a planning horizon to 2036. This horizon has not yet been reached, and the strategy determined that, for the most part, smaller towns have limited capacity to accommodate significant additional growth. Tylden was identified as an exception, with capacity for some growth within its existing settlement boundary. At this stage, a comprehensive review of settlement and small town growth strategies is not considered a priority, given the substantial strategic planning currently underway for larger towns such as Romsey and Gisborne. These towns are expected to accommodate a significant proportion of population growth to 2050 and will be prioritised for progression in the upcoming financial year. Council will continue to monitor growth trends and community feedback, including in Tylden, to inform future strategic planning priorities as resources allow. Thank you again for your submission and contribution to Council's budget deliberations.
C14	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	I have contacted MRSC a number of times of the state of the Lions Park in Romsey. The public toilets are old and needs updating. The adjoining undercover seating area is dark even during daylight hours and uninviting. Theses facilities are constantly used by the public travelling through Romsey and in my opinion doesn't reflect well on our facilities. Skylights or similar will improve lighting and more native shrubs, plants and trees will enhance the park. It seems as though this doesn't receive the same upkeep and maintenance as the Skate Park facilities or the All Abilities Park.	Thank you for your budget submission and for taking the time to raise concerns regarding the condition and presentation of Lions Park in Romsey. Council appreciates community feedback on the use and upkeep of public facilities, particularly those that are well used by both residents and visitors. At this stage, Officers do not support the submission for upgrades to the public toilet and adjoining shelter. Any proposed works to public toilet facilities are guided by Council's Public Toilet and BBQ Strategy, which recommends that facilities be removed once they reach the end of their useful life, rather than upgraded or extensively refurbished. As such, improvements of the nature described, including lighting enhancements or structural modifications, are not currently supported. Council continues to undertake routine maintenance of existing assets across the municipality and must prioritise investment in accordance with adopted strategies, asset condition, and available funding. Your feedback has been noted and will be considered as part of future asset planning and strategic reviews. Thank you again for your submission and for sharing your perspective on Council facilities.
C15	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	Should provide funding to town centre activation plan projects	Council recognises the value of the Macedon Ranges Thriving Villages Project as a meaningful community-led initiative and acknowledges the positive outcomes already achieved through the development of Town Centre Action Plans in Romsey, Lancefield and Malmsbury. The Economic Development and Visitor Economy team supports the intent of the project and continues to assist community groups by helping shape initiatives that strengthen local economies and enhance visitation. Council's role includes providing guidance on pathways within Council, assisting with regulatory and permit requirements, and helping identify and pursue relevant grant opportunities to support community-driven ideas. While Thriving Villages has been undertaken previously, Council is pleased to note that funding has been allocated in the 2026/27 draft budget to continue the program. This includes plans to support further delivery in Woodend, Gisborne and Kyneton, building on the work already completed in other townships. This commitment recognises the value of the initiative and responds to this request on an ongoing basis, with funding committed annually for a further two years to support continued delivery and momentum. Council remains committed to supporting community groups as they work to deliver outcomes that contribute to the vibrancy and long-term prosperity of our town centres.

Community Submissions Round 1

Number (P=Project, C=Comment)	Proposal name / title	Describe your idea:	Response to Community Submission
C16	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	Climate change is causing more frequent and severe bushfire, therefore we need to change our approach to fuel reduction. Large scale burn off affects wildlife, plant diversity and can be dangerous to our communities e.g. Cobaw State Forrest burn off 2015. Cool or prescribed burns is a light burn that maintains fuel reduction and reduces fire intensity. "Bushfire Front" has an article "The science behind prescribed burning " which supports this idea. In New South Wales cultural burning has been carried out by traditional owners, ecologists, Local Land Care and the Rural Fire brigade with success. If indigenous people were involved it would help form cross-cultural partnerships and I'm sure that grants could be sought to help pay for this project. Please consider this idea as we need to look after our land for future generations.	Council acknowledges the submission and the importance of evolving fuel management practices in response to increasing bushfire risk. We recognise that cultural and prescribed burning can deliver positive outcomes for biodiversity, fuel reduction, and the health and healing of Country. Council currently incorporates planned burning as part of its conservation works program and is actively working in partnership with Traditional Owners. In particular, Council collaborated with Dja Dja Wurrung's Djandak Wii (Fire) team to undertake a cultural burn at Woodend Grassland Reserve during Autumn 2026. Cultural fire management is also a key component of a significant Federal grant secured by Council to improve biodiversity and riparian condition across the upper Maribyrnong catchment over the next three years. This program will support the integration of Traditional Owner knowledge and practices into land and waterway management. Broader approaches to fire management, including the role of cultural burning and continued involvement of Traditional Owners in natural resource management, are also addressed in Council's Draft Biodiversity Strategy, which is currently open for community feedback: https://yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-strategy-refresh Council appreciates the community's interest in caring for the natural environment and encourages ongoing engagement in shaping future land management practices.
C17	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	Progress the Woodend Community Centre/Library redevelopment	Thank you for submitting your budget submission. Council acknowledges the request to progress the Woodend Community Centre/Library redevelopment. The Stage 1 funding application, submitted to the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program on 17 October 2025, is currently under assessment. Further progress on the project will be guided by the outcome of this application.
C18	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	The Lions Club accommodation rebuild/refurbishment in Dundas st, Lancefield needs to move to the top of the Council priority list of funded projects. The small units which have been in constant use and demand have been dismantled for use for 2 or more years. There is an increasing and urgent need for accommodation for older single people in Lancefield and it is negligent to leave this project in the state it is in.	Thank you for your budget submission. Council acknowledges the concerns raised regarding the Lions Club accommodation project in Dundas Street, Lancefield, and the importance of this housing for the local community. The redevelopment is being delivered by Wintringham and is funded through the State Government's Big Housing Build initiative. As funding has already been allocated through this program, no additional Council funding is required for the project. Council will continue to monitor progress and advocate where appropriate to support timely delivery.
C19	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	U3A Kyneton utilises the Studio for Table Tennis at the Aquatic Centre twice a week during term times. This activity aligns with the MRSC's Aged Care policy and greatly benefits the community, However, the lift in the building has not been working for at least the past 18 months. Due to this inconvenience, some members are unable to participate in Table Tennis. It also means that U3A is unable to move to an alternative venue as the table tennis tables cannot be relocated safely. This matter is also a work health and safety issue. Fixing the lift in the Aquatic Centre is urgently needed. J. Taubman, President, U3A Kyneton (u3akyneton@gmail.com)	Thank you for your budget submission. Council acknowledges the request to replace the lift is subject of petition that was formally acknowledged by Council at its March 2026 meeting. A detailed response to the petition and this budget submission will be include in the Council report that will go to Council on 17 June. 2026.
C20	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	grants to support export marketing for Macedon Ranges businesses into SE Asia.	Council acknowledges the suggestion to explore grants to support export marketing for Macedon Ranges businesses into Southeast Asia. While Council does not directly provide export grant funding, it plays an important role in advocating to the State Government where there is a strong local or regional business case. Council also works closely with Regional Development Victoria (RDV) and Invest Victoria to support business growth, including helping local businesses access appropriate programs and opportunities. Businesses interested in export development are encouraged to engage with Council's Economic Development team, who can provide guidance on available State and Federal grant programs, as well as relevant support services and networks.

Community Submissions Round 1

Number (P=Project, C=Comment)	Proposal name / title	Describe your idea:	Response to Community Submission
C21	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit an idea.</p> <p>The children's school crossing in Gisborne on Aitken St, between Howey and Fisher Streets desperately requires an improvement. I lobbied the office of Mary-Anne Thomas several times over the last 18 months and have been told that the crossing is on the list for further works, yet nothing has been done.</p> <p>The crossing services children for both St Brigids and Gisborne Primary. Safety concerns have been raised by multiple crossing attendants internally for several years.'</p> <p>Again no improvement has been forthcoming.</p> <p>It would be terribly unfortunate should there be a death or injury at this crossing when it has been flagged by so many and reported regularly as a danger to the community.</p>	<p>Thank you for raising your concerns about the children's crossing on Aitken Street between Howey and Fisher Streets. We understand how important this crossing is for families, and we acknowledge the ongoing safety concerns that have been raised by the community and crossing attendants.</p> <p>As Aitken Street is part of the arterial road network, responsibility for infrastructure upgrades rests with the Department of Transport and Planning. While Council is not the authority to deliver these works, we will continue to share community feedback with the Department to ensure the need for improvements is strongly represented.</p> <p>We appreciate your advocacy on this matter and your commitment to the safety of children and families in Gisborne.</p>
C22	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>A round about corner of High St & Lancefield Rd before a fatality occurs there.</p>	<p>Thank you for raising your concerns about the intersection at High Street and Lancefield Road. We understand the importance of road safety and the community's desire to see improvements made before serious incidents occur.</p> <p>As this intersection is part of the arterial road network, responsibility for upgrades and changes such as the installation of a roundabout rests with the Department of Transport and Planning. Council will continue to share community feedback with the Department to ensure local voices are heard in their planning and decision-making.</p> <p>We appreciate your commitment to improving safety in Lancefield and will support advocacy efforts to highlight the importance of this intersection</p>
C23	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>The tennis courts in New Gisborne need to be updated. They are old and outdated. Also the clubrooms are very old compared to other tennis clubs in the Macedon rangers. Many kids and adults in the community use these courts. It is a great use of the money as tennis is a very community driven sport. I hope you take this into serious consideration.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding the condition of the New Gisborne Tennis Club courts at Ross Watt Reserve. Council acknowledges the concerns raised about the ageing and deteriorating condition of the courts and understands the impact this has on the club's operations, coaching programs, and its growing junior membership base.</p> <p>The current state of the courts - being outdated, failing, and approaching unsafe condition - is recognised as a significant barrier to supporting continued growth and community participation.</p> <p>Council officers support the project in principle, recognising that the courts have reached the end of their functional life and require renewal. The need for works has already been identified through Council's asset assessments.</p> <p>Officers are currently actively seeking external grant funding to assist in delivering this project. Securing appropriate funding will be essential to progressing the renewal of the tennis courts and improving the broader Ross Watt Reserve facilities to meet community expectations.</p> <p>Council appreciates the New Gisborne Tennis Club's strong contribution to local sport and will continue to work collaboratively with the club as funding opportunities arise.</p>
C24	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>Please spend some time and money to upgrade the Lancefield Park Precinct. I am a part of the Junior Football Netball Club and also a player in the women's football team for Lancefield. An upgrade to the change rooms to make them more user friendly for all players, young and old. Also the fencing around the ground is currently unstable and unsafe for players and community. Please support the growing community of Lancefield to continue to provide suitable and safe facilities to all</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing your thoughts on the Lancefield Park Precinct and for highlighting the importance of safe, welcoming facilities for local players and the wider community.</p> <p>We appreciate the role that the Junior Football Netball Club and the women's football team play in strengthening community spirit in Lancefield.</p> <p>Lancefield Park is managed by the Lancefield Park Committee of Management, rather than Council directly. This means that requests for upgrades, such as improvements to the change rooms or fencing, are best directed to the Committee.</p> <p>Council has recently worked alongside the Committee to develop a Master Plan for the precinct. This plan sets out future opportunities for improvements and provides a pathway to ensure the facilities continue to meet the needs of the growing Lancefield community. We remain committed to supporting the Committee in delivering on this vision.</p>
C25	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>Listen to your community. Don't bow to minority groups all the time. Look after majority groups too. Less woke and red tape.</p>	<p>Submission has been noted</p>
C26	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>Urgently replace the existing lift at the Kyneton Sports and Aquatic Centre. It has been faulty for approximately two years and out of action since early this year. The Studio area is used by a number of community groups and those with a disability or mobility issues are unable to access this area.</p>	<p>Thank you for your budget submission. Council acknowledges the request to replace the lift is subject of petition that was formally acknowledged by Council at its March 2026 meeting. A detailed response to the petition and this budget submission will be include in the Council report that will go to Council on 17 June. 2026.</p>

Community Submissions Round 1

Number (P=Project, C=Comment)	Proposal name / title	Describe your idea:	Response to Community Submission
C27	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>As a committee member of U3A Kyneton I am submitting this priority on behalf of our 350+ members. U3A is the primary user of the Red Brick Hall (heritage listed as the Congregational Kindergarten) In Yalwyn St West Kyneton. U3A has recently accepted a proposal from Council that will see the venue hire increase by some 11K over the next few years. However, U3A's requests for urgent and appropriate building maintenance goes unheeded.</p> <p>This heritage listed building is rapidly deteriorating. Appended photos show that the fret work and timber facias are in urgent need of restoration and repair. There is a broken pane in a window on the western side wall (noted by both Council and Heritage Victoria on a recent inspection) and the metal grilles that run horizontally between the upper and lower panes on all windows on that side have corroded to the extent that they are non existent allowing easy access and poor temperature control . The roofing slates also require maintenance.</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing your thoughts in relation to the condition of the Red Brick Hall, Kyneton. Council acknowledges the concerns raised by U3A Kyneton regarding the condition and ongoing maintenance of the Red Brick Hall in Yalwyn Street, West Kyneton, and recognises the important role the facility plays in supporting community activities. Officers note that the matters raised, including building repairs and maintenance, are most appropriately managed as operational maintenance requests rather than through capital funding processes. Council has recently invested in improvements to Red Brick Hall, enhancing its amenities and accessibility for users.</p> <p>Council will ensure that the maintenance issues identified are recorded and assessed through its asset management processes and prioritised alongside other works across the municipality. In addition, Council will continue to advocate for external funding opportunities to support the preservation and upkeep of heritage-listed facilities, including Red Brick Hall.</p>
C28	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>The residents of Grahams Road Lancefield seek 50kmh speed restrictions, as requested in our letter to council in October 2025. This initiative will reduce the current high volume traffic using this road as a short cut between Kilmore and Romsey. For a minimal cost, the consequence of erecting these signs, will see the current costs of road maintenance reduced significantly. Council's regular grading and general road maintenance costs will reduce, saving rate payers thousands of dollars annually. We ask that this regular road maintenance program be costed by council officers then put up for budget 2026 consideration. This may be the only request for a reduction in Council financial outlays in this 'Have Your Say' for Budget 2026! Save money and have a safer Grahams Road which means saving lives.</p>	<p>Council acknowledges the concerns raised by residents of Grahams Road, Lancefield, regarding traffic speeds, road usage, and safety.</p> <p>An operational assessment of Grahams Road has been undertaken by Council officers in accordance with the Victorian Speed Zoning Guidelines. Based on this assessment, the road does not meet the criteria required to support a reduction from the current default speed limit of 100 km/h.</p> <p>While a speed limit change is not supported at this time, Council has implemented a number of operational measures to improve safety and road conditions. These include additional advisory signage and vegetation trimming to enhance visibility for road users.</p> <p>Council will continue to monitor the condition and use of Grahams Road through its ongoing maintenance and inspection programs, and will reassess conditions if circumstances change.</p>
C29	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>The Transport Action Group of Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (MRSG) proposes that Council should develop an Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) for the Shire in 2026. Please see the pdf attached for more details.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion regarding the development of an Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) for the Shire in 2026.</p> <p>Council already undertakes coordinated transport planning through a number of adopted strategies and plans. These include the Council Plan, Asset Plan 2025–2035, Mobility & Road Safety Strategy, Walking and Cycling Strategy, Open Space Strategy, as well as town-based movement network plans and precinct structure plans. Together, these documents provide a comprehensive and integrated framework to guide transport planning, prioritisation, investment, and advocacy across the Shire.</p> <p>Given the breadth and maturity of these existing strategies, Council is not proposing to prepare a separate Integrated Transport Strategy at this time though has identified this as an action for future years as part of the Climate Emergency Plan. Our focus is on delivering tangible outcomes by implementing and updating the strategies already in place, and ensuring resources are directed toward on-ground projects and advocacy that benefit the community.</p>
C30	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>I would like to suggest an allocation in the budget to relocate, expand or redevelop the Kyneton library. The facilities are grossly inadequate for the current population, let alone to cater for the increase in population that is currently occurring and expected to continue. The library also services the surrounding smaller towns such as Malmsbury. Other libraries in the Goldfields library group (not all Macedon Ranges) are much bigger and well set up. Castlemaine has new soundproof booths, a meeting room and different zones. K'Flat has been relocated and purpose built new and Bendigo had significant upgrades. Woodend library is much better and bigger and spacious. And although not in the Goldfields region Sunbury library was also purpose built new. I haven't been to the Gisborne library yet. The one single tiny room at Kyneton is not really adequate and desperately needs an upgrade. Is there space in the old Primary School location just next to it?</p>	<p>Council acknowledges the feedback regarding the size and functionality of the Kyneton Library and recognises the important role library services play in supporting a growing and diverse community, including surrounding townships.</p> <p>While there may be merit in exploring options to relocate, expand or redevelop the facility in the future, such a project would require detailed planning, including community engagement, service needs analysis, and consideration of suitable locations and funding opportunities. This work is necessary to ensure any future investment aligns with long-term service requirements and Council priorities.</p> <p>A State Government process is underway to appoint an operator to oversee the activation of Old Kyneton Primary School and Council will seek to work closely with the operator once they have been appointed to discuss plans for the space, including what services might be offered there to best meet the needs and ambitions of the community.</p> <p>Council continues to work in partnership with Goldfields Libraries to support service improvements and advocate for State Government funding to enhance library facilities and programs. Most recently, State Government grant funding has supported the purchase and installation of soundproof booths in all of Macedon Ranges Shire libraries, including Kyneton Library.</p> <p>Council will continue to monitor population growth and service demand in Kyneton and will consider opportunities for future upgrades as part of its strategic planning and budget processes.</p>

Community Submissions Round 1

Number (P=Project, C=Comment)	Proposal name / title	Describe your idea:	Response to Community Submission
C31	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>Romsey Neighbourhood House (RNH) is a central pillar of community wellbeing, resilience, economic participation and social inclusion in the Macedon Ranges. It delivers a broad range of essential services that directly align with the Shire's strategic objectives. Yet the Shire contributes only \$5,000 annually, an amount that is dramatically disproportionate to both the scale of work undertaken and the measurable community value created.</p> <p>Romsey Neighbourhood House delivers more than \$6.3 million in community value every year, fulfilling core civic functions in health, wellbeing, inclusion, emergency relief, food security, youth development, volunteering and local economic participation.</p> <p>To ensure that Romsey remains connected, safe, resilient and inclusive — and to meet its own strategic objectives — we request the Shire review their annual funding for RNH.</p> <p>We welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss this submission.</p>	<p>Council acknowledges the submission from Romsey Neighbourhood House (RNH) and recognises the significant contribution Neighbourhood Houses make to community wellbeing, social inclusion, and local resilience across the Macedon Ranges.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Houses deliver a wide range of valuable programs and services, representing strong value for money in supporting community outcomes. Council also notes that funding for Neighbourhood Houses has been increased from \$35,000 to \$70,000 per annum in the 2026/27 budget, demonstrating a strengthened commitment to supporting these important community organisations.</p>
C32	Is your idea general input on services or priorities?	<p>On the 2nd of November I sent a letter to the Director of Assets and Operations, Director of planning and environment, environment team and road side slashing. The letter was in relation to the spreading of weeds on our roadsides in MRSC due to their slashing program.</p> <p>I got two responses over more than two weeks from the Executive Assistant Community (whatever that is, EAD), before I responded again, then another letter from the EAD. Then a day later I got a response from the Coordinator Environment who parroted the same tripe I had already heard from the EAD, but concluded that the roadside conservation officer will be in touch with me to discuss my concerns.</p> <p>Surely a more efficient method of dealing with my letter could be put in place. I would suggest that an experienced Personal Assistant who understands the workings of the Bureaucracy could have directed the letter to the roadside team. Bypassing two roles that should be made redundant.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding your experience in raising concerns about roadside weed spread associated with Council's slashing program.</p> <p>Council acknowledges your feedback about the handling of your correspondence and the time taken to direct your enquiry to the most appropriate area. We recognise the importance of ensuring that requests are managed efficiently and that community members are connected as quickly as possible with the relevant officers.</p> <p>Your comments highlight the need for clear and coordinated processes across teams. While there are often multiple areas involved in responding to enquiries of this nature, Council is committed to strengthening internal coordination to provide more timely, streamlined and effective responses.</p> <p>We also note that follow-up contact from the appropriate technical area was arranged, and Council will continue to ensure that specialist staff are engaged directly in addressing detailed operational matters such as roadside vegetation management.</p> <p>Council appreciates you bringing this matter to our attention and remains committed to improving responsiveness and service delivery across the organisation.</p>

Budget 2026/27

Community Submissions

Round 2 - May / June 2026

Number (W) Written	Please tell us more about your submission.	Officer Response
1	Agree with priorities. Would love to see great investments in new footpaths to improve safety and health of Woodend	Thank you for your feedback on footpath improvements in Woodend. We understand how important safe and accessible pathways are for families and residents in your community. Council is committed to investing in our footpath network. We have noted your request for new footpaths and will continue to prioritise pedestrian safety and connectivity in future budget planning. We value your input and encourage you to stay engaged as we work towards improving our local infrastructure.
2	We need more sporting facilities ie soccer ground and also an outdoor 50 metre pool	Thank you for your submission regarding the draft budget and for highlighting the need for additional sporting and aquatic facilities within the community. Council recognises the important role that accessible, high-quality sporting and recreation infrastructure plays in supporting community health, wellbeing and participation. We understand the growing interest in facilities such as soccer pitches and outdoor aquatic infrastructure, including a 50 metre pool. These needs are considered through Council's adopted Active Sport and Recreation Strategy, which provides a strategic framework to guide the planning and provision of sporting and recreation facilities across the municipality. The Strategy helps ensure that investment is aligned with current and future demand, participation trends, and community priorities. As you noted, Council is required to balance a wide range of competing service priorities and infrastructure needs across the municipality. While not all projects can be delivered within a single budget cycle, demand for additional sporting and aquatic facilities continues to be actively monitored and considered as part of ongoing strategic planning processes. Your feedback is valuable and contributes to building a strong evidence base to inform future investment and long-term planning for community infrastructure. Thank you again for your input and ongoing interest in the development of local facilities.
3	I think if there is a priority to get the change rooms upgraded at Woodend Racecourse Reserve that would be amazing. With two new clubs located at the venue and the changerooms barely usable - it would be great for council to commit to supporting these clubs to have the basic amenities needed to carry out training and game days with their players.	Thank you for your submission regarding the upgrade of the external change room facilities at Buffalo Stadium. Council acknowledges the importance of providing fit-for-purpose, safe and accessible facilities that cater to people of all genders, ages and abilities. The need to improve these facilities aligns with broader objectives to support inclusive participation in sport and recreation, and to meet the expectations of governing bodies and community organisations, including initiatives such as those led by Proud2Play and Football Victoria. Council also recognises the strong community support for the Woodend Eagles Soccer Club and the positive foundation established through the Woodend Racecourse Reserve Master Plan. While the delivery of the Master Plan will take time, the upgrade of existing facilities represents an important interim step to support current and future participation. Council support the submission and are pleased to note that funding has been included in the 2026/27 budget for the detailed design of upgraded changeroom facilities. This will be an important step toward delivering improved, inclusive amenities that meet the needs of the growing sporting community in Woodend.
4	I think it addresses the needs of the many interest groups, basic services, and ongoing cost pressures while supporting the priorities of wellbeing, culture community connectiveness.	Thank you for your submission regarding the draft budget. We appreciate your considered feedback and your recognition of Council's efforts to balance the needs of a wide range of interest groups, while continuing to deliver essential services and manage ongoing cost pressures. It is encouraging to hear your support for the way the budget aligns with key priorities, including wellbeing, culture and community connectedness. Council remains committed to delivering outcomes that strengthen and support our diverse community. Thank you again for taking the time to provide your input. Your feedback is valued and contributes to shaping Council's decision-making.
5	Buffalo stadium really needs love.	Thank you for your submission regarding the upgrade of the facilities at Buffalo Stadium. Council acknowledges the importance of providing fit-for-purpose, safe and accessible facilities that cater to people of all genders, ages and abilities. The need to improve these facilities aligns with broader objectives to support inclusive participation in sport and recreation, and to meet the expectations of governing bodies and community organisations. Council support the submission and are pleased to note that funding has been included in the 2026/27 budget for the detailed design of upgraded changeroom facilities. This will be an important step toward delivering improved, inclusive amenities that meet the needs of the growing sporting community in Woodend.
6	More money needs to be spent on the poor state of roads in the area. A lack of curbing on Mt Gisborne Rd leads gravel then needs to be cleared from guttering in front of residences. If you can use a street sweeper for leaves in the centre of town you can do the same for Gutters	Thank you for your submission regarding the condition of roads in your area, including concerns about gravel accumulation and drainage. Council's road network is managed in accordance with the Road Management Plan, which provides a structured and transparent framework for maintaining and improving roads. Renewal and upgrade works are prioritised based on condition audits, risk assessments, traffic volumes and community need, ensuring limited funding is directed to where it will have the greatest impact on safety and amenity. The road network includes a mix of kerb and channel infrastructure in some areas, while others, such as sections of Mt Gisborne Road, utilise open swale drainage systems suited to the surrounding environment. On unkerbed roads, loose material movement can occur, and maintenance is managed through grading and other operational activities to maintain safe and functional conditions. Street sweeping services are undertaken only on roads with kerb and channel suitable for mechanical sweeping. As such, unkerbed roads are not able to be serviced in the same way, and alternative maintenance approaches are applied. Council must also balance investment across a wide range of services, including roads, drainage, parks, waste and community facilities, requiring careful prioritisation to meet the needs of the broader community. We appreciate your feedback, which helps inform ongoing planning, maintenance and future investment decisions.

Number (W) Written	Please tell us more about your submission.	Officer Response
7	There seems to be a reasonable balance between infrastructure development and service provision. I would like to see more funding for Neighbourhood Houses. The contribution to the community is exceptional and needs to be supported.	Council acknowledges your the submission and recognises the significant contribution Neighbourhood Houses make to community wellbeing, social inclusion, and local resilience across the Macedon Ranges. Neighbourhood Houses deliver a wide range of valuable programs and services, representing strong value for money in supporting community outcomes. Council also notes that funding for Neighbourhood Houses has been increased from \$35,000 to \$70,000 per annum in the 2026/27 budget, demonstrating a strengthened commitment to supporting these important community organisations.
8	I feel there could be a better balance with some more focus on community planning and health and well being rather than on infrastructure and facilities. While the Neighbourhood House funding is looking likely to increase in this budget lifting the funding to levels comparable with other LGAs with similar income would be preferable (e.g. Shepparton).	Council acknowledges your the submission and recognises the significant contribution Neighbourhood Houses make to community wellbeing, social inclusion, and local resilience across the Macedon Ranges. Neighbourhood Houses deliver a wide range of valuable programs and services, representing strong value for money in supporting community outcomes. Council also notes that funding for Neighbourhood Houses has been increased from \$35,000 to \$70,000 per annum in the 2026/27 budget, demonstrating a strengthened commitment to supporting these important community organisations.
9	<p>The proposed budget appears to strike a generally reasonable balance between competing priorities, particularly in its strong investment in infrastructure, community facilities, and long-term asset renewal.</p> <p>However, there is an opportunity to improve this balance by increasing investment in ongoing community services and social infrastructure, such as neighbourhood houses. While capital works are essential, their community value is significantly enhanced when paired with adequately resourced local services that activate spaces, support connection, and respond to emerging social needs.</p> <p>Strengthening this balance would ensure that both physical and social infrastructure are working together to deliver meaningful outcomes for the community.</p>	Council acknowledges your the submission and recognises the significant contribution Neighbourhood Houses make to community wellbeing, social inclusion, and local resilience across the Macedon Ranges. Neighbourhood Houses deliver a wide range of valuable programs and services, representing strong value for money in supporting community outcomes. Council also notes that funding for Neighbourhood Houses has been increased from \$35,000 to \$70,000 per annum in the 2026/27 budget, demonstrating a strengthened commitment to supporting these important community organisations.
10	Please consider lights for the bottom oval in Kyneton to increase options for evening winter training as more people are participating in sports. and when ovals are getting over used.	Thank you for your submission regarding the draft budget and for highlighting the need for lighting at the bottom oval in Kyneton to support increasing participation and demand for evening training. Council recognises the growing use of local sporting facilities and the importance of providing adequate infrastructure to support safe and accessible training opportunities, particularly during the winter months when daylight hours are limited. The installation of lighting for the second oval at the Kyneton Showgrounds is identified within the Kyneton Showgrounds Master Plan 2023, which provides a long-term vision for the precinct. At present, the Showgrounds are undergoing several high-priority upgrades, including new netball change rooms, netball courts and grandstand works, scheduled for delivery in 2026/27. While lighting for the second oval is not included in the current budget, it remains an important project and will be considered in future budget processes as Council continues to deliver on the broader Master Plan. Thank you again for your input and for your ongoing interest in supporting local sporting infrastructure.
11	ROMSEY doesn't get a fair share of the budget yet again. No mention of anything in Romsey in the budget highlights. This is despite a growing population that makes ROMSEY one of the biggest contributors in terms of rates paid. Footpath to the Ecotherapy park along William St in ROMSEY to join up with the other footpaths in and to the park.	Thank you for your submission regarding the need for a footpath along William Street, Romsey, from Murphy Street to the Ecotherapy Park southern entrance. Council acknowledges the importance of safe pedestrian access to the Park and surrounding areas. At present, William Street is maintained as a Category 5 unsealed road under Council's Road Management Plan. The Shire Wide Footpath Plan 2018–2027 does not currently identify a footpath along this section between Murphy Street and Palmer Street. However, Council officers will record this request and consider it for potential inclusion when the Footpath Plan is next reviewed. Your feedback helps highlight community priorities and will inform future planning to improve pedestrian safety and connectivity in Romsey.
12	Your rates are some of the highest. Regular people can't afford them. You collect them without compassion. You delivery very little as a local authority. Having work in local government , you guys don't rate well.	Thank you for your submission
13	It is challenging to balance funding across the community and it looks like some of the key more immediate needs are the focus while continuing to progress some of the smaller initiatives working towards larger future needs. Support for the Dixon Field LED light upgrade is a positive step towards progressing the Dixon Field Masterplan while delivering on MRSC zero emissions by 2030 plan.	Thank you for your submission regarding the draft budget and for your thoughtful feedback on balancing community priorities. We appreciate your recognition of the challenges in allocating funding across a range of immediate and future needs, and your support for initiatives that both address current requirements and contribute to longer-term planning. In particular, we welcome your support for the Dixon Field LED lighting upgrade. The inclusion of this project in the budget represents an important step in progressing the broader Dixon Field Masterplan, while also delivering tangible benefits to the community in the near term. Additionally, the transition to LED lighting aligns with Council's commitment to the Macedon Ranges Shire Council zero emissions by 2030 target, improving energy efficiency and reducing the environmental impact of our sporting infrastructure. Thank you again for your considered submission and for your ongoing interest in supporting sustainable and strategic community development.
14	Hopefully Malmsbury botanic gardens WILL be the recipient of SUBSTANTIAL funding in this coming budget to put a comprehensive vital watering system in to this garden. Surprising to locals and visitors it is mostly not irrigated at all, but does hold a very significant collection of rare historic trees, some threatened now in their own native region. I've lived in Riddell, Gisborne, Macedon, Malmsbury over my decades. Each has a different soil and microclimate. Its cooler and damper in Gisborne and a drier, more Mediterranean climate in Malmsbury, but our old trees and lake need some help now after this very dry 18 months and to adjust to climate change	Thank you for your submission regarding the draft budget and for sharing your insights into the condition and significance of the Malmsbury Botanic Gardens. We appreciate your detailed observations about the unique climate conditions across the region and the impact of recent dry periods on the Gardens. We also recognise the importance of the Malmsbury Botanic Gardens as a valued community space and the significance of its collection of rare and historic trees, some of which require careful management and protection in the face of climate change. Council acknowledges the concerns you have raised regarding the lack of irrigation and the need for a comprehensive and reliable watering system to support the long-term health and sustainability of the Gardens. We are pleased to advise that the proposed 2026/27 budget includes significant works at the Malmsbury Botanic Gardens to install irrigation infrastructure. This investment aims to ensure the Gardens are appropriately maintained, better protected against dry conditions, and supported to adapt to changing climatic conditions. Thank you again for your ongoing interest and advocacy for the Malmsbury Botanic Gardens. Your feedback is valued and contributes to shaping future improvements across our community assets.

Number (W) Written	Please tell us more about your submission.	Officer Response
15	The Council seems to have priorities and spending in the best way possible being fair to all of us in the community. I can't find in the fees and charges a concession rate for an adult yearly swimming pass.	Thank you for your submission regarding the draft budget and Fees and Charges. We appreciate your feedback and your recognition that Council is working to balance priorities and expenditure in a fair and equitable way for the broader community. In relation to your enquiry about concession pricing, we can confirm that an Adult Season Concession pass is available for Council's outdoor pools. For the 2026/27 financial year, this has been set at \$51.50. Thank you again for taking the time to review the budget and provide your input. Your feedback is valued and helps inform Council's planning and decision-making.
16	Council's draft budget language emphasises reinvestment in infrastructure, community strengthening and long-term planning. The broader region is facing substantial growth and planning pressure, including large scale housing discussions around transport connected areas such as Clarkefield and surrounding townships. As the Shire's population grows, our communities are expecting: cultural facilities, youth infrastructure, arts access, civic gathering spaces and community resilience assets. As an advocacy group for the Ranges Cultural Centre - a shire central cultural facility; we are concerned that cultural infrastructure is not being prioritised sufficiently in the budget and if not planned early, a region often will spend decades trying to catch up after the growth has already occurred. We are not suggesting 'arts versus roads' or culture versus essential services. What we are seeking with our small submission for an \$80k business case is a strategic planning investment that will highlight tourism infrastructure, youth and community infrastructure, grant readiness preparation, and long-term liveability planning via the Ranges Cultural Centre proposal.	Thank you for your continued interest in the Woodend Community Cultural Centre project and for your support following the July 2025 Councillor briefing. Council acknowledges the significant work undertaken to prepare and submit the Stage 1 funding application to the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program on 17 October 2025. Council acknowledges and appreciates the continued advocacy and strong community support for the Macedon Ranges Cultural Centre, including the submission of letters of support and the request to progress planning for Stage 2 of the project. The request to include funding of \$80,000 - \$100,000 in the 2026-2027 Council budget for the design of Stage 2—a multi-purpose event and performance space - is noted. Council recognises the importance of this component in delivering flexible, contemporary cultural infrastructure to serve residents, businesses, and visitors. However, consideration of further budget allocation for Stage 2 is dependent on the outcome of the Stage 1 funding application, which was submitted to the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program on 17 October 2025 and is currently under assessment. Progression of subsequent project stages will be informed by the funding decision, overall project scope, and Council's broader financial and strategic priorities. Council remains committed to advocating for and progressing the Cultural Centre project where feasible and will consider next steps, including future budget provisions, once the outcome of the Stage 1 application is known. Updates will be provided to the community as further information becomes available.
17	With the current economic climate, i would recommend spending less on arts and environment and put more funding into supporting small business' if not you will have empty shops which would impact tourism.	Thank you for your submission regarding the draft budget and for sharing your perspective on Council's spending priorities. We acknowledge your concerns about the current economic climate and the importance of supporting local businesses, particularly given their role in maintaining vibrant town centres and contributing to tourism outcomes across the shire. Council has a broad range of responsibilities and must balance many competing service priorities to ensure the needs of the entire community are appropriately supported. This includes delivering essential services, maintaining infrastructure, and investing in areas such as arts, environment, and economic development, all of which contribute to the overall liveability and attractiveness of the region. Council is also committed to its Thriving Villages initiative, which focuses on strengthening the social, economic and cultural vitality of each town across the shire. Through this program, Council works closely with local communities to identify priorities and deliver targeted place-based improvements that reflect the unique character and needs of each village. Your feedback is valuable and will be considered alongside other submissions as Council continues to make decisions about funding allocation. Thank you again for taking the time to provide your input.
18	I cant seem to locate what council proposes to allocate to indigenous affairs . Can you enlighten me please .	Thank you for your submission. In the draft 26-27 budget, Council's operational services, and their respective spending is outlined in the document ' draft budget - highlights'.On page 7, under the Service "Community Strengthening", this is where Council's budget for Reconciliation and Engagement with Traditional Onwer Groups sit. The total cost allocated within this broader budget to activities aliged with Council's adopted Reconciliation Plan is \$50,000 per annum this includes staffing and program costs.
19	I think it is challenging when there are so many competing towns but if we don't call out where we need the funding you won't know where to invest more for the communities in need. Increase the budget to allow extra funds for Maintenance at Lancefield Park on top of what the council already provides as it is not enough.	Thank you for your submission regarding the provision of additional recreation and sporting facilities in Lancefield. Council acknowledges the importance of equitable access to recreational opportunities across all townships, and recognises the role that quality sporting and community infrastructure plays in supporting health, wellbeing and social connection. At this time, the provision of new facilities in Lancefield is not identified through current structure planning processes, and the purchase of additional land for this purpose is not required. Council is, however, working in partnership with the Lancefield Park Committee of Management to advocate to the State Government for appropriate funding to support the ongoing maintenance and improvement of existing facilities. Thank you again for raising this matter and for your interest in supporting the wellbeing and vibrancy of the Lancefield community.
20	I don't think there is enough in the budget for supporting our local main street/cultural activities Or the local equestrian facilities	Thank you for your submission regarding the draft budget and for sharing your views on funding for main street, cultural activities and equestrian facilities. We acknowledge your concerns and recognise the important role that vibrant town centres, cultural initiatives and equestrian infrastructure play in supporting community wellbeing, local identity and economic activity across the shire. Council has a broad range of responsibilities and must balance many competing service priorities to ensure that funding is allocated as equitably as possible across the community. This includes maintaining essential services, supporting local businesses and events, and investing in a diverse range of recreational and community facilities. Council's Equine Facilities Plan will also play an important role in informing future funding decisions, helping to guide investment in equestrian infrastructure based on identified needs, strategic priorities and opportunities across the municipality. Your feedback is valued and will be considered alongside other community submissions as Council continues to refine its priorities and make funding decisions. Thank you again for taking the time to provide your input.

Number (W) Written	Please tell us more about your submission.	Officer Response
21	While we support increasing funding to Neighbourhood Houses to reflect growing demand for emergency relief, foodbanks and other valuable supports we are seeking financial support for Bendigo Foodshare as a key provider of food relief to at least four neighbourhood houses in Macedon Ranges that appears overlooked in the budget. A contribution of \$10,000 we believe would be a fair and reasonable contribution to our costs to support these neighbourhood houses and also bring our expertise and participation to food systems work in the Shire.	Thank you for your submission regarding support for Bendigo Foodshare and the important role it plays in delivering food relief to neighbourhood houses across the Macedon Ranges. Council acknowledges the growing demand for emergency relief services and the critical contribution Bendigo Foodshare makes in supporting at least four neighbourhood houses within the Shire. Your submission highlights an important partnership in the local food system and the value of strengthening coordination and expertise in this area. Additional funding has been allocated in the Draft 2026/27 Budget to Council's Neighbourhood Houses to support food relief services. We appreciate your advocacy and the essential services provided by Bendigo Foodshare to our community.
22	Continued investment in facilities for sporting groups to help support the growth and demand experienced by clubs.	Thank you for your submission regarding the continued investment in facilities for sporting groups to support the growth and increasing demand experienced by local clubs. Council acknowledges the importance of providing high-quality, accessible sporting facilities for all community groups, particularly as the Macedon Ranges continues to grow. Supporting active and connected communities remains a key priority, and investment in sporting infrastructure plays a vital role in achieving this. This commitment is reflected in significant projects such as the Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct in New Gisborne, which represents a major investment in providing modern, multi-use facilities to meet current and future community needs. In addition, funding has been allocated in the 2026/27 budget to support the design of new change rooms at Buffalo Stadium, further contributing to the planning and delivery of improved facilities for local sporting clubs. Council appreciates your feedback and ongoing support for strengthening local sporting infrastructure.
23	I appreciate the need for the funding in most of the categories but feel that the town of Lancefield is and in particular the sporting facilities and recreation areas are being treated as the poor if not forgotten relatives With a the councils expenditure on the resurfacing of the Romsey football ground and the extension of the recreation facility what did we receive As a rate payer and long time resident in the area what funding we receive is to say the least non existing The council has long used the Excuse that the land is owned by the State Government and so should be serviced by them To me this is a cop out At NO stage will this ever be sold and should be considered a asset to the Macedon Ranges and any capital expenditure to the facility will only attract tourism and help the community believe they are getting something for their rates 1% of the budget is a disgrace and a slap in the face to park users which I also note are rate payers	Thank you for your submission regarding the level of budget provision for sporting and recreation facilities in Lancefield. Council acknowledges the concern that current funding may not fully meet the needs of the Lancefield community, particularly given the important role that sport and recreation infrastructure plays in supporting health, wellbeing and community connection. Council recognises the value of ensuring equitable access to quality facilities across all townships and understands that Lancefield residents are seeking improved investment in local sporting and recreation assets. While the current draft budget reflects a balance of competing priorities across the municipality, Council will continue to monitor demand, participation trends and facility condition in Lancefield as part of ongoing planning and future budget considerations. Council also remains committed to working with local user groups, committees of management and other stakeholders to advocate for increased funding opportunities and to support the sustainable development and maintenance of recreation facilities over time. Thank you again for your submission and your ongoing interest in strengthening sporting and recreation opportunities in Lancefield.
24	I support funding for the Macedon Ranges Thriving Villages Project for a Town Centre Action Plan for Gisborne	Council recognises the value of the Macedon Ranges Thriving Villages Project as a meaningful community-led initiative and acknowledges the positive outcomes already achieved through the development of Town Centre Action Plans in Romsey, Lancefield and Malmesbury. The Economic Development and Visitor Economy team supports the intent of the project and continues to assist community groups by helping shape initiatives that strengthen local economies and enhance visitation. Council's role includes providing guidance on pathways within Council, assisting with regulatory and permit requirements, and helping identify and pursue relevant grant opportunities to support community-driven ideas. While Thriving Villages has been undertaken previously, Council is pleased to note that funding has been allocated in the 2026/27 draft budget to continue the program. This includes plans to support further delivery in Woodend, Gisborne and Kyneton, building on the work already completed in other townships. This commitment recognises the value of the initiative and responds to this request on an ongoing basis, with funding committed annually for a further two years to support continued delivery and momentum. Council remains committed to supporting community groups as they work to deliver outcomes that contribute to the vibrancy and long-term prosperity of our town centres.
25	Good! Although often the different parts of the shire get an unequal share. E.g. lots for Kyneton & Woodend, not the same for other towns. I really want to see Gisborne get more allocation for town centre action plan, the establishment of a neighbourhood house & a dog park.	Council supports the intent of the Town Centre Action Plan project, and the draft budget includes funding to support the development of three Town Centre Action Plans in Gisborne, Kyneton and Woodend. Council is also undertaking a significant body of work in the open space and recreation area. A key early initiative is the development of a new dog park in Kyneton, representing the first major step forward in this program. This project responds to strong community feedback, and Council will continue to plan and consider opportunities for similar dog parks in other towns across the shire. In addition, Gisborne is well supported by the Macedon Ranges Further Education Centre (Neighbourhood House), which delivers valuable programs and services that benefit the local community. Thank you again for your input and interest in shaping local community facilities.
26	More assistance to Neighbourhood houses in the district. Provide invalauble help to the commuities.	Council acknowledges your submission and recognises the significant contribution Neighbourhood Houses make to community wellbeing, social inclusion, and local resilience across the Macedon Ranges. Neighbourhood Houses deliver a wide range of valuable programs and services, representing strong value for money in supporting community outcomes. Council also notes that funding for Neighbourhood Houses has been increased from \$35,000 to \$70,000 per annum in the 2026/27 budget, demonstrating a strengthened commitment to supporting these important community organisations.

Number (W) Written	Please tell us more about your submission.	Officer Response
27	Allocate funding for the Barkley Square Soccer Pavillion	Thank you for your joint submission seeking support for the development of a new shared pavilion facility to replace the existing ageing buildings used by both the Kyneton District Soccer Club and the Kyneton Obedience Dog Club. Council acknowledge the importance of modern, accessible, and fit-for-purpose community facilities to support the growth, retention, and long-term sustainability of local clubs. The proposal to provide an upgraded shared pavilion would enhance participation opportunities, improve user experience, and create a facility that could also benefit other community groups into the future. The project has been identified for inclusion in Council's advocacy prospectus to support applications for external funding from State and/or Federal Government programs, recognising that its delivery would be contingent on securing such funding. Council will continue to monitor available grant opportunities and work with the clubs as appropriate to support the project's progression.
28	Please support the Kyneton Soccer Club Barkly Square Pavilion. This will support our Club to have a dedicated space for sporting club days, bad weather and bringing the community together to host events. The Club can grow and provide better opportunities with this pavilion.	Thank you for your joint submission seeking support for the development of a new shared pavilion facility to replace the existing ageing buildings used by both the Kyneton District Soccer Club and the Kyneton Obedience Dog Club. Council officers acknowledge the importance of modern, accessible, and fit-for-purpose community facilities to support the growth, retention, and long-term sustainability of local clubs. The proposal to provide an upgraded shared pavilion would enhance participation opportunities, improve user experience, and create a facility that could also benefit other community groups into the future. The project has been identified for inclusion in Council's advocacy prospectus to support applications for external funding from State and/or Federal Government programs, recognising that its delivery would be contingent on securing such funding. Council will continue to monitor available grant opportunities and work with the clubs as appropriate to support the project's progression.
29	<p>The proposed budget appears to strike generally reasonable balance between competing priorities, particularly in its strong investment in infrastructure, community facilities, and long-term asset renewal. There is significant funding allocated in sporting facilities and development forgetting that isnt always the priority nor relevant to the population of Macedon Ranges.</p> <p>However, there is an opportunity to improve this balance by increasing investment in ongoing community services and social infrastructure, such as neighbourhood houses. While capital works are essential, their community value is significantly enhanced when paired with adequately resourced local services that activate spaces, support connection, and respond to emerging social needs.</p> <p>Strengthening this balance would ensure that both physical and social infrastructure are working together to deliver meaningful outcomes for the community.</p>	Council acknowledges your submission and recognises the significant contribution Neighbourhood Houses make to community wellbeing, social inclusion, and local resilience across the Macedon Ranges. Neighbourhood Houses deliver a wide range of valuable programs and services, representing strong value for money in supporting community outcomes. Council also notes that funding for Neighbourhood Houses has been increased from \$35,000 to \$70,000 per annum in the 2026/27 budget, demonstrating a strengthened commitment to supporting these important community organisations.
30	It is difficult to assess how well the proposed 2026–27 Budget balances the demands overall due to the limited disclosure in the public documents outlining the draft budget. The draft budget does not clearly articulate funds required for "core business" and funds available for discretionary/one-off purposes. The Gisborne & District Bowling Club has previously sought funding from Council to construct a canopy over a bowling green to enable year-round bowling, and provided a related project proposal. The Club would like to see supported funding in the 2026-27 budget process of \$150,000 to contribute to the cost of the construction of this facility. The Bowling Club will be contributing \$300,000 to this project with a further \$100,000 via local community grants. The indicative cost of this project is \$1.1M. The Bowling Club intends to seek the balance of the cost of \$550,000 from government sources.	Thank you for your submission regarding the draft 2026/27 Budget and for outlining the Gisborne & District Bowling Club’s proposal to construct a canopy over a bowling green. Council acknowledges the significant planning and commitment demonstrated by the Club, including its substantial financial contribution and efforts to secure additional grant funding to deliver this project. This proposal represents a notable level of investment and would create a unique asset within the shire, supporting year-round participation and strengthening the long-term sustainability of the Club by increasing usage and membership opportunities. While this project is not currently included in the 2026/27 Budget, further scoping of the proposal and continued engagement with Council staff will assist in strengthening its readiness for consideration in future budget processes, alongside other competing priorities. Thank you again for your submission and for your ongoing contribution to community sport and recreation.
31	It's hard to answer as despite reading through the documents provided, I still don't feel I have a good grasp of what our costs compare to previous years or other shires. I'm sure it's hard to capture and communicate to people. I would love to see support for the funding of the Macedon Ranges Thriving Villages Project for a Town Action Plan for Gisborne. I would also like to see the road into Dixon Field asphalted as a matter of safety - this road is used by so many local clubs, groups and schools and gets potholes after heavy rain frequently.	Council recognises the value of the Macedon Ranges Thriving Villages Project as a meaningful community-led initiative and acknowledges the positive outcomes already achieved through the development of Town Centre Action Plans in Romsey, Lancefield and Malmsbury. The Economic Development and Visitor Economy team supports the intent of the project and continues to assist community groups by helping shape initiatives that strengthen local economies and enhance visitation. Council's role includes providing guidance on pathways within Council, assisting with regulatory and permit requirements, and helping identify and pursue relevant grant opportunities to support community-driven ideas. While Thriving Villages has been undertaken previously, Council is pleased to note that funding has been allocated in the 2026/27 draft budget to continue the program. This includes plans to support further delivery in Woodend, Gisborne and Kyneton, building on the work already completed in other townships. The sealing of Dixon Field Road is identified as a project within the Dixon Field Master Plan and will be considered as part of future budget deliberations. In the interim, the road continues to be managed in its current unsealed condition through Council's maintenance program, including regular grading works. Council remains committed to supporting community groups as they work to deliver outcomes that contribute to the vibrancy and long-term prosperity of our town centres.

Number (W) Written	Please tell us more about your submission.	Officer Response
32	<p>Further to a meeting with 4 Councilor (Rob Guthrie, Alison Joseph, Jenifer Anderson and Kate Kendall) on Thursday night the budget does not meet any of the requirements for Tony Clarke Reserve. Their are two urgent requirement that need funding.</p> <p>1. Funding for a masterplan</p> <p>2. Provide temporary solutions to support to female changing facilities within the precinct. Female sports are operating with extremely poor facilities which put their safety and dignity in question.</p>	<p>Thank you for your recent submission regarding the draft budget and your ongoing advocacy for improvements at Tony Clarke Reserve.</p> <p>We acknowledge the concerns raised following your meeting with Councillors Rob Guthrie, Alison Joseph, Jenifer Anderson and Kate Kendall, particularly in relation to the need for a masterplan and the urgent requirement to improve facilities supporting female participation in sport.</p> <p>Council recognises the importance of Tony Clarke Reserve as a key community asset and the need to ensure it can adequately support growing participation, including ensuring safe, accessible and dignified facilities for female athletes.</p> <p>We are pleased to advise that funding has been included within the proposed budget to progress the development of a masterplan for Tony Clarke Reserve. This work will be critical in guiding the future development of the precinct and ensuring that upgrades are planned in a coordinated and strategic manner.</p> <p>In addition, the budget includes a significant project to upgrade the current off-field amenities for players. These improvements are intended to directly address existing shortcomings in facilities, including those impacting female participants, and provide more appropriate, safe and inclusive spaces for all users of the reserve.</p> <p>We appreciate your continued engagement and advocacy, and we look forward to ongoing collaboration as these projects progress.</p>
33	<p>There is no Tony Clark (Macedon) Master plan, there is no provision for temporary facilities for female sporting participates at Tony Clark. The current facilities are no suitable for female sports participation.</p>	<p>Thank you for your recent submission regarding the draft budget and your ongoing advocacy for improvements at Tony Clarke Reserve.</p> <p>We acknowledge the concerns raised following your meeting with Councillors Rob Guthrie, Alison Joseph, Jenifer Anderson and Kate Kendall, particularly in relation to the need for a masterplan and the urgent requirement to improve facilities supporting female participation in sport.</p> <p>Council recognises the importance of Tony Clarke Reserve as a key community asset and the need to ensure it can adequately support growing participation, including ensuring safe, accessible and dignified facilities for female athletes.</p> <p>We are pleased to advise that funding has been included within the proposed budget to progress the development of a masterplan for Tony Clarke Reserve. This work will be critical in guiding the future development of the precinct and ensuring that upgrades are planned in a coordinated and strategic manner.</p> <p>In addition, the budget includes a significant project to upgrade the current off-field amenities for players. These improvements are intended to directly address existing shortcomings in facilities, including those impacting female participants, and provide more appropriate, safe and inclusive spaces for all users of the reserve.</p> <p>We appreciate your continued engagement and advocacy, and we look forward to ongoing collaboration as these projects progress.</p>
34	<p>I am heartened to see a budget for a Town Centre Action Plan for Gisborne. Having seen how impactful this process has been to other communities in the shire, I am excited to have this come to Gisborne.</p>	<p>Council recognises the value of the Macedon Ranges Thriving Villages Project as a meaningful community-led initiative and acknowledges the positive outcomes already achieved through the development of Town Centre Action Plans in Romsey, Lancefield and Malmsbury. The Economic Development and Visitor Economy team supports the intent of the project and continues to assist community groups by helping shape initiatives that strengthen local economies and enhance visitation.</p> <p>Council's role includes providing guidance on pathways within Council, assisting with regulatory and permit requirements, and helping identify and pursue relevant grant opportunities to support community-driven ideas. While Thriving Villages has been undertaken previously, Council is pleased to note that funding has been allocated in the 2026/27 draft budget to continue the program. This includes plans to support further delivery in Woodend, Gisborne and Kyneton, building on the work already completed in other townships.</p> <p>This commitment recognises the value of the initiative and responds to this request on an ongoing basis, with funding committed annually for a further two years to support continued delivery and momentum.</p> <p>Council remains committed to supporting community groups as they work to deliver outcomes that contribute to the vibrancy and long-term prosperity of our town centres.</p>
35	<p>Further to a meeting with 4 Councilor (Rob Guthrie, Alison Joseph, Jenifer Anderson and Kate Kendall) on Thursday 21/05/2026, the budget does not meet any of the requirements for Tony Clarke Reserve. The two urgent requirements that need funding are:</p> <p>1. Funding for a masterplan</p> <p>2. Provide temporary solutions to support female changing facilities within the precinct to appropriately accommodate female sporting activities. Female sports are operating with extremely poor/no dedicated facilities, which puts their safety and dignity in question, and severely diminishes their experience of organised club sports.</p>	<p>Thank you for your recent submission regarding the draft budget and your ongoing advocacy for improvements at Tony Clarke Reserve.</p> <p>We acknowledge the concerns raised following your meeting with Councillors Rob Guthrie, Alison Joseph, Jenifer Anderson and Kate Kendall, particularly in relation to the need for a masterplan and the urgent requirement to improve facilities supporting female participation in sport.</p> <p>Council recognises the importance of Tony Clarke Reserve as a key community asset and the need to ensure it can adequately support growing participation, including ensuring safe, accessible and dignified facilities for female athletes.</p> <p>We are pleased to advise that funding has been included within the proposed budget to progress the development of a masterplan for Tony Clarke Reserve. This work will be critical in guiding the future development of the precinct and ensuring that upgrades are planned in a coordinated and strategic manner.</p> <p>In addition, the budget includes a significant project to upgrade the current off-field amenities for players. These improvements are intended to directly address existing shortcomings in facilities, including those impacting female participants, and provide more appropriate, safe and inclusive spaces for all users of the reserve.</p> <p>We appreciate your continued engagement and advocacy, and we look forward to ongoing collaboration as these projects progress.</p>
36	<p>Lancefield Park receives minimal support from Council despite ratepayers payments. Increase council funding for the operation of Lancefield Park, until a more permanent solution is finalised, between State Government and council</p> <p>As an example, over the last few weeks LPCOM has incurred costs which are needed to be funded, including Graffiti removal \$2,100, improvement to security cameras \$6,500, following recent vandalism (With the intervention of Mary Ann Thomas we were able to obtain funding from DEECA for the replacement and repair of the copper theft)</p> <p>The playground also requires urgent maintenance for soft fall and other repairs of \$6,700</p> <p>The allocation of an additional \$15,000 to \$20,000 to LPCOM, towards necessary operating costs from council would fund the above and give breathing space until a fairer and more equitable basis of cost allocation can be established</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding the provision of additional recreation and sporting facilities in Lancefield.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the concerns raised about the level of financial burden being carried by the Lancefield Park Committee of Management (LPCOM), particularly in relation to recent unplanned costs associated with vandalism, security improvements and essential maintenance works, including playground repairs.</p> <p>Council recognises the importance of ensuring that community-managed facilities remain safe, functional and sustainable for users.</p> <p>Council also acknowledges the specific examples provided, including costs incurred for graffiti removal, security camera upgrades and playground maintenance, and understands the request for additional short-term operational funding to help address these immediate pressures while longer-term arrangements are considered.</p> <p>While the allocation of additional operational funding is not included in the current draft budget, Council will continue to work in partnership with LPCOM and relevant State Government agencies to advocate for a more sustainable and equitable funding model for the management and maintenance of Lancefield Park.</p> <p>This includes supporting discussions aimed at clarifying future responsibilities and funding arrangements.</p> <p>Council appreciates the important role LPCOM plays in maintaining and activating Lancefield Park for the benefit of the community, and thanks you for your ongoing commitment and advocacy.</p>

Number (W) Written	Please tell us more about your submission.	Officer Response
37	Lacking a sufficient budget provision for sporting and/or recreation facilities in Lancefield.	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding the level of budget provision for sporting and recreation facilities in Lancefield.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the concern that current funding may not fully meet the needs of the Lancefield community, particularly given the important role that sport and recreation infrastructure plays in supporting health, wellbeing and community connection.</p> <p>Council recognises the value of ensuring equitable access to quality facilities across all townships and understands that Lancefield residents are seeking improved investment in local sporting and recreation assets.</p> <p>While the current draft budget reflects a balance of competing priorities across the municipality, Council will continue to monitor demand, participation trends and facility condition in Lancefield as part of ongoing planning and future budget considerations.</p> <p>Council also remains committed to working with local user groups, committees of management and other stakeholders to advocate for increased funding opportunities and to support the sustainable development and maintenance of recreation facilities over time.</p> <p>Thank you again for your submission and your ongoing interest in strengthening sporting and recreation opportunities in Lancefield.</p>
38	I am not able to see any commitment to the request from Woodend Golf Club for the council to upgrade its own asset and provide a safe and accessible car park, particularly to enable safe access for people with mobility issues. Upgrade of Woodend Golf club car park. This can be very modest but it needs to be safe and accessible.	<p>Thank you for your submission outlining the ongoing concerns regarding the condition of the car park at the Woodend Golf Club. Council acknowledges the significant growth in club membership and understands that the current state of the unsealed car park - particularly during wet conditions and at night—presents safety and accessibility challenges for users. We also recognise that, under the existing lease arrangements, Council is responsible for maintenance of the car park and driveway.</p> <p>The issues you have raised regarding slips, trips, uneven surfaces, and poor drainage are noted, as is your request for relatively minor works, such as the removal of a small number of trees and levelling with crushed rock, rather than a full-scale redevelopment.</p> <p>A maintenance/operational budget amount will be allocated to undertake minor car park and drainage improvement works to enhance the safety and usability of the existing unsealed car park. These works would help address the identified risks and improve access for all users, particularly during periods of wet weather.</p> <p>Council thanks the Woodend Golf Club for its continued advocacy and collaboration on this matter.</p>
39	More spending required in Lancefield and Lancefield park should be council responsibility.	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding the level of budget provision for sporting and recreation facilities in Lancefield.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the concern that current funding may not fully meet the needs of the Lancefield community, particularly given the important role that sport and recreation infrastructure plays in supporting health, wellbeing and community connection.</p> <p>Council recognises the value of ensuring equitable access to quality facilities across all townships and understands that Lancefield residents are seeking improved investment in local sporting and recreation assets.</p> <p>While the current draft budget reflects a balance of competing priorities across the municipality, Council will continue to monitor demand, participation trends and facility condition in Lancefield as part of ongoing planning and future budget considerations.</p> <p>Council also remains committed to working with local user groups, committees of management and other stakeholders to advocate for increased funding opportunities and to support the sustainable development and maintenance of recreation facilities over time.</p> <p>Thank you again for your submission and your ongoing interest in strengthening sporting and recreation opportunities in Lancefield.</p>
40	Very limited budget for sporting facilities in Lancefield	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding the level of budget provision for sporting and recreation facilities in Lancefield.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the concern that current funding may not fully meet the needs of the Lancefield community, particularly given the important role that sport and recreation infrastructure plays in supporting health, wellbeing and community connection.</p> <p>Council recognises the value of ensuring equitable access to quality facilities across all townships and understands that Lancefield residents are seeking improved investment in local sporting and recreation assets.</p> <p>While the current draft budget reflects a balance of competing priorities across the municipality, Council will continue to monitor demand, participation trends and facility condition in Lancefield as part of ongoing planning and future budget considerations.</p> <p>Council also remains committed to working with local user groups, committees of management and other stakeholders to advocate for increased funding opportunities and to support the sustainable development and maintenance of recreation facilities over time.</p> <p>Thank you again for your submission and your ongoing interest in strengthening sporting and recreation opportunities in Lancefield.</p>
41	No funding for lancefield recreation/sporting facilities. Council needs to take responsibility for maintenance at Lancefield Park	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding the level of budget provision for sporting and recreation facilities in Lancefield.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the concern that current funding may not fully meet the needs of the Lancefield community, particularly given the important role that sport and recreation infrastructure plays in supporting health, wellbeing and community connection.</p> <p>Council recognises the value of ensuring equitable access to quality facilities across all townships and understands that Lancefield residents are seeking improved investment in local sporting and recreation assets.</p> <p>While the current draft budget reflects a balance of competing priorities across the municipality, Council will continue to monitor demand, participation trends and facility condition in Lancefield as part of ongoing planning and future budget considerations.</p> <p>Council also remains committed to working with local user groups, committees of management and other stakeholders to advocate for increased funding opportunities and to support the sustainable development and maintenance of recreation facilities over time.</p> <p>Thank you again for your submission and your ongoing interest in strengthening sporting and recreation opportunities in Lancefield.</p>
42	Lancefield Park needs urgent care to be bought up to the standard of all other venues and for the safety of patrons. Lancefield Park and the intersection near the hotel and service station Lancefield	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding the provision of additional recreation and sporting facilities in Lancefield.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the importance of equitable access to recreational opportunities across all townships, and recognises the role that quality sporting and community infrastructure plays in supporting health, wellbeing and social connection.</p> <p>At this time, the provision of new facilities in Lancefield is not identified through current structure planning processes, and the purchase of additional land for this purpose is not required. Council is, however, working in partnership with the Lancefield Park Committee of Management to advocate to the State Government for appropriate funding to support the ongoing maintenance and improvement of existing facilities.</p> <p>Thank you again for raising this matter and for your interest in supporting the wellbeing and vibrancy of the Lancefield community.</p>

Number (W) Written	Please tell us more about your submission.	Officer Response
01W	Support for irrigation funding at Malmsbury Botanic Gardens	Thank you for your submission regarding the draft budget and for sharing your insights into the condition and significance of the Malmsbury Botanic Gardens. We appreciate your detailed observations about the unique climate conditions across the region and the impact of recent dry periods on the Gardens. We also recognise the importance of the Malmsbury Botanic Gardens as a valued community space and the significance of its collection of rare and historic trees, some of which require careful management and protection in the face of climate change. Council acknowledges the concerns you have raised regarding the lack of irrigation and the need for a comprehensive and reliable watering system to support the long-term health and sustainability of the Gardens. We are pleased to advise that the proposed 2026/27 budget includes significant works at the Malmsbury Botanic Gardens to install irrigation infrastructure. This investment aims to ensure the Gardens are appropriately maintained, better protected against dry conditions, and supported to adapt to changing climatic conditions. Thank you again for your ongoing interest and advocacy for the Malmsbury Botanic Gardens. Your feedback is valued and contributes to shaping future improvements across our community assets.
04W	Request for additional waste bins along Campaspe River Walk	Thank you for your submission regarding the draft 2026/27 Budget and for outlining the proposal from the Campaspe River Dog Walking Group.
05W	Duplicated submission as above	Council acknowledges the strong community support demonstrated through your petition, as well as the clear rationale provided for increasing the number of waste bins along the Campaspe River Walk. We recognise the benefits this initiative would provide in supporting responsible pet ownership, improving amenity, and protecting the local environment. The installation and servicing of additional bins along the Campaspe River Walk is currently being reviewed by Council officers. The initial installation and ongoing collection costs are relatively modest and could potentially be accommodated within existing budget allocations. As part of this review, officers are assessing the appropriate number of bins and identifying suitable locations along the trail. A key consideration in this process is ensuring safe and practical access for ongoing servicing and collection. Thank you again for your submission and for your continued advocacy and collaboration in supporting this valued community space.
02W	Support continued funding for Romsey Neighbourhood House transport service	Council acknowledges your submission and recognises the significant contribution Neighbourhood Houses make to community wellbeing, social inclusion, and local resilience across the Macedon Ranges. Neighbourhood Houses deliver a wide range of valuable programs and services, representing strong value for money in supporting community outcomes. Council also notes that funding for Neighbourhood Houses has been increased from \$35,000 to \$70,000 per annum in the 2026/27 budget, demonstrating a strengthened commitment to supporting these important community organisations.
09W	Support for development of the Barkly Square Pavillion	Thank you for your joint submission seeking support for the development of a new shared pavilion facility to replace the existing ageing buildings used by both the Kyneton District Soccer Club and the Kyneton Obedience Dog Club. Council acknowledge the importance of modern, accessible, and fit-for-purpose community facilities to support the growth, retention, and long-term sustainability of local clubs. The proposal to provide an upgraded shared pavilion would enhance participation opportunities, improve user experience, and create a facility that could also benefit other community groups into the future. The project has been identified for inclusion in Council's advocacy prospectus to support applications for external funding from State and/or Federal Government programs, recognising that its delivery would be contingent on securing such funding. Council will continue to monitor available grant opportunities and work with the clubs as appropriate to support the project's progression.
10W	Support for development of the Barkly Square Pavillion	
11W	Support for development of the Barkly Square Pavillion	
12W	Support for development of the Barkly Square Pavillion	
17W	Support for development of the Barkly Square Pavillion	
19W	Support for development of the Barkly Square Pavillion	
20W	Support for development of the Barkly Square Pavillion	
24W	Support for development of the Barkly Square Pavillion	
25W	Support for development of the Barkly Square Pavillion	
26W	Support for development of the Barkly Square Pavillion	
28W	Support for development of the Barkly Square Pavillion	
18W	Support for Thriving Villages	Council recognises the value of the Macedon Ranges Thriving Villages Project as a meaningful community-led initiative and acknowledges the positive outcomes already achieved through the development of Town Centre Action Plans in Romsey, Lancefield and Malmsbury. The Economic Development and Visitor Economy team supports the intent of the project and continues to assist community groups by helping shape initiatives that strengthen local economies and enhance visitation. Council's role includes providing guidance on pathways within Council, assisting with regulatory and permit requirements, and helping identify and pursue relevant grant opportunities to support community-driven ideas. While Thriving Villages has been undertaken previously, Council is pleased to note that funding has been allocated in the 2026/27 draft budget to continue the program. This includes plans to support further delivery in Woodend, Gisborne and Kyneton, building on the work already completed in other townships. Council remains committed to supporting community groups as they work to deliver outcomes that contribute to the vibrancy and long-term prosperity of our town centres.
21W	Support for Thriving Villages	
22W	Support for Thriving Villages	
23W	Support for Thriving Villages	
27W	Support for Thriving Villages	
32W	Support for Thriving Villages	
33W	Support for Thriving Villages	
34W	Support for Thriving Villages	
37W	Support for Thriving Villages	
38W	Support for Thriving Villages	
39W	Support for Thriving Villages	
40W	Support for Thriving Villages	
42W	Support for Thriving Villages	
07W	Support for Thriving Villages and Support for Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Operators	
08W	Support for Thriving Villages and Support for Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Operators	
13W	Support for Thriving Villages and Support for Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Operators	
14W	Support for Thriving Villages and Support for Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Operators	
15W	Support for Thriving Villages and Support for Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Operators	Council recognises the value of the Macedon Ranges Thriving Villages Project as a meaningful community-led initiative and acknowledges the positive outcomes already achieved through the development of Town Centre Action Plans in Romsey, Lancefield and Malmsbury. The Economic Development and Visitor Economy team supports the intent of the project and continues to assist community groups by helping shape initiatives that strengthen local economies and enhance visitation. Council's role includes providing guidance on pathways within Council, assisting with regulatory and permit requirements, and helping identify and pursue relevant grant opportunities to support community-driven ideas. While Thriving Villages has been undertaken previously, Council is pleased to note that funding has been allocated in the 2026/27 draft budget to continue the program. This includes plans to support further delivery in Woodend, Gisborne and Kyneton, building on the work already completed in other townships.

Number (W) Written	Please tell us more about your submission.	Officer Response
29W	Support for Thriving Villages and Support for Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Operators	<p>work already completed in other townships.</p> <p>Council remains committed to supporting community groups as they work to deliver outcomes that contribute to the vibrancy and long-term prosperity of our town centres.</p> <p>The fee for A-frame signs for businesses has been waived for the 2026/27 financial year. Any additional fee reductions or rebates may be considered as part of future budget processes.</p>
03W	Support for Tony Clarke Reserve change room upgrade (female-friendly facilities)	<p>Thank you for your recent submission regarding the draft budget and your ongoing advocacy for improvements at Tony Clarke Reserve.</p> <p>We acknowledge the concerns raised, particularly in relation to the need for a masterplan and the urgent requirement to improve facilities supporting female participation in sport.</p> <p>Council recognises the importance of Tony Clarke Reserve as a key community asset and the need to ensure it can adequately support growing participation, including ensuring safe, accessible and dignified facilities for female athletes.</p> <p>We are pleased to advise that funding has been included within the proposed budget to progress the development of a masterplan for Tony Clarke Reserve. This work will be critical in guiding the future development of the precinct and ensuring that upgrades are planned in a coordinated and strategic manner.</p> <p>In addition, the budget includes a significant project to upgrade the current off-field amenities for players. These improvements are intended to directly address existing shortcomings in facilities, including those impacting female participants, and provide more appropriate, safe and inclusive spaces for all users of the reserve. We appreciate your continued engagement and advocacy, and we look forward to ongoing collaboration as these projects progress.</p>
06W	Tourism ideas (bus access, maps, promotion support)	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding the draft budget and for sharing your thoughtful ideas and suggestions.</p> <p>We appreciate your feedback in relation to initiatives at Hanging Rock, including your support for reduced annual pass pricing and your ideas to further promote visitor awareness through social media engagement. Your suggestion regarding printed maps for visitors, particularly to support older members of the community, is also noted.</p> <p>Additionally, we recognise your suggestions relating to improved transport access, including the potential for a Flexi bus service connection, and your broader ideas to support tourism opportunities in the area.</p> <p>Many of the ideas you have raised are operational and promotional in nature and are best explored outside of the formal budget process. We encourage you to connect directly with Council officers, who would welcome the opportunity to discuss these ideas further and consider how they may be progressed collaboratively. Thank you again for taking the time to provide your submission and for your ongoing interest in supporting local tourism and visitor experiences.</p>
35W	Proposal for solar lifecycle / circular economy initiative	<p>Thank you for your submission and suggestion.</p> <p>Council notes that this initiative is not currently identified as a priority action within either the Climate Emergency Plan or the Waste and Resource Recovery Management Strategy. As such, Council is not proposing to pursue membership at this time.</p>
16W	Reallocate funding priorities (environment, Lancefield Park upgrade)	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding the draft budget and for taking the time to share your views.</p> <p>We acknowledge your perspectives on the allocation of ratepayer funding, including your comments regarding IDAHOBIT events and your preference to see increased investment in areas such as native wildlife protection, habitat conservation, and environmental programs. We also note your support for further upgrades to Lancefield Park to benefit local residents, families and sporting groups.</p> <p>Council has a responsibility to serve a diverse and inclusive community, and it is important that we support a wide range of initiatives, programs and facilities that reflect the needs and values of people across the shire. This includes investment in community infrastructure, environmental sustainability, recreation, and initiatives that promote inclusion, wellbeing and connectedness.</p> <p>Balancing these priorities requires careful consideration, as Council must manage many competing demands to ensure fair and equitable outcomes for the broader community.</p> <p>Your feedback is valued and will be considered alongside other submissions as part of the budget deliberation process. We also acknowledge your request for confidentiality, and your personal details will be handled in accordance with this request.</p> <p>Thank you again for your contribution.</p>
36W	Request for funding to construct a canopy over the bowling green.	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding the draft 2026/27 Budget and for outlining the Gisborne & District Bowling Club's proposal to construct a canopy over a bowling green.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the significant planning and commitment demonstrated by the Club, including its substantial financial contribution and efforts to secure additional grant funding to deliver this project.</p> <p>Officers recognise that this proposal represents a notable level of investment and would create a unique asset within the shire, supporting year-round participation and strengthening the long-term sustainability of the Club by increasing usage and membership opportunities.</p> <p>While this project is not currently included in the 2026/27 Budget, there is merit in the proposal. Further planning and development of the project will assist in strengthening its readiness for consideration in future budget processes, alongside other competing priorities.</p> <p>Thank you again for your submission and for your ongoing contribution to community sport and recreation.</p>

Number (W) Written	Please tell us more about your submission.	Officer Response
31W	Request for funding to upgrade to the Main Building at the Kyneton Showgrounds.	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding the draft 2026/27 Budget and for the additional work undertaken to review and refine the proposed scope for upgrades to the main building at the Kyneton Showgrounds.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the effort made by the Kyneton Football Netball Club to reduce the scale and cost of the project, particularly the focus on essential improvements such as internal toilet upgrades and enhanced disabled access compliance. We recognise the importance of these facilities to the many community members who use the site each year.</p> <p>At present, Council has included a significant project within the 2026/27 Budget to renew the grandstand roofing at the Kyneton Showgrounds. These works are considered a priority to maintain the structural integrity and long-term functionality of this important asset.</p> <p>While the revised proposal has merit, additional works beyond those currently funded will be considered as part of future budget processes, alongside other competing priorities across the municipality.</p> <p>Thank you again for your submission and your ongoing contribution to the development and improvement of community facilities.</p>
43W	Outdoor Calisthenics Facility in Woodend	<p>Thank you for your submission and for taking the time to share your detailed proposal for an outdoor calisthenics facility in Woodend.</p> <p>We appreciate the thought and passion behind your idea, as well as the clear reference points you've provided, including comparable facilities and potential locations. Council recognises the value that accessible, high-quality outdoor fitness infrastructure can bring to community health, wellbeing and social connection across a wide range of age groups.</p> <p>While a project of this scale would require detailed design, costing and assessment, and its inclusion in the 2026/27 budget would not be achievable at this stage. Given the nature of your submission, the most appropriate next step would be to engage directly with Council's Recreation team. Officers can provide guidance on relevant processes, discuss how your proposal aligns with existing Open Space, Recreation or Community Infrastructure strategies, and advise whether similar initiatives are already considered within current or future master planning.</p> <p>Thank you again for your contribution and for your ongoing interest in enhancing community facilities in Woodend.</p>

COR.2	SHAPING THE RANGES 2025-2035 YEAR 2 ACTION PLAN AND INDICATORS
Officer:	Alison Elliott, Senior Performance and Assurance Officer
Council Plan relationship:	Our Performance
Attachments:	Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 Year Two Action Plan and Indicators DRAFT ↓

Summary

Shaping the Ranges 2025-2035 (the Plan) forms part of the Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework, as outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA). The Plan also brings together the priority areas and actions required by the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* and the *Disability Act 2006* which were previously covered by the standalone Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Disability Action Plan, respectively.

This report presents the draft Shaping the Ranges 2025-2035 Year 2 Action Plan and Indicators for adoption by Council. These actions and indicators have been developed to progress and monitor achievement of the objectives and priorities within the Plan, which were developed through consultation with and for the benefit of the community.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the Shaping the Ranges 2025-2035 Year 2 Action Plan and Indicators as attached to this report.

Background

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* and the *Disability Act 2006* Council is required to develop and adopt a suite of integrated strategic planning documents that guide long-term planning, decision-making and resource allocation for the benefit of the community.

This includes the Community Vision, Council Plan, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, Disability Action Plan, Financial Plan, Asset Plan, Revenue and Rating Plan, and Annual Budget.

These documents provide a clear framework to ensure Council delivers services and infrastructure in line with community priorities, financial sustainability, and legislative obligations. The Plan brought four of these elements together, acting as the key strategic planning document that directs all Council strategy and the allocation of resources. The development of the Plan was a process that commenced in 2024, following the election of the new Council. The Plan is a requirement of section 90 of the LGA and was developed using deliberative engagement. The suite of integrated strategic planning documents, along with the Shaping the Ranges 2025-2035 Year 1 Action Plan and Indicators, was adopted by Council at its Scheduled Meeting of October 2025.

Discussion

To support the continued delivery of the Plan, a Year 2 action plan (2026/27) is presented for adoption by 30 June 2026. A revised Year 2 indicator set is also presented for adoption

after a review of the Year 1 indicators to confirm the ongoing relevance and suitability for measuring progress in Year 2 and across the life of the Plan.

Year 2 Indicators

Strategic indicators are designed as long-term measures of Council's progress toward achieving the Plan's objectives. They are reported annually and are intended to remain consistent throughout the life of the Plan, enabling meaningful trends to be tracked over time. Most Year 2 indicators are unchanged from Year 1. However, following an analysis of interim results and a review of the robustness of the Year 1 indicator set, several indicators were replaced and additional indicators were added for Year 2. These changes predominantly fall within the following categories:

- Inability to access the data required to report against the indicator as defined.
- Existing year on year strong performance of an indicator.
- Inconsistent year-on-year results expected due to material variation across programs covered by an indicator.
- Additional indicators added to complement the existing indicator set where a gap exists.

Consultation and engagement

The development of the Plan was guided by Council's Community Engagement Policy, which aligns with the *Local Government Act 2020* and supports engagement that is meaningful, inclusive and appropriate to the level of impact. The process included deliberative engagement through a Community Assembly, targeted stakeholder engagement, formal consultation periods, public exhibition of draft documents, promotion across local channels, and accessible materials in multiple formats.

This engagement ensured the community had access to relevant and timely information, a range of opportunities to participate, and that community feedback informed the long-term objectives and priorities that underpin the Plan. Those objectives and priorities provide the strategic foundation for both the Year 1 and Year 2 actions, ensuring they remain grounded in community input and aligned with the Plan's long-term direction.

Collaboration

The Year 2 actions and indicators were developed collaboratively by Councillors and Council officers through structured briefings, staff workshops and cross-organisational input. They focus on progressing the objectives and priorities set out in the Plan, which were shaped through earlier deliberative engagement with the community, in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Innovation and continuous improvement

The development of the Plan reflects Council's commitment to continuous improvement through the consolidation of key strategic documents into a single, integrated format. This approach enhances clarity, reduces duplication, and makes it easier for the community to understand Council's long-term direction and priorities. This approach is continued in the actions and indicators which aim to address and monitor progress of all objectives and priorities within the integrated plan.

Relevant law

The actions in this report are based on the objectives and priorities set out in the Plan, the development of which was undertaken in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The Plan also incorporates requirements under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* and the *Disability Act 2006*. In developing these components, Council was also required to have regard to its obligations under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment was undertaken during the development of the Plan. The draft Year 2 Action Plan has been reviewed against the Gender Impact Assessment recommendations to confirm they are still being addressed and that none of the proposed actions contradict, undermine or create unintended negative impacts in relation to gender equality.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

The Plan was developed in line with the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023–2027, which sets broader priorities for health promotion and equity across Victoria. The Year 2 Actions and Indicators continue to reflect this alignment, supporting these shared priorities through their implementation.

Relevant Council plans and policies

The Plan sets the overall direction for the Year 2 actions and indicators. In developing these, Council has also drawn on key internal plans and policies, including the Community Engagement Policy and the Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework. This ensures alignment between community priorities, strategic direction, and resource planning.

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile? Some of the proposed new Year 2 actions aim to reduce emissions and increase renewable energy use. The Year 2 Indicators include measures of both municipal and council emissions.

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services? Some of the proposed new Year 2 actions aim to address climate change by reducing emissions and increasing renewable energy use.

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios? Some of the proposed new Year 2 actions aim to increase preparedness for emergency events and ensure infrastructure can meet future needs and is fit-for-purpose including consideration of extreme weather.

Financial viability

The preparation of the Year 2 actions and indicators has been resourced within existing operational budgets. The financial implications of delivering these actions, including service delivery, infrastructure investment and asset renewal, have been considered through Council's planning processes, with all actions funded within the draft Budget 2026-27. This ensures the actions remain aligned with Council's financial sustainability principles.

Sustainability implications

The Year 2 actions and indicators reflect Council's ongoing commitment to sustainability across social, environmental and economic areas. They continue the focus on inclusion, equity and wellbeing through actions that support access, health and community resilience. Environmental sustainability is also embedded through actions that contribute to climate response, natural resource management and emissions reduction. Together, these actions support practical progress toward sustainable outcomes over time.

AI use disclosure

Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. For this report:

- AI tools were used for drafting assistance, for example generating initial text, summaries or alternative wording. All content was reviewed, edited and approved by Council officers.

AI was also used to test ideas for some of the draft Year 2 actions based on Year 1 actions and the objective / priority. All actions that were retained were reviewed, edited and refined by Council officers.

AI tools were also used for quality improvement of the report to improve readability.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

Officer declaration of conflicts of interest

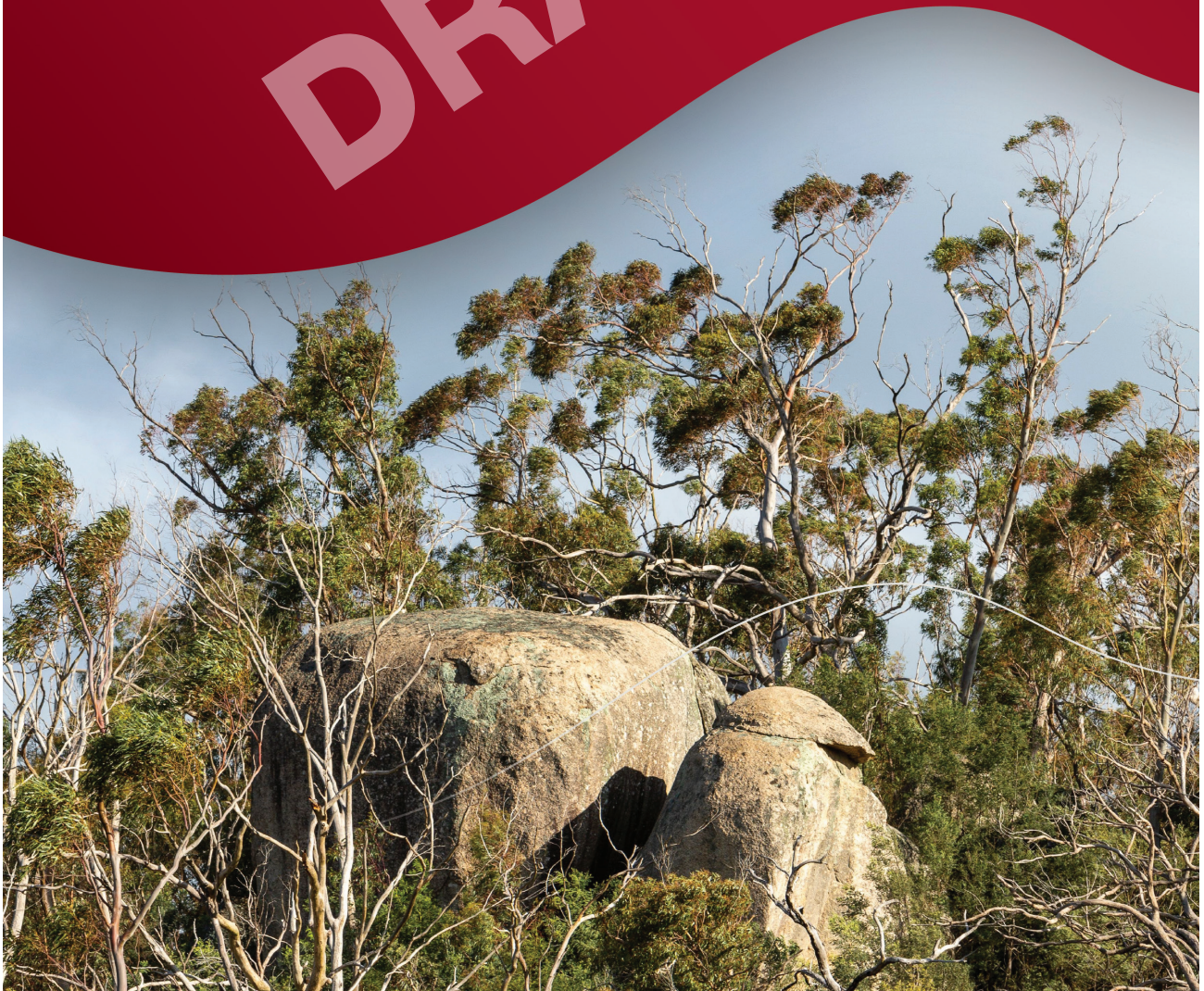
All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

Shaping The Ranges

2025-2035

Year Two Action Plan and Indicators

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Acknowledgement of Country

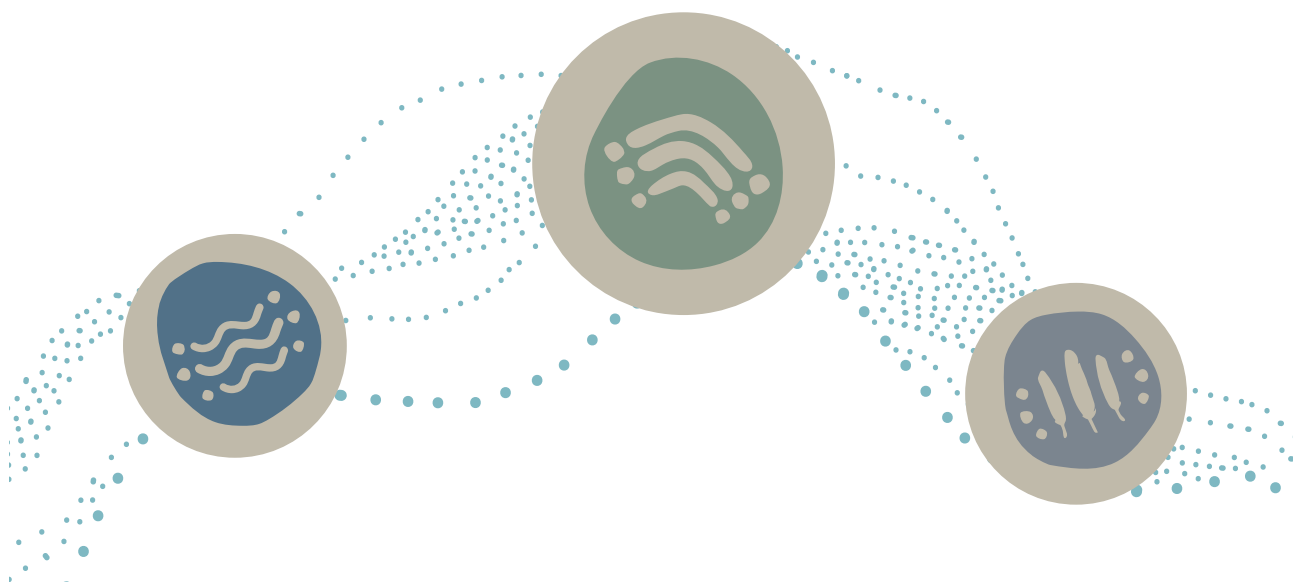
Macedon Ranges Shire Council acknowledges the **Dja Dja Wurrung**, **Taungurung** and **Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung** Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and waterways. Council recognises their living cultures and ongoing connection to Country and pays respect to their Elders past,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

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

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

The artwork featured on this page was created by Maddi Moser; a Taungurung artist, designer and secondary school teacher. Maddi currently works as a teacher and runs her own design and photography business. She now resides in Townsville but has lived the majority of her life in Swan Hill and Albury Wodonga, both towns having close ties to the Murray River, a theme reflected in her artworks.

Maddi uses her background in design to create art in a modern and unique style that helps to continue and celebrate her cultural heritage.



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Cover image Black Hill Kyneton



Image Kyneton
DRAFT

Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)

Overview

This document presents the Year Two Action Plan (2026–2027) for *Shaping the Ranges 2025–2035* (the Plan) and the indicators we will use to monitor how we are progressing towards achievement of the strategic objectives within the Plan. *Shaping the Ranges* is Council's key strategic document that brings together the Community Vision, Council Plan, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP), and Disability Action Plan (DAP).

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, a Council must develop or review a Council Plan and adopt the plan by 31 October in the year following a general election. Following the Council election in 2024, *Shaping the Ranges 2025–2035* was adopted on 22 October 2025.

Each year, Council must update the actions that will be undertaken to achieve the priorities and objectives of the Council Plan. With the integrated approach of *Shaping the Ranges*, these annual updates also include actions that advance the MPHWP and DAP.

The Plan sets out the actions to be delivered in the second year of *Shaping the Ranges*. It has been developed from:

- Ongoing actions from the Year 1 action plan.
- Consideration of new actions based on feedback from the community, councillors and officers in progressing our services to the community and continuous improvement.
- Consideration of Council's role, organisational capacity and capability.



Image Mt Macedon Reserve

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Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)

5

How We Developed This Plan

We developed the Year Two Action Plan (2026–2027) for the Macedon Ranges Shire community. It builds on what we heard from the community during the engagement for *Shaping the Ranges 2025–2035*, and on what we learned while delivering Year One actions.

To draft the Year Two actions, Council staff came together in a series of workshops (one for each Council Plan theme). These workshops helped us identify what we need to deliver in 2026–2027, and what work may need to continue over the rest of the Council term and beyond.

When drafting the actions, we aimed to:

- include work that spans different parts of Council, so teams collaborate, share responsibility and avoid duplication.
- focus on the strategies and outcomes that matter over the long term, not just day-to-day activities.
- be clear about who is responsible for each action and how it links to Council work plans.

During the workshops we also revisited community feedback from the development of *Shaping the Ranges*, to check that the Year Two actions reflect the outcomes the community wants to see over the four-year Council term.

We developed the Year Two indicators by reviewing the Year One indicators and the data we can reliably access. We refined the indicators for Year Two so they provide meaningful information and help explain our progress towards the objectives over the four-year Council term.

Staff and Councillors then worked together to review and finalise the plan, to make sure it reflects what we heard from the community, supports meaningful progress towards the objectives, and aligns with the Budget for 2026–27.



Cover image Romsey Ecotherapy Park

From the Chief Executive Officer

I am pleased to present the Year 2 Action Plan for *Shaping the Ranges 2025–2035*, which sets out strategic priorities aligned with the Budget 2026–27. This marks the second financial year of our overarching *Shaping the Ranges* plan, endorsed in October 2025, which integrates our Community Vision, Council Plan, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, and Disability Action Plan.

The Council Plan advances the five strategic themes shaped by the Community Assembly's development of our Community Vision: Our Places, Our Environment, Our Economy, Our People, and Our Performance.

The actions outlined in this plan are designed to activate and support those themes. The annual action plans sit alongside each budget and ensure that we are accountable and deliver on the Council Plan in a financially sustainable way.

While this document contains a broad set of actions and indicators, key highlights for Year Two include:

- Advocating for external funding for Priority Road and Transport Projects.
- Launching a targeted compliance and education program focusing on priority environmental issues such as cat containment, invasive weed hotspots and illegal dumping.
- Partner with relevant stakeholders to develop initiatives that enhance economic prosperity, including continuing support for the Thriving Villages program.

- Improving mental health outcomes by delivering the co-designed Next Generation Mental Health Promotion Project and evaluating the Branch Out Mental Health Program.
- Rolling out a new Community Engagement Framework to support more consistent, accessible and inclusive engagement across Council.

By incorporating our Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Disability Action Plan into *Shaping the Ranges*, we continue our focus on embedding health, wellbeing, disability access, and inclusion across all that we do.

We are continuing to work to ensure connected and active places and spaces for everyone, that our rural and natural surroundings are cared for and protected, our local businesses and tourism sectors thrive and provide opportunities for everyone, our community is safe, healthy and well, and that we are accountable, trusted and collaborative.

On behalf of Councillors and staff, we extend our sincere thanks to the many community members whose time, insights and passion helped inform the *Shaping the Ranges* plan. We look forward to delivering on these actions and continuing to grow the Macedon Ranges as an exceptional place to live, work and play.



Bernie O'Sullivan
Chief Executive Officer

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Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)

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Our Framework

Shaping the Ranges 2025-2035 has been developed to improve outcomes for the Macedon Ranges Shire community. The Plan brings together the themes identified by the Community Vision Assembly and links them to the strategic objectives and priorities of the Council Plan, as required under the *Local Government Act 2020*. It also fulfils Council's legislative requirements to prepare a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and a Disability Action Plan, embedding health, wellbeing, access and inclusion across all areas of Council's work.

Our strategic priorities describe what we will focus on to achieve our objectives over the current Council's four-year term. Annual actions are then identified and linked to these priorities, with resources allocated each year to deliver them.


At the end of each year actions are reported against their original due dates and key deliverables to ensure accountability for what was committed. In addition, at the end of each year, Council reports on performance against indicators, which serve as long term measures of progress toward achieving the objectives set out in the Plan.

The process is represented in the graphic below:



Council regularly reports its performance in its quarterly reports, the Annual Report, and performance statements, which are published on the Macedon Ranges Shire Council website. Council also prepares an annual submission on performance against a set of key performance targets as part of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework, which contributes to the Local Government Sector Performance Report, published annually by Local Government Victoria.

Our actions and measures of success

Key	
Advocate:	Council will actively speak, act, recommend or promote to support and represent the community's needs.
Analyse:	Council Officers will examine data, patterns and relationships to develop a recommendation for a future action.
Deliver:	Council will produce an outcome that supports and is visible to the community.
Develop:	Council Officers will grow or advance a process or framework to improve delivery of council services.
Implement:	Council will put into effect a plan, strategy or project to improve specific outcome/s.
Partner:	Council will actively participate in or share ownership of an activity or outcome with other service groups.
Promote:	Council will act to raise awareness and/or enhance existing services or opportunities for the community.
	Priorities that relate to the achievement of Council's Public Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan outcomes.
	Priorities that relate to the achievement of Council's Disability Action Plan outcomes.



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Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)



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Year Two (2026/27) Actions



Our Places				
Connected and active places and spaces for everyone.				
Objectives	Priorities	Year Two (2026-27) Actions	Primary Resp. Person	Council role
1.1 Our roads, transport and accessibility enhance our connection.	1.1.1 Deliver roads that anticipate population growth and maintain an efficient road network.	1.1.1.1 Strengthen advocacy for external funding to address Priority Road and Transport Projects by targeting grant opportunities aligned to Council's agreed advocacy list within the Advocacy Projects Prospectus.	Manager Engineering, Asset Services and Civil Projects (Support: Manager Engagement and Advocacy)	Deliver/ Advocate
	1.1.2 Improve frequency and coverage of public transport services across our shire.	1.1.2.1 Analyse community and key stakeholder feedback and supplement as required to identify priority gaps and opportunities in the public transport network, and prepare a communications approach to advocate to the Victorian Government and relevant operators for agreed priority improvements.	Manager Engineering, Asset Services and Civil Projects (Support: Manager Engagement and Advocacy)	Analyse / Advocate
	1.1.3 Plan and deliver programs and infrastructure that support walking, cycling and other active transport. 	1.1.3.1 Update and adopt a refreshed Walking and Cycling Strategy, including agreed prioritisation criteria to sequence a pipeline of safety, accessibility and connectivity projects for the next ten years.	Manager Strategic Planning and Environment	Develop / implement
	1.1.4 Invest in transport infrastructure to facilitate connection within and between townships.	1.1.4.1 Update the Shire Wide Footpath Plan to improve safety, accessibility, and value for money outcomes and set priority footpath projects for years 3 and 4. 1.1.4.2 Deliver the Woodend to Riddells Creek shared trails project.	Manager Engineering, Asset Services and Civil Projects Manager Engineering, Asset Services and Civil Projects	Deliver
	1.1.5 Support people with different needs and abilities to access, understand and navigate transport options. 	1.1.5.1 Deliver a community transport information and gaps mapping project, through community consultation and service mapping, to provide up-to-date referral information and inform targeted advocacy.	Manager Community Services (Support: Coordinator Community and Social Planning)	Partner



Objective	Priorities	Year Two (2026-27) Actions	Primary Resp. Person	Council role
1.2 Our community infrastructure is accessible, fit for purpose, and meets the needs of current and future generations.	1.2.1 Support provision of accessible health and wellbeing services. 	1.2.1.1 Establish and apply a structured approach to analysing existing community feedback, service data and stakeholder insights to identify local health and wellbeing service needs, gaps and access issues, and develop a draft advocacy list for Council.	Coordinator Community and Social Planning	Partner
	1.2.2 Design and deliver inclusive and accessible spaces that support safety, cultural inclusion, community participation and ownership. 	1.2.2.1 Strengthen long term planning for the Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve through completion of a contemporary, evidence-based Master Plan.	Manager Aquatics Recreation and Facilities	Develop/ implement
	1.2.3 Deliver land use planning to attract investment for business and enable a thriving economic environment.	1.2.3.1 Finalise the development plan and associated planning controls to guide the expansion of the Gisborne Business Park.	Manager Strategic Planning and Environment	Develop
	1.2.4 Enhance economic activity centres with activation, maintenance and improvements that attract and engage visitors and locals.	1.2.4.1 Support township workshops and town plan development under the Thriving Villages program to guide beautification and activation of any of the following towns: Gisborne, Kyneton, Woodend, and Macedon/Mt Macedon, including pursuit of external funding and staged Council support.	Manager Economic Development and Visitor Economy (Support: Manager Parks, Civil Services, Resource Recovery)	Implement
	1.2.5 Facilitate affordable housing in new developments and existing townships that meet the varied needs of different household types and life stages.	1.2.5.1 Finalise the Affordable Housing Policy, and embed its application into Council's decision-making processes, including major project governance, advocacy, negotiations and project planning.	Coordinator Community and Social Planning (Support: Manager Statutory Planning, Manager Strategic Planning and Environment)	Implement / Partner / Advocate

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Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)


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Objective	Priorities	Year Two (2026-27) Actions	Primary Resp. Person	Council role
	1.2.6 Invest in, and deliver, sustainable, equitable and accessible community infrastructure. 	1.2.6.1 Progress accessibility improvement projects identified in Year 1 through accessibility audits, informed by risk usage and community need. 1.2.6.2 Develop a building accessibility checklist to ensure that community access aligns to aged friendly and child friendly principles.	Manager Aquatics, Recreation and Facilities Manager Community Services (Support: Coordinator Community and Social Planning)	Implement / develop Develop
	1.2.7 Maintain our assets to be safe, accessible and sustainable, in ways that meet community needs. 	1.2.7.1 Deliver the Year Two asset renewal program as per Council Budget based on condition audit outcomes.	Manager Engineering, Asset Services and Civil Projects	Deliver
	1.2.8 Plan new and future built environments that protect the character of our shire by incorporating and prioritising heritage management, rural character, visual amenity, and the natural environment.	1.2.8.1 Finalise the Gisborne Urban Design Framework and deliver options for Urban Design Frameworks for future or existing built environments.	Manager Strategic Planning and Environment	Deliver / Develop
	1.2.9 Work with Traditional Owner Groups in accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 to ensure appropriate use, stewardship and development of land.	1.2.9.1 Implement early engagement actions from Year One across relevant FY26/27 capital projects.	Manager Aquatics, Recreation and Facilities (Support: Manager Community Strengthening)	Partner / Implement

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Our Environment				
Rural and natural surroundings that are cared for and protected.				
Objectives	Priorities	Year Two (2026-27) Actions	Primary Resp. Person	Council role
2.1 Our natural environment, wildlife, biodiversity and waterways are cared for and protected.	2.1.1 Act to restore and increase native/indigenous vegetation, land conservation and ecosystems.	2.1.1.1 Advocate for funding for vegetation mapping to acquire datasets at key intervals, providing an evidence base for biodiversity planning, environmental monitoring, and urban cooling strategies and support evidence-based prioritisation.	Manager Strategic Planning and Environment	Advocate
	2.1.2 Reduce environmental risks including bushfire, storm and flood in all land use planning.	2.1.2.1 Work in partnership with State Victorian Government to ensure that the planning scheme is maintained to reflect the latest data on environmental risks.	Manager Strategic Planning and Environment	Partner / Deliver
	2.1.3 Facilitate sustainable water management and quality. 	<i>Addressed in action 2.3.2.1 Finalise and adopt Integrated Water Management (IWM) plans and integrate flood study and IWM outcomes into future infrastructure projects.</i>	-	-
	2.1.4 Reduce negative impacts on the natural environment, including weed control/pests/domestic animals/waste.	2.1.4.1 Launch a targeted compliance and education program focusing on priority issues (e.g., cat containment, invasive weed hotspots, illegal dumping), developed in collaboration with community groups and land managers.	Manager Parks, Civil Services and Resource Recovery / Safer Communities / Strategic Planning and Environment (Support: Manager Communications and Advocacy)	Deliver / Analyse / Advocate
		2.1.4.2 Investigate alternate waste management solutions for FOGO and resource recovery facilities to increase efficiency and reduce carbon footprint.	Manager Parks, Civil Services and Resource Recovery	
		2.1.4.3 Advocate for funding to implement targeted mitigation measures to reduce wildlife road strikes	Manager Strategic Planning and Environment	
	2.1.5 Encourage and facilitate sustainable agricultural practices, including regenerative farming.	2.1.5.1 Deliver programs that support landowners and land managers to enable sustainable agricultural practices including regenerative farming. <i>(also addresses priority 3.3.1)</i>	Manager Strategic Planning and Environment	Deliver

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Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)

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Objective	Priorities	Year Two (2026-27) Actions	Primary Resp. Person	Council role
2.2 Our actions against climate change are prioritised and enables the community	2.2.1 Deliver initiatives that lower emissions related to housing, infrastructure and transport.	2.2.1.1 Undertake an Environmental Sustainable Design (ESD) audit and prepare an electrification action plan for both Gisborne Aquatic Centre and Kyneton Sports and Aquatic Centre	Manager Aquatics, Recreation and Facilities	Analyse
	2.2.2 Build capacity and enable the community to take action and understand environmental and financial benefits of reducing our impact on the planet.	2.2.2.1 Partner with community organisations to codesign/promote a home energy efficiency upgrade program to reduce cost of living and emissions for all local households.	Manager Strategic Planning and Environment	Partner / Promote
2.3 Our council acts in environmentally sustainable ways.	2.3.1 Progress investments and transition to lower-carbon alternatives.	2.3.1.1 Develop fleet transition plan targeting increasing the proportion of light fleet vehicles being fully electric or hybrid by the end of Year Four in line with budget. <i>Priority also addressed by action 2.2.1.1 Investigate feasibility of transitioning from gas to electricity to lower emissions at Gisborne Aquatic Centre and progress options to council for decision.</i>	Manager Parks, Civil Services and Resource Recovery	Develop
	2.3.2 Learn from and integrate evidence based environmental management practices inclusive of local Traditional Owner Groups and community groups.	2.3.2.1 Finalise and adopt Integrated Water Management (IWM) plans and integrate flood study and IWM outcomes into future infrastructure projects. <i>(also addresses priority 2.1.3)</i>	Manager Engineering, Asset Services and Civil Projects	Implement / Develop






Our Economy				
Our local businesses and tourism sectors thrive and provide opportunities for everyone.				
Objectives	Priorities	Year Two (2026-27) Actions	Primary Resp. Person	Council role
3.1 Our local economy and businesses are thriving	3.1.1 Engage with local businesses, entrepreneurs and industry to support innovation, attract investment, address local needs and deliver economic growth.	3.1.1. Partner with relevant stakeholders to develop initiatives that enhance economic prosperity, including continuing support for the Thriving Villages program.	Manager Economic Development and Visitor Economy	Develop/ Partner
	3.1.2 Support businesses to be environmentally and economically sustainable.	3.1.2.1 Promote sustainable practices to support local business financial and environmental sustainability.	Manager Economic Development and Visitor Economy	Promote
	3.1.3 Support the growth and maintenance of industries that contribute to health, wellbeing and sustainability such as mental health, allied health, and local food systems. 	3.1.3.1 Establish an evidence base to guide Council's strategic advocacy and partnership priorities for health and wellbeing service access.	Coordinator Community and Social Planning	Develop
3.2 Our unique identity, agricultural foundation and cultural history are celebrated and promoted.	3.2.1 Promote and attract artistic, cultural and historical activity, events and values that showcase the region and stimulate economic activity.	3.2.1.1 Engage community on future programming priorities and principles for creative venues.	Manager Community Strengthening (Support: Manager Engagement and Advocacy)	Deliver
	3.2.2 Promote local landmarks and attractions as part of the visitor economy, providing clear, accessible information on how to find and engage with them.	3.2.2.1 Review itineraries on Visit Macedon Ranges and develop a series of themed "Discovery Pathways" with residents, disability advocates, cultural groups, and visitor economy businesses with potential assistance from Destination Central Victoria. Combine this with development of a tourism-style video campaign for marketing use showcasing the region and some key assets through the themed trails.	Manager Economic Development and Visitor Economy	Develop

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Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)

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Objectives	Priorities	Year Two (2026-27) Actions	Primary Resp. Person	Council role
	3.2.3 Partner with community groups, including historical, arts, cultural, and local Traditional Owner Groups to develop cultural and eco-tourism and share cultures, histories and places of significance.	3.2.3.1 Support a collaborative, regionally aligned approach to a Cultural & Eco Tourism Partnership Framework, working with Destination Central Victoria and key partners. This will guide shared principles for storytelling, cultural protocols, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	Manager Economic Development and Visitor Economy	Partner
3.3 Our community promotes economic equality so that everyone can afford to live well and participate in community life.	3.3.1 Support our local agricultural sector and community partners to deliver affordable local food and reduce food insecurity. 	<i>Addressed under priority 2.1.5.1 Deliver programs that support landowners and land managers to enable sustainable agricultural practices including regenerative farming.</i>	-	-
	3.3.2 Deliver programs, targeted support and initiatives that cater to the diverse needs of the community and assist people facing financial hardship, education or employment barriers, including people with disabilities. 	3.3.2.1 Work with disability organisations, employers and services to identify local barriers and opportunities for inclusive employment, and define clear priorities to inform Council's future partnerships, advocacy and actions.	Coordinator Community and Social Planning	Develop
	3.3.3 Support projects that increase local social and affordable housing 	3.3.3.1 Identify and progress priority opportunities for social and affordable housing through Council-owned land, partnerships and advocacy, including working with housing providers and State Government.	Coordinator Community and Social Planning	Advocate / Partner

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Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)

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Our People				
Our community is safe, healthy and well.				
Objectives	Priorities	Year Two (2026-27) Actions	Primary Resp. Person	Council role
4.1 Our people feel safe, respected and valued, living in a community where violence and discrimination are prevented, and not tolerated.	4.1.1 Deliver inclusive, accessible and culturally safe services and spaces that support participation, reduce discrimination and reflect our diverse community  	4.1.1.1 Collaborate across Council to embed accessibility and inclusion considerations into planning for council delivered services and implement findings from Year One accessibility audits, delivering practical improvements that target areas of highest need identified from inspections, current projects and community feedback.	Coordinator Community and Social Planning (Support: Manager Governance and Performance, Community Strengthening, Aquatics, Recreation and Facilities)	Analyse / Deliver
	4.1.2 Enable people of all ages and backgrounds, especially those with lived experience, to lead, participate in and shape local decisions. 	4.1.2.1 Establish and support a Youth Council pilot to strengthen youth leadership and participation in local decision-making. 4.1.2.2 Investigate targeted engagement approaches to increase participation of under-represented cohorts in Council planning and decisions.	Manager Community Strengthening Manager Engagement and Advocacy	Partner / Deliver / Analyse
	4.1.3 Lead and support primary prevention initiatives and partnerships with agencies that promote respect, equality and safety and reduce harm in the community, including family violence. 	4.1.3.1 Close out Free From Violence Grant, with the aim of embedding primary prevention principles into Council policies, programs and partnerships.	Manager Community Strengthening	Partner / Deliver
	4.1.4 Deliver inclusive programs, partnerships and spaces that promote positive community attitudes and social connection, to build trust, challenge discrimination, and support belonging and safety for all.  	4.1.4.1 Complete a strategic review of the Community Awards Program and make recommendations to strengthen inclusiveness, accessibility and community relevance.	Manager Community Strengthening	Analyse

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Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)

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Objectives	Priorities	Year Two (2026-27) Actions	Primary Resp. Person	Council role
4.2 Our people of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to experience positive physical and mental wellbeing.	4.2.1 Improve access to inclusive sport, recreation, facilities and Council services to support the health, wellbeing and participation of people of all abilities, and encourage active healthy lifestyles in partnership with community groups and health services.  	4.2.1.1 Advocate for the new Barkly Square Pavilion to increase safety, accessibility and connectedness and allow greater participation for all at the sports field.	Manager Aquatics, Recreation and Facilities	Advocate / Deliver
		4.2.1.2 Advocate for funding to progress future development of key recreational and open space reserves as per adopted Master Plans.	Manager Parks, Civil Services and Resource Recovery	
		4.2.1.3 Work with local providers to deliver the Kindergarten Central Registration Scheme.	Manager Community Services	
		4.2.1.4 Deliver the INFANT program with a focus on healthy eating, active play and reduced screen time.	Manager Community Services	
		4.2.1.5 Complete Stage 2 of the Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct.	Manager Aquatics, Recreation and Facilities	
	4.2.2 Support and advocate for accessible, inclusive local programs and services that promote mental health and resilience and are tailored to the needs of different ages, abilities, identities and experiences.  	4.2.2.1 Build on advocacy and partnerships to expand on accessible and local mental health services, including advocating for funding for Youth Hub.	Manager Community Strengthening g	Advocate / Partner
		4.2.2.2 Establish a consistent, evidence-led approach for how Council identifies and prioritises local health and wellbeing service needs, gaps and access barriers, including progressing the Health and Social Needs Profile and embedding its use in Council planning, advocacy and partnership decisions.	Coordinator Community and Social Planning	
		4.2.2.3 Improve mental health outcomes by delivering the co-designed Next Generation Mental Health Promotion Project with young people and evaluating the Branch Out Mental Health Program to inform continuous improvement and future service design.	Manager Community Strengthening	

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Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)





Objectives	Priorities	Year Two (2026-27) Actions	Primary Resp. Person	Council role
	4.2.3 Support inclusive, community-led initiatives that reduce isolation and build connection, with attention to diversity and accessibility. 	4.2.2.1 Develop inclusive facilities standards (e.g. lighting and all-gender amenities, pram / wheelchair provisions) for application and uplift in future years in both existing and new facilities. 4.2.2.2 Undertake consultation to better understand barriers to social inclusion and community participation with a focus on people with a disability, children and older people. 4.2.2.3 Review Community Grants Program Policy and identify recommendations.	Manager Aquatics, Recreation and Facilities (Support: Manager Community Services) Manager Community Services Manager Community Strengthening	Develop / Analyse
4.3 Our community and environment are well prepared for emergency events and can respond to and recover from them.	4.3.1 Build community knowledge, skills and leadership to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. 	4.3.1.1 Embed a proactive, year-round approach to emergency preparedness through the ongoing delivery and refinement of seasonal preparedness information.	Manager Community Strengthening	Deliver
	4.3.2 Deliver targeted actions to reduce the health, social and environmental impacts of emergencies. 	4.3.2.1 Partner with Emergency and other community organisations to increase individual and community knowledge, skills and resilience for emergencies and disaster recovery by participating in events such as community emergency service expos, development of localised information briefings, and providing in person support at CFA community meetings and targeted information sessions.	Manager Community Strengthening	Implement
	4.3.3 Partner with all relevant organisations and businesses, including local Traditional Owner Groups, to strengthen emergency planning response and recovery. 	4.3.3.1 Strengthen partnerships with emergency services, recovery organisations and TO's through facilitated committees and working groups.	Manager Community Strengthening	Partner

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Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)

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Objectives	Priorities	Year Two (2026-27) Actions	Primary Resp. Person	Council role
	4.3.4 Plan for and provide inclusive support to vulnerable groups before, during and after emergencies.  	4.3.4.1 Embed equity impact assessments into the review of all Municipal Emergency Management Plans and Sub-Plans to identify and implement improvements for future implementation.	Manager Community Strengthening	Develop / Deliver




Our Performance

Our Performance				
We are accountable, trusted and collaborative.				
Objectives	Priorities	Year Two (2026-27) Actions	Primary Resp. Person	Council role
5.1 Our community experiences customer interactions that are positive, meaningful and accessible and help to shape our organisation's priorities.	5.1.1 Partner with aligned external organisations, businesses and groups to deliver community outcomes.	5.1.1.1 Continue development of a comprehensive stakeholder map for community and businesses, identifying stakeholders and detailing their interactions with the Council. Overlay this map with our strategic priorities to better understand and support their needs.	Manager Economic Development and Visitor Economy	Partner
		5.1.1.2 Work with local community groups to activate community spaces.	Manager Community Services	
	5.1.2 Provide staff with practical tools, training and resources to respectfully and effectively engage externally with diverse community and partners. 	5.1.2.1 Development of the Community Engagement Framework. Following adoption of renewed policy, publish guidelines, tools and processes (with guidance for accessibility and targeted for specific groups such as Traditional Owners). <i>(also addresses priority 5.3.3)</i>	Manager Engagement and Advocacy (Support: Manager Community Services, Manager Community Strengthening)	Develop
	5.1.3 Provide transparent information to the community that improves trust and understanding, and is easy to find, access, use and interpret.  	5.1.3.1 Improve community access to Council information and opportunities to participate in decision-making through enhanced usability and accessibility of Council's website and intranet, provision of information in accessible formats, and targeted engagement with under-represented communities.	Coordinator Community and Social Planning / Manager Engagement and Advocacy	Develop
	5.1.4 Deliver streamlined service approaches and methods that make interacting and working with Council simple, inclusive, and accessible for community, businesses, and partners. 	5.1.4.1 Implement a coordinated, business-friendly approach across Council through a cross-functional working group, delivering initiatives that simplify processes, improve the customer experience and reduce red tape.	Manager Economic Development and Visitor Economy	Develop/ Partner

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Our Performance

Objective	Priorities	Year Two (2026-27) Actions	Primary Resp. Person	Council role
5.2 Our organisation has a safe, healthy and fair culture that drives continuous improvement.	5.2.1 Embed cultural competence, safety, access and inclusion across Council operations and services through enhanced staff capability and organisation-wide practices. 	5.2.1.1 Deliver an organisational capacity-building and engagement program to strengthen cultural safety, access and inclusion across Council, including a mandatory baseline cultural competence module for all staff aligned with the Reconciliation Plan, and disability awareness and inclusive engagement training to build staff capacity to work respectfully and inclusively with people with disability and diverse community and workforce groups. <i>(also addresses priority 5.3.3)</i>	Manager People and Wellbeing / Manager Community Strengthening	Develop / Deliver
	5.2.2 Strengthen organisational knowledge through active sharing and continuous learning and improvement.	5.2.2.1 Continue development of Service Plans as per service catalogue defined in Year 1 to understand budget, staffing, responsibilities, and identify capability gaps, options for delivery, efficiencies and opportunities for increased cross-team collaboration.	Manager Governance and Performance	Develop
	5.2.3 Provide tools, targeted development, and training to support staff performance, safety and wellbeing.	5.2.3.1 Create a central, easy-to-navigate digital hub (e.g., SharePoint or Teams-based) where staff can access tools, procedures, training, templates, and “how-to” resources in one place. Invite staff to co-contribute practical guides and lessons learned.	Manager People and Wellbeing	Develop
5.3 Our organisation is efficient, collaborative and makes accountable, transparent decisions that serve the best interests of the whole community.	5.3.1 Deliver consistent, reliable, services and operations across all areas of Council that respond to community needs and are financially sustainable.	5.3.1.1 Finalise the Kindergarten Service and Infrastructure decision making framework.	Manager Community Services	Develop/ Deliver/ Analyse
		5.3.1.2 Develop and deliver an end to end, reliable and available solution to support our field staff.	Manager Digital Technology Services	
		5.3.1.3 Identify a solution to replace current system used to manage fitness centres and pools, with full integration to retail and security controls.	Manager Digital Technology Services	


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Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)

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Our Performance

Objective	Priorities	Year Two (2026-27) Actions	Primary Resp. Person	Council role
	5.3.2 Collaborate effectively across Council and enhance digital capacity to create smarter, more efficient, inclusive and accessible services and customer-focused ways of working.	<p>5.3.2.1 Assess our current core business systems and develop a comprehensive program to consolidate, streamline, and enhance their efficiency and strengthen data quality to better support organisational performance, growth and decision making.</p> <p>5.3.2.2 Replace our current desk-based telephony system with a cloud-based solution, to support hybrid working, improve community communications, and reduce operational risk.</p> <p>5.3.2.3 Develop and deliver a consolidate payments gateway, offering our community payment options that are aligned across all services.</p>	<p>Manager Digital Technology Services</p> <p>Manager Digital Technology Services</p> <p>Manager Digital Technology Services.</p>	Analyse/ Develop/ Deliver
	5.3.3 Strengthen capability to build trusted relationships and engage proactively with community groups, including local Traditional Owner Groups, in meaningful and respectful ways that reflect the diversity of people and perspectives across the Macedon Ranges, to inform key decisions. 	<i>Addressed under actions 5.2.1.1 and 5.1.2.1</i>	-	-
	5.3.4 Collect, analyse and use evidence and data in decision-making, service design and delivery, evaluation and reporting.	5.3.4.1 Adopt the data governance framework; improve data quality and access so the right people can use the right data for decisions and performance reporting.	Manager Governance and Performance	Develop/ Deliver
	5.3.5 Manage organisational risks through clear, coordinated risk management that supports consistent, transparent and accountable decision-making.	5.3.5.1 Undertake a formal risk culture maturity assessment, including benchmarking against comparable local government organisations, to assess risk awareness, behaviours and practices across Council, and develop a targeted Risk Culture Maturity Action Plan to strengthen risk capability, accountability and embedment.	Manager People and Wellbeing (Support: Manager Governance and Performance)	Develop

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Year Two (2026/27) Indicators



Strategic indicators provide Council with measures to monitor progress towards achieving the objectives of the Plan. Council's level of influence over the result of each measure varies, as many outcomes are affected by factors outside Council's direct control, but Council works to influence them through advocacy, partnerships and collaboration with the community.

In Year Two, the majority of indicators have been retained from Year One to enable the evaluation of longer-term trends and the reporting of these trends to the community over the life of the Plan. A small number of Year One indicators have been replaced due to limitations such as data unavailability, duplication with actions already included in the Action Plan, consistently strong regional performance, or inconsistent year-on-year results associated with the current indicator definition. Several new indicators have also been introduced in Year Two indicator to strengthen the overall indicator set where gaps were identified.

Our Places			
Connected and active places and spaces for everyone.			
Objectives	YEAR 2 Indicator	If we are successful we will see	Baseline Year
1.1 Our roads, transport and accessibility enhance our connection.	1.1.1 Satisfaction with the condition of sealed local roads in your area.	The annual community sentiment survey will show an increase in score for satisfaction with the condition of sealed local roads in the region.	2024/25
	1.1.2 Percentage of all roads assessed to be in poor condition.	Percentage of all roads assessed to be in poor condition will decrease.	2024/25
	1.1.3 Percentage completion of transport safety upgrade projects.	Percentage completion of improvement projects will increase (based on total number of improvement projects as at 1 July 2025).	2025/26
	1.1.4 Satisfaction with the condition of local streets and footpaths in your area. *	The annual community sentiment survey will show an increase in score for satisfaction with the condition of local streets and footpaths in the region.	2024/25
	1.1.5 Percentage of all existing footpaths assessed to be in poor condition.	Percentage of all existing footpaths assessed to be in poor condition will decrease.	2024/25

** The wording of this indicator will change in Year 3, with the new Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) provider and will become "Satisfaction with the condition of footpaths in your area". As such Year 3 (2026/27) will form a new baseline for this indicator.*

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Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)

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Objective	YEAR 2 Indicator	If we are successful we will see	Baseline Year
1.2 Our community infrastructure is accessible, fit for purpose, and meets the needs of current and future generations.	1.2.1 Percentage of Building Assets in poor condition.	Percentage of Building Assets in poor condition will decrease.	2025/26
	1.2.2 Satisfaction with Council "Providing equal access to services and facilities for people with disabilities"	The annual community sentiment survey will show an increase in score for satisfaction with the sentiment that people of all abilities can access services and facilities in the region.	2026/27 **
	1.2.3 Percentage completion of community infrastructure projects and actions from adopted masterplans, by Council.	Percentage completion of projects (based on total number of Master Plan actions in plans adopted by Council as of 30 June 2026) will increase.	2025/26

** This is a new question to be asked in the CSS with first results available in 2027. As such Year 3 (2026/27) will form the baseline for this indicator.



Our Environment			
Rural and natural surroundings that are cared for and protected.			
Objectives	YEAR 2 Indicator	If we are successful we will see	Baseline Year
2.1 Our natural environment, wildlife, biodiversity and waterways are cared for and protected.	2.1.1 Presence and abundance of indicator species across the landscape.	Presence and abundance of indicator species will increase.	2026/27 *
	2.1.2 Presence and abundance of indicator species for health of waterways.	Presence and abundance of indicator species will increase.	2026/27 *
2.2 Our actions against climate change are prioritised and enables the community	2.2.1 Municipal emissions snapshot.	Municipal emissions will decrease.	2022/23 **
2.3 Our council acts in environmentally sustainable ways.	2.3.1 Attendance at environment, biodiversity and sustainability events per year.	Attendance at Environmental events and Biodiversity Strategy Events will increase.	2024/25
	2.3.2 Council emissions.	Council emissions will decrease.	2022/23 ***

* Some baseline data will be available in Year 1 of Shaping the Ranges 2025-2035; however, the monitoring program is being revised, and more repeatable datasets will be available in Year 2.

** Data not available annually. Data is sourced from Snapshot Climate profiles, which generally lag the end of a financial year by 18–24 months, depending on when underlying ABS energy, transport and waste datasets are finalised.

*** In 2022 Council adopted a target of 'zero net emissions for Council operations by 30 June 2030.

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Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)

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Our Economy			
Our local businesses and tourism sectors thrive and provide opportunities for everyone.			
Objectives	YEAR 2 Indicator	If we are successful we will see	Baseline Year
3.1 Our local economy and businesses are thriving	3.1.1 Number of local (non-chain or franchise) businesses operating.	Number of local businesses operating will maintain (no closures) or increase.	2024/25
	3.1.2 Gross Regional Product.	Gross Regional Product will increase.	2024/25
	3.1.3 Number of subscriptions to MRSC Business E News.	Number of subscriptions will increase.	2025/26
3.2 Our unique identity, agricultural foundation and cultural history are celebrated and promoted.	3.2.1 Total attendance at Council's creative venues.	Attendance at Council's creative venues will increase.	2025/26
	3.2.2 Autumn festival visitation to Council's Visitor Information Centres (VIC's).	Visitation to Council's VIC's during Autumn festival will increase.	2024/25
	3.2.3 Visitor numbers to the region.	The number of visitors to the region will increase.	2023/24 *
3.3 Our community promotes economic equality so that everyone can afford to live well and participate in community life.	3.3.1 Area of employment land progressed to development-ready status and total municipal employment land supply.	The total municipal employment land supply will increase	2025/26
	3.3.2 Hardship statistics.	The value (by % of total \$) of outstanding debt as a result of uncollected residential rates, fees and charges (e.g. rates, property charges, registrations) will decrease.	2024/25

* Data not available annually. There is an approximate 12-18 month lag before tourism data from Tourism Research Australia Local Government Area is released.



Our People			
Our community is safe, healthy and well.			
Objectives	YEAR 2 Indicator	If we are successful we will see	Baseline Year
4.1 Our people feel safe, respected and valued, living in a community where violence and discrimination are prevented, and not tolerated.	4.1.1 Crime Statistics – Person Victimisation Rate.	Crime statistics will decrease within the region.	2024
	4.1.2 Community Sentiment Survey - How safe do you feel in your local area? *	The annual community sentiment survey will show an increase in score for feeling safe in the region.	2026/27
4.2 Our people of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to experience positive physical and mental wellbeing.	4.2.1 Participation rate in Council-supported health and wellbeing programs (attendance at council facilities and participation in structured annual programs).	The level of participation in Council supported health and wellbeing programs will increase.	2024/25
	4.2.2 Community Sentiment Survey - Satisfaction with ability to access health and wellbeing services. *	The annual community sentiment survey will show an increase in score for satisfaction with ability to access health and wellbeing services in the region.	2026/27
	4.2.3 Percentage of program participants who report that their mental health and wellbeing has improved as a result of participation.	The percentage of participants who report an improvement in mental health and wellbeing in response to a feedback survey at the end of each program delivered by council.	2026/27
4.3 Our community and environment are well prepared for emergency events and can respond to and recover from them.	4.3.1 Participation in stakeholder engagements (nature and type will vary depending on the time of year, i.e. pre fire season community awareness)	The number of engagements across different areas will be maintained or increase.	2024/25
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency Management - Community Engagements - First Nations Engagements 		

* These are new questions to be asked in the CSS with first results available in 2027. As such Year 3 (2026/27) will form the baseline for these indicators.

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Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)

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Our Performance

Our Performance			
We are accountable, trusted and collaborative.			
Objectives	YEAR 2 Indicator	If we are successful we will see	Baseline Year
5.1 Our community experiences customer interactions that are positive, meaningful and accessible and help to shape our organisation's priorities.	5.1.1 Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement. *	Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement will increase and be reflected in an improved score in the community satisfaction survey.	2024/25
	5.1.2 Alignment and Engagement survey – percentage agreement with the statement “Our systems/technology enable us to serve our customers well”?	Percentage agreement with overall alignment and engagement from council staff will increase.	2024/25
5.2 Our organisation has a safe, healthy and fair culture that drives continuous improvement.	5.2.1 Alignment and engagement survey - percentage agreement with overall alignment and engagement (internal survey).	Percentage agreement with overall alignment and engagement from council staff will increase.	2024/25
	5.2.2 Training and development participation rates.	Staff training and development rates will meet the target percentage for participation each year.	2024/25
	5.2.3 Staff turnover.	Staff turnover will be within 5% of the benchmark range for similar councils.	2024/25
	5.2.4 Excessive annual leave.	Percentage of staff with an excessive annual leave balance (greater than 8 weeks) will decrease.	2025/26
5.3 Our organisation is efficient, collaborative and makes accountable, transparent decisions that serve the best interests of the whole community.	5.3.1 Satisfaction with decisions made in the interest of the community.	Satisfaction with decisions made in the interest of the community will increase and be reflected in an improved score in the community satisfaction survey.	2024/25
	5.3.2 Complaints data – the number, and timeliness of resolutions.	The number of complaints received by council will decrease and the timeliness of resolution of complaints will improve.	2024/25
	5.3.3 Percentage of overdue internal audit action items.	The percentage of overdue actions (by % of total internal audit actions) will decrease.	2025/26

* The wording of this question in the CSS will change slightly in 2027 to “Satisfaction with opportunities to engage or give feedback. This is aligned with changes to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

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Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)

Reporting

The Year Two Action Plan consists of a range of actions that will contribute to the achievement of our priorities and vision outlined in *Shaping the Ranges 2025-2035*. These actions sit alongside the many programs, services and initiatives Council delivers every day that also contribute to achieving the objectives of *Shaping the Ranges*.

We commit to communicating our progress, both positive and negative, to the community. Council will report on our progress at a Council Meeting and in the Report of Operations, published every six months on Council's website.

This report will include:

- Progress on actions included in the Action Plan
- Reporting on the indicators included in this Plan and insight into their meaning in relation to achieving our objectives (indicators reported once per year in the final Report of Operations of each financial year).





Image Mt Macedon Sanatorium Lake

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Shaping The Ranges 2025-35 (Year Two Action Plan and Indicators)

Kyneton Administration Centre

129 Mollison Street, Kyneton
Hours: Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm.

Gisborne Administration Centre

40 Robertson Street, Gisborne
Hours: Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm

Romsey Hub

96–100 Main Street, Romsey
Hours: Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5pm

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Contact Us

(03) 5422 0333 | mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au | mrsc.vic.gov.au

Find us on:   

If you need help to speak or hear, you can contact us through the **National Relay Service**:

- **TTY** users call 133 677 then ask for (03) 5422 0333
- **Speak and Listen** (speech-to-speech relay) users call 1300 555 727 then ask for (03) 5422 0333
- **Internet relay users** connect to the National Relay Service and then ask for (03) 5422 0333

If you need help with English, please call **TIS National** on 131 450 and ask them to call Macedon Ranges Shire Council on 5422 0333.



COR.3	INSTRUMENTS OF DELEGATION
Officer:	Cherry Stojanovic, Coordinator Governance
Council Plan relationship:	Our Performance
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. S5 - Instrument of Delegation - Council to CEO - 17 June 2026 (under separate cover) 2. S6 Instrument of Delegation - 17 June 2026 (under separate cover) 3. S18 - Instrument of Sub-Delegation under the EPA - 17 June 2026 (under separate cover) 4. C4 - Committee Package Instrument of Delegation by Council - 17 June 2026 (under separate cover)

Summary

This report seeks Council resolution to endorse the refined suite of Instruments of Delegation.

Recommendation

1. In the exercise of the power conferred by s11(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) Macedon Ranges Shire Council resolves that;
 - (a) there be delegated to the person holding the position, or acting in or performing the duties, of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached S5 Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that instrument;
 - (b) the instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer;
 - (c) on the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked; and
 - (d) the duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.
2. In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached S6 Instrument of Delegation, Macedon Ranges Shire Council resolves that:
 - (a) there be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached S6 Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that instrument;
 - (b) the instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer;

- (c) on the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to members of Council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked; and
 - (d) the duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.
- 3. In the exercise of power conferred by s 437(2) of the Environment Protection Act 2017 and the Instrument of Delegation of the Environment Protection Authority under the Act dated 4 June 2021, Macedon Ranges Shire Council resolves that:
 - (a) there be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached S18 Instrument of Sub-Delegation to members of Council staff, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that instrument;
 - (b) the instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer;
 - (c) on the coming into force of the instrument the S18 Instrument of Sub-Delegation resolved by Council 26 November 2025 is revoked; and
 - (d) the duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.
- 4. In exercise of the powers conferred by s63 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act), Council resolves that:
 - (a) there be established as a Delegated Committee the "Submitters Delegated Committee".
 - (b) pursuant to s11 of the Act, delegate to the Submitters Delegated Committee powers and functions as set out in the Instrument of Delegation attached to this report, with the purposes of the Submitters Delegated Committee being those set out in the schedule to that instrument;
 - (c) appoint the nine (9) councillors of Macedon Ranges Shire Council as the only members of the Submitters Delegated Committee;
 - (d) appoint the Mayor of Macedon Ranges Shire Council to be the Chairperson of the Submitters Delegated Committee;
 - (e) determine that a quorum for the Submitters Delegated Committee is a whole number that is the absolute majority, which is the number of members that is greater than half of the total number of members of the Submitters Delegated Committee;
 - (f) all members of the Submitters Delegated Committee have voting rights on the Submitters Delegated Committee;
 - (g) the instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it;
 - (h) on the coming into force of the instrument, the C4 Instrument of Delegation resolved by Council 26 November 2025 is revoked; and

- (i) the powers, duties and functions conferred on the members of the Delegated Committee by the instrument must be exercised in accordance with any guidelines or policies Council may from time to time adopt.
-

Background

Council is authorised by various Acts to carry out specific duties and functions as set out in those laws. To effectively perform these responsibilities, it is important for Council to delegate certain powers to its administrative staff. This also supports the separation of duties between Council and staff, as required under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

As legislation changes, Instruments of Delegation are required to be updated from time to time to ensure they are up-to-date, effective, and in line with expectations.

Discussion

Legislation grants Council the authority, through an Instrument of Delegation, to delegate any power, duty, or function under the Act or other relevant Acts to Council staff members, except for certain specified powers.

These delegations are essential to allow the Chief Executive Officer and Council staff to manage the day-to-day operations of Council effectively.

Through instruments of delegation Council is being clear about boundaries for decision making. Effective delegation is a key aspect of good governance, ensuring that decisions are made by the appropriate individuals and that the integrity of delegation and accountability is maintained.

Council subscribes to a delegation service by Maddocks Lawyers, which provides recommended updates to the Instruments of Delegation twice a year to ensure they remain aligned with legislative changes.

Following a resolution made by Council at the November Council Meeting 2025, in consultation with Council, the Chief Executive Officer was requested to undertake a review of Council's Instruments of Delegation. As part of the review process, Council requested incorporation of advice and discussion, relating to the delegation of specific statutory powers.

To facilitate the review, officers provided focused briefing sessions on specific statutory powers relating to the delegation, reservation or modification and associated risk. Following these briefing sessions, an interactive workshop with Councillors was held to support a focused comparison of the current delegation and enable Councillors feedback to be directly integrated into the draft instrument.

The review process resulted in changes to produce a refined suite of instruments that govern the delegation of authority of Council.

Summary of Changes

S6 Instrument of Delegation - Members of Staff:

- All delegates removed from *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003* and *Cemeteries and Crematoria Regulations 2025*
- Administrative changes as a result of position and organisational realignment, however did not vary the intent of the delegated powers
- Legislative amendments to provisions (new provisions and repealed provisions)

RelianSys

Council uses RelianSys to manage and generate instruments. This ensures consistency across instruments, a central location to house the documents, and automatic input of legislative updates into working documents.

RelianSys uses full position titles and position codes rather than abbreviation, this provides greater accuracy and clarity. Delegates in the current instruments are listed in hierarchically order, due to RelianSys export limitations, delegates are shown alphabetically in the draft instruments. Hierarchical ordering and functionality are expected to be included in a future release of RelianSys.

Instrument Management, Monitor and Review

Legal and reputational risk is reduced through the regular review of delegations, ensuring they remain current and aligned with organisational responsibilities. This approach supports continuous improvement and strengthens Council's governance framework by ensuring all instruments reflect legislative requirements and organisational change. Officers are responsible for coordinating and overseeing these reviews in accordance with statutory obligations and Council's relevant policies. Ongoing reporting of exercised delegation is critical to maintaining transparency and appropriate oversight. Quarterly reporting to Council will continue in line with the resolution made at the November Council meeting.

Consultation and engagement

As an operational matter under the Act, community engagement is not required to be undertaken.

Collaboration

These Instruments of Delegation have been prepared in accordance with the delegation service provided by Maddocks Lawyers and satisfies current legislative requirements.

Innovation and continuous improvement

Not applicable.

Relevant law

To appropriately exercise the powers conferred by various legislation contained within the Instruments of Delegation, this report seeks Council resolution to endorse the refined suite of Instruments of Delegations as attached to this report.

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment was not required in relation to the subject matter of this report.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

Not applicable

Relevant Council plans and policies

This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan relationship: Delivering strong and reliable government. We maintain good governance and transparency, by clearly identifying and communicating the role of Councillors and Council.

Additionally, this report delivers timely schedule review as set out in Council's Delegation and Authorisation Policy.

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile? Not applicable.

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services? Not applicable.

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios? Not applicable.

Financial viability

The Maddocks Delegation Service that Council subscribes to is within the existing operating budget. There are no further budget implications.

Sustainability implications

There are no sustainability implications to consider when endorsing the suite of Instruments of Delegation.

AI use disclosure

Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. For this report:

- AI tools were used for editing or quality improvement only, for example grammar, readability or formatting.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

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.

14 COMMUNITY REPORTS

COM.1	YOUTH COUNCIL 2026 PROGRESS REPORT
Officer:	Isabel Venables, Coordinator Community Development and Youth
Council Plan relationship:	Our People
Attachments:	Nil

Summary

This report provides a progress report on the establishment of the inaugural Youth Council for Macedon Ranges Shire Council, for the 2026-2028 term inclusive of induction, training, budget and evaluation mechanisms.

Recommendation

That Council notes this Youth Council Progress Report and supports the next steps of the Youth Council establishment.

Background

Council’s previous youth leadership program, ‘Leaders in the Loop’ (Youth Ambassadors), was established in 2011. The program was disbanded in 2023 after a review, identifying opportunities for the group to evolve into a more formal structure. In November 2025, Council endorsed a new program ‘Macedon Ranges Shire Youth Council’. The initiative aligns strongly with objectives 4.1.2 and 4.1.4 of Shaping the Ranges 2025-2035, as well as ‘Elevate’, Council’s Youth Strategy 2018-2028.

The program sees the appointment of nine Youth Councillors (three per ward) who will:

- serve a term of two years, commencing from June 2026;
- be identified through an expression of interest process, designed and delivered by a working group of young people;
- meet formally to discuss and provide input on decisions that affect young people across the shire for Council consideration;
- be supported by the Mayor and Councillors to learn and experience local democracy and contribute meaningfully to Council decision making, including mentoring and partnership opportunities.

Council’s endorsement further sought a progress report at the June 2026 Council Meeting, outlining induction, training, budget and evaluation mechanisms to guide future program iterations.

Discussion

Since November 2025, the development of the Youth Council has progressed though the following milestones:

Timelines	Description	Tracking
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December 2025 – January 2026	Expressions of Interest opened for Youth Council Working Group, with a focus on leading the creation of an expression of interest process.	Complete
February 2026	Working Group developed with five young people to support the development of a robust promotional campaign, interview questions and scoring matrix for assessors.	Complete
March – April 2026	Expressions of Interest opened for Youth Council.	Complete
20 April 2026	Expressions of Interest closed for Youth Council.	Complete
April – May 2026	Eligibility checks completed against all applications received. Applications assessed by an external assessment panel. Induction and training program for Youth Council developed. Draft Terms of Reference developed, ready for input from Youth Councillor group.	Complete
May 2026	Youth Council Assessment Panel identified nine Youth Councillors, with outcomes shared with Mayor and Deputy Mayor.	Complete
June 2026	Youth Council Swearing in Ceremony.	Complete
	Youth Council Progress Report delivered at Council Meeting. Public announcement of Youth Councillors. First induction meeting of the Youth Council.	On track
July 2026	Election of Youth Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Induction and training program in progress.	On track

Selection process

The Youth Council expression of interest process resulted in 15 applications, with three from East ward, nine from West ward and three from South ward. This has resulted in an automatic appointment of East and South ward applicants, and zero substitutes for these two wards if vacancies occur. A merit-based selection process has been carried out for West ward Youth Councillors.

Appointed Youth Councillors are:

- East ward
 - Shiloh Ritchie
 - Koby Campbell
 - Ashton Corner
- South ward
 - Harriet Doxey
 - Sienna Caputa
 - Matilda Wills
- West ward

- Oliver Giordano
- Olive Bloom
- James Dubyna

As part of finalising the group's Terms of Reference, Youth Councillors will be able to review the selection process for future appointments and agree on a process for filling vacancies.

Budget

A sum of \$15,000 from the Youth Services 2026-27 financial year base budget has been allocated to this initiative. This includes an increase of \$10,000 from the last report, redirected from other initiatives that are still able to be delivered effectively with fewer resources, resulting in no overall increase to the Youth Services base budget. Of the \$15,000, \$9,000 will be allocated to honorarium fees (up to \$1,000 per financial year per Youth Councillor), and a further \$6,000 allocated towards program costs such as professional development of Youth Councillors, promotion and general meeting costs.

Induction and Training

Supporting Youth Councillors with a robust induction will be key to setting them up for success. As part of their induction, Youth Councillors will receive:

- introduction and training on relevant Council systems;
- tour of Gisborne and Kyneton Council Chambers, and opportunity to meet the elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors;
- overview of Council itself, the departments, roles, services and the role of officers and Councillors;
- introduction to the purpose of the Youth Council, why it exists, and how it will influence Council decisions;
- introduction to the formalities of a Scheduled Council Meeting through a walk-through 'mock meeting';
- invitation to observe a Scheduled Council Meeting of the elected Council;
- setting expectations, time commitment, participation standards, and code of conduct training;
- practical information on meeting schedule, governance processes, key contacts, logistics;
- paired with a mentor from the elected Councillor group.

In addition to the induction program, over the first term, professional development will be offered regularly, such as public speaking, critical thinking and decision making, further understanding local government, and any further priorities requested by the Youth Council.

Evaluation

The Youth Council initiative will be methodically evaluated to ensure valuable data is gathered from a variety of key stakeholders, allowing for the program to evolve with young people's needs and Council's priorities.

The program will be measured against four key criteria.

1. Youth Councillor participation rates;
2. Youth Councillor self-reported levels of confidence and leadership abilities;

3. evidence of integration of young voices in Council programs, initiatives and processes;
4. adherence to project planning and budget requirements.

The following schedule plans for the Youth Council to be evaluated consistently over the two-year term, ensuring a continuous improvement lens against all phases of the Youth Council planning and delivery.

Schedule	Target Audience	Methodology
Ongoing	Youth Councillors and family members/connections Unsuccessful Youth Councillor EOIs Youth Council Working Group General public Schools Local youth service providers	Online survey via YourSay and administrative data to provide program insights.
July 2026 (1 month)	Assessment panel	Online meeting to provide input on assessment processes.
December 2026 (6 months)	Youth Councillors	Agenda item in Youth Council meeting to provide process insights and relevancy of consultations.
June 2027 (12 months)	General public	Online survey via YourSay to understand level of impact on young people and wider community.
December 2027 (18 months)	Youth Councillors Councillors Council staff Consulting officers and external organisations General public, with emphasis on young people	Feedback forums and interviews to analyse program for 2028-2020 term.
End of term (2 years)	Youth Councillors	Exit interviews to inform future program iterations.

Consultation and engagement

Seven young people were consulted as part of the establishment of the Youth Council, inclusive of a Working Group and Assessment Panel. The Working Group provided insights into a fair and relevant recruitment process including frequently asked questions and scoring matrix criteria. Furthermore, the group provided guidance on the draft terms of reference

and communication methodologies. The Assessment Panel were responsible for assessing and selecting unanimously the nine Youth Councillors.

Collaboration

The nature of this report did not require collaboration with other councils, governments or statutory bodies. As noted in this report, collaboration with young people was undertaken through the establishment of the Youth Council Working Group and Assessment Panel ensuring young voices were heard throughout the program design.

Innovation and continuous improvement

The broadening of Council's decision-making to incorporate Youth Council represents Council's keen interest to be innovative and continuously improve youth engagement opportunities in the shire. Furthermore, the establishment of the Youth Council alongside two youth groups highlights the importance of young voices in the development of youth initiatives.

The Youth Council would be routinely evaluated (as outlined above), and learnings utilised to strengthen its outcomes over time.

Relevant law

The *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* sets child safe standards, which are the minimum standards for Council to adhere to when providing services to children and young people.

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires councils to adopt a community engagement policy and use deliberative practices for the Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial and Asset Plans—this sets the standard for authentic youth participation in Council decision making.

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment has been conducted in relation to the subject matter of this report.

The Gender Impact Assessment identified that a Youth Council supports a positive gender impact through tailored support, balanced staff representation in engagements, communicating meeting dates, times, and locations in advance, creating and enforcing Terms of Reference, introduce accessibility measures to assist participants with language/communication barriers, wherever possible, all-gender bathrooms are available at locations utilised, staff to supervise young people departing meetings and events to carpark(s) and ensure all participants have a plan for getting home.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

Engage! – the Australian Government's Youth Engagement Strategy (2024)

Sets out how the Commonwealth will recognise, empower and work with young people across policy and programs.

Victoria's Youth Strategy 2022–2027 – Our promise, Your future

Whole-of-government youth agenda with priorities across health, safety, education, work, and civic participation.

Relevant Council plans and policies

The establishment of the Youth Council is aligned to:

- Shaping the Ranges 2025-2035

A youth representation group aligns with the following priorities under the theme 'Our People' and 'Our Performance':

- Enable people of all ages and backgrounds, especially those with lived experience, to lead, participate and shape local decisions.
- Deliver inclusive, accessible and culturally safe services and spaces that support participation, reduce discrimination and reflect our diverse community.
- Our community experiences customer interactions that are positive, meaningful and accessible and help to shape our organisation's priorities.
- Elevate - Youth Strategy 2018-2028
The proposal aligns with Council's Youth Strategy 2012-2028: ELEVATE, actioning its strategic goals; specifically, the area of young people being 'Embraced and Heard'.
- Community Engagement Policy 2022
Children and young people are one of the key stakeholders mentioned in Council's Community Engagement Policy. A youth representation group meets multiple principles and meets the intention within this, including:
 - Principle 3. Participants in community engagement must be representative of the persons and groups affected by the matter that is the subject of the community engagement.

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile? Not applicable

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services? Providing a formal platform for young people to voice their opinions may prove to be of benefit to Macedon Ranges climate initiatives and knowledge.

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios? By giving a formal voice to young people to share their opinions on a variety of topics, Council can be better informed on climate concerns and potential solutions proposed by young people from the shire.

Financial viability

The proposed recommendation can be accommodated within Council's adopted annual budget.

Sustainability implications

Youth Council aims to support the sustainable integration of young people's perspectives into Council decision-making, to better inform Council services and spaces. Becoming a Youth Councillor, nine young people will have access to significant leadership and decision-making development opportunities, helping those involved form skillsets that will aid them in their future or current career paths.

AI use disclosure

Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. For this report:

- AI tools were used for editing or quality improvement only, for example grammar, readability or formatting.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

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.

15 ASSETS AND OPERATIONS REPORTS

AO.1	KERBSIDE COLLECTION AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES CHARGE POLICY
Officer:	Bill Pemberton, Coordinator Resource Recovery
Council Plan relationship:	Our Environment
Attachments:	1. Kerbside Collection and Associated Services Charge Policy 2026 ↓ 2. Kerbside Collection and Associated Services Charge Policy 2026 Consultation Summary ↓

Summary

This report presents the Kerbside Collection and Associated Services Charge Policy (Attachment 1), following consideration of feedback received from community consultation. to Council for consideration of adoption.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the draft Kerbside Collection and Associated Services Charge Policy 2026.

Background

The Kerbside and Associated Services Charge Policy outlines the resource recovery services offered by Council, how cost recovery of these services is achieved and how contamination issues are managed. It also provides the foundations of how charges are to be applied. Noting that charges are set annually in review of Fees and Charges as part of the budget process and are not embedded within the Policy. The current Policy is due for revision and update.

Discussion

The current policy was developed in 2020 when the 4-bin service was being implemented. Since then, it has been noted that greater flexibility for businesses is required regarding the type of bins available and an increase in construction of multi-unit dwellings has occurred. These elements have been incorporated into the revised Policy, giving clarity to services provided to multi-unit developments where street frontage for bins may be limited.

A new section on multi-unit developments alternative bin arrangements was requested by Councillors of the prior council term and the addition of customised bin arrangements for businesses are incorporated into the revised draft Policy.

The existing Policy is silent on how a resident found to be non-compliant and the service ceased, can restart a 4-bin service, the reviewed Policy addresses this matter.

The associated services charge component of the Policy transparently identifies the other areas of waste management activities that the charge applies to.

Consultation and engagement

Community consultation

The consultation period was open from 19 March to 16 April 2026 and conducted as a survey via *Your Say* on Council's website, a total of 39 submissions were received. Refer to Attachment 2 for the consultation summary.

Resulting from the consultation, the following changes have been made to the draft Policy:

- Added a new item (3.6) clarifying kerbside bin placement; and
- Corrected some typos and grammar.

Additional comments received identified that some residents could benefit from a greater understanding of the four-bin system and the benefits of it through enhanced community education. For example, the financial benefits of separating glass from comingled recycling and recycling of soft plastics to free up space in the general waste bin.

Several submissions requested hard rubbish household collection. This has previously been investigated and is still found to be cost prohibitive for residents, primarily due to the size of the Shire and township locations. Noting that Resource Recovery Facilities accept hard waste on a user pays basis.

Collaboration

Collaboration was not undertaken, though waste charge Policies from other councils were reviewed as a part of review of this Policy.

Innovation and continuous improvement

The ability to share bins in multi-unit developments with management corporations is a new innovation derived from recent research in this area and feedback received councillors and the community.

Relevant law

The policy makes transparent the use of the kerbside collection and the associated services charges and in doing so meets the requirements of the Local government act 2020.

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment has been conducted in relation to the subject matter of this report.

Based on findings of this assessment, it is recommended that as far as is practical, that actions are taken to ensure that the current inclusion practices continue, specifically that:

- Officers examine family composition and waste needs from a GIA perspective; and
- Officers to ensure communications are appropriate in terms of language, accessibility and provide available options to the community members.

These recommendations will enable a more inclusive and accessible service for the local community.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

- *Environmental Protection Act 2017*
- *Local Government Act 1989 and 2020*
- *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*

Relevant Council plans and policies

Waste and Resource Recovery Management Strategy 2021-2026

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile?

Using 4 bin system with low contamination will reduce emissions from landfill.

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services?

Reducing waste generation will lessen the impact of climate change.

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios?

N/A

Financial viability

The Policy is supported by the waste charge and cost recovery of kerbside waste collection and disposal costs.

Sustainability implications

The correct use of the 4-bin system diverts significant volumes of material away from landfill and into more sustainable processes.

AI use disclosure

Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. For this report:

- AI tools were used for drafting assistance, for example generating initial text, summaries or alternative wording. All content was reviewed, edited and approved by Council officers.

AI tools were used in development of Attachment 2: Kerbside Collection and Associated Services Charge Policy 2026 Consultation Summary. AI tools were utilised to summarise some of the comments for public consumption.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

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.

Policy



Kerbside Collection and Associated Services Charge Policy

Date of Adoption			
Adoption Method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council	<input type="checkbox"/> CEO	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>)
CEO Signature			Date
Responsible Officer and Unit	Bill Pemberton Coordinator Resource Recovery		
Nominated Review Period	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Every 5 years	
Last Endorsement Date	17 June 2026		
Next Endorsement Date	June 2031		

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

DOCUMENT HISTORY	Version	Date	Author
Initial Draft			
Second Draft			
Final Draft			

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Purpose/Objective

This policy outlines how Council determines the resource recovery services provided to the community and with it the kerbside collection and associated services charge.

Further, this policy supports the goals of the current *Waste and Resource Recovery Management Strategy 2021-2026* (and the proposed replacement *Resource Recovery Management Strategy 2026-2031*) including to maintain a safe, transparent, affordable and sustainable approach to all Council waste management and resource recovery services and provide a consistent level of service to ratepayers and eligible properties.

To ensure Council provide innovative solutions and strive for best practice waste and recycling services to process all types of waste generated across the Shire.

To communicate with and educate our community about effective ways to reduce, reuse and recycle with a view to increase recycling and recovery rates, and reduce contamination across the municipal waste streams and reduce the amount of litter, illegal dumping, and stormwater pollution across the Shire. Promote and foster circular economic activity in the Shire and local region.

This Policy takes its authority from the *Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029*. Section 6.5 Service Rates and Charges – policy and charges, where it states ‘Council’s policy in regard to setting waste management charges is full cost recovery’

Background/Reasons for Policy

Council provides a range of waste services across the municipality to meet regulatory requirements and community needs.

These services encourage avoidance, reuse and recycling whilst minimising disposal of waste to landfill, complying with the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*, *Recycling Victoria A New Economy Policy 2020*, and in accordance with provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* and *2020*.

This Policy outlines the services offered by Council and how cost recovery of those services is achieved. It also provides the foundations of how charges are to be applied.

Under the *Local Government Act 2020* section 324 *Evidentiary provisions* (1) Until evidence is given to the contrary, proof is not required as to any of the following (l) the declaration of any rate or charge. Under the *Circular Economy (Waste reduction and recycling) Act 2021* Part 5 Division 1, Council and Alpine Resort Management Board to provide municipal residual waste and municipal recycling services.

This Policy sets out principles for applying these charges in accordance with Council’s waste management objectives.

This Policy supersedes the *Kerbside Collection and Associated Services Charge Policy 2020*.

Council Policy

This policy outlines how Council delivers and charges for kerbside waste and resource recovery services, including bin collection, disposal, and associated programs. It aims to support effective, environmentally responsible, and financially sustainable waste management across the Macedon Ranges Shire.

SCOPE

- This policy applies to all properties within the designated Collection Zone, excluding vacant land.
- It provides direction on bin entitlements, waste management practices, contamination procedures, and associated services.
- Special provisions also apply to shared bin arrangements and multi-unit developments (MUDs).
- To ensure transparency, the policy also details what services are included in the Kerbside Collection and Associated Services Charge.

1.0 Guiding Principles

1.1 Since 2020, Council has implemented a four-bin collection system across the Shire. This system includes:

- Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) – green lid, collected weekly
- Recycling – yellow lid, collected fortnightly
- Glass – purple lid, collected every four weeks
- General Waste – red lid, collected fortnightly

1.2 All Victorian Councils are mandated to implement services to drastically reduce waste to landfill with a target of 80% diversion by 2030. Transition to the 4-bin system is a legal requirement under the Circular Economy Act 2021. Council implemented the 4-bin system in 2020 and delivers comprehensive community education programs focussed on waste reduction and resource recovery currently diverting 72% of waste away from landfill.

1.3 The Kerbside Waste Collection and Associated Services Charge is a cost-recovery mechanism used to fund waste-related services. These include domestic waste transport, processing and disposal, public litter bin management, street sweeping, dumped rubbish collection, Resource Recovery Facilities, landfill rehabilitation, waste education, waste minimisation initiatives, and contract administration.

1.4 The charge is structured to ensure value for ratepayers while minimising the environmental and social impacts of waste.

2.0 Kerbside Collection and Associated Services and Charge

2.1 In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, section 324 *Evidentiary Provisions*, Council may apply a service rate, an annual service charge, or a combination of both for waste collection and disposal.

2.2 The Kerbside Collection and Associated Services Charge is mandatory for all eligible properties within the Collection Zone, excluding vacant land, unless specific exemptions apply (refer to Clause 3.11).

2.3 The charge covers all direct and indirect costs related to the collection and disposal of waste.

2.4 Council reviews and sets this charge annually during the budget process, in line with the Strategic Resource Plan.

2.6 Rate notices will clearly itemise the Kerbside Waste Services and Charges and any applicable Additional Bin Collection Charges.

2.7 All commercial and non-residential properties receiving kerbside collection are required to pay the applicable waste service charge.

3.0 Kerbside Collection Service

3.1 Properties located within the Designated Collection Area receive a four-bin service, which includes:

- A 240L FOGO bin (lime green lid), collected weekly
- A 140L general waste bin (red lid), collected fortnightly
- A 240L recycling bin (yellow lid), collected fortnightly
- A 140L glass-only recycling bin (purple lid), collected every four weeks

3.2 Commercial and non-residential properties requesting a kerbside service may be assessed by Council to determine eligibility. Commercial and non-residential properties can adjust the bins required depending on the usage of the enterprise.

3.3 Council does not offer kerbside skip bin services or scheduled hard rubbish collections.

3.4 Council will provide clear communication to residents regarding any changes to collection schedules, including public holidays or service disruptions, through multiple channels such as the Council website, social media, and direct notifications.

3.5 Council requires presentation of bins at the appropriate day/time and encourages residents to report missed collections promptly to ensure timely resolution and maintain service quality.

3.6 The owner or occupier of a property must ensure that when a council supplied bin is placed at an approved collection point the council supplied bin; (a) is as near as practicable to the kerb, with the handle facing away from the kerb; (b) has at least 1 metre clearance from any object, obstruction, overhanging tree, or street sign; (c) does not contain prohibited waste.

3.7 Council supports the Victorian Government's *Recycling Victoria* policy, aiming to divert 80% of waste from landfills by 2030, aligning with the state's circular economy goals.

4.0 Bins

4.1 All new mobile garbage bins (MGBs) will be black with lids in accordance with Australian Standards as follows:

- Red lid for general waste
- Yellow lid for recycling
- Purple lid for glass
- Lime green lid for FOGO

4.2 Bins that do not match these standard colours will be progressively replaced under Council's bin replacement program.

4.3 Bins are allocated to the property, not the occupant. Bins must remain at the property unless removal is approved by Council. Council retains ownership of all kerbside bins provided to and registered against a specific property. Owners/occupiers must not remove bins from the property when they move premises.

4.4 Only Council-issued MGBs will be collected as part of the kerbside service. If properties present additional bins that are not charged for or allocated to the property, they will not be collected and may incur additional charges.

4.5 One kitchen caddy is provided to each property in the Designated Collection Area at the commencement of service and/or may be purchased from Council.

4.6 Properties not located on a collection route must take their bins to a Council-approved collection point for servicing.

4.7 Property owners/occupiers should report any damage to bins. Council's contractor will carry out repairs or arrange replacement as deemed necessary. Council will replace damaged or lost bins at no cost to the property owner, provided the damage is not due to misuse or negligence.

4.8 Council encourages residents to label their bins with their property address to assist with the return of misplaced bins.

5.0 Additional and Upsized Bins including Downsizing Option

5.1 Property owners may apply for additional or larger bins, in accordance with Council guidelines and applicable fees.

5.2 Charges for additional or upsized bins apply from the date of delivery and will be listed on the property's rates notice.

5.3 Council reviews and sets charges for additional and upsized bins annually during the budget process.

5.4 Requests for additional or upsized bins will be assessed based on household size, waste generation, and available capacity within the existing collection system.

5.5 Council encourages residents to reduce waste generation through education and participation in recycling and composting programs before requesting additional or upsized bins.

5.6 Residents wishing to downsize their general waste bin to a smaller size (e.g., from 140L to 80L) may apply through Council's bin downsizing program, subject to availability and eligibility criteria.

5.7 Downsizing requests will be assessed based on the household's waste generation habits, including the amount of waste typically produced and participation in recycling and composting programs.

5.8 Council will provide educational resources to help households make informed decisions about whether downsizing their bin is a suitable and sustainable option.

5.9 Downsized bins will attract a reduced Kerbside Collection and Associated Services Charge, reflecting the smaller waste service provision.

5.10 Households that downsize their bins may be monitored to ensure they continue to generate minimal general waste, encouraging maximum recycling and composting.

5.11 If a resident downsizes their bin but later requires a larger bin due to increased waste production, they may request an upsized bin. Associated charges will apply from the time of delivery.

5.12 Downsizing is encouraged as part of Council's broader sustainability goals, which align with the Victorian Government's *Recycling Victoria* policy to reduce landfill waste and improve recycling rates.

5.13 Council will regularly review the downsizing program to ensure it aligns with best practices for waste minimisation and emerging state and federal waste policies.

5.14 "Special Consideration" or "Medical Needs" Application Process and Criteria:
An additional rubbish or recycling bin is available at no extra charge for residents who have a chronic illness, disability, or medical condition that results in increased waste generation, and where there is no practical way to reduce the amount of waste produced. These considerations are reviewed every 12 months upon date of receiving the extra bin.

6.0 New Properties

- 6.1** New property owners may request bins once the property has been rated by Council.
- 6.2** Once a property is approved for collection, participation in the kerbside service is mandatory unless exemptions apply.
- 6.3** Council will provide information about waste services to new property owners during the rates notification process to ensure timely access to services.
- 6.4** Council encourages new property owners to register for waste services promptly to avoid delays in service commencement.
- 6.5** If a resident opts in to the Kerbside Collection Service, they will not be permitted to opt out unless exemptions listed in section 11 of this policy apply.

7.0 Planning Applications

- 7.1** All planning applications must consider the need for Council waste services. All new planning applications must include a Waste Management Plan.
- 7.2** Multi-unit developments must provide a Waste Management Plan in line with Council requirements to ensure waste is stored, collected, and disposed of efficiently and safely in line with Council services. The plan should minimise environmental impact, support recycling, and ensure accessibility for collection vehicles.
- 7.3** Council will review Waste Management Plans submitted with planning applications to ensure they align with Council's waste management policies and state regulations.
- 7.4** Council encourages developers to incorporate waste minimisation strategies, such as on-site composting and recycling facilities.

8.0 Community Education

- 8.1** Council provides ongoing community education programs to promote waste reduction and correct bin usage.
- 8.2** Up-to-date information and resources will be available on Council's website and at customer service centres.
- 8.3** Council will collaborate with local schools, community groups, and businesses to promote waste reduction and recycling initiatives.
- 8.4** Council will provide regular updates on waste management programs and initiatives through newsletters, workshops, and community events.

9.0 Bin Contamination and Enforcement

9.1 Council adopts a comprehensive approach to managing bin contamination through education, outreach, and enforcement. This approach aims to reduce contamination in the general waste, recycling, and organics streams, thereby minimising waste sent to landfill.

9.2 When contamination is detected, the resident will be notified through a bin tag explaining the contamination. If required a written letter with a photograph outlining the issue and providing guidance on how to rectify it.

9.3 Contaminated bins will not be collected unless the contamination is removed and the property owner requests a subsequent collection.

9.4 If re-collection is required, an additional charge may apply as per Council's annual charges schedule.

9.5 Fines may be issued for repeated contamination following a process including initial notification, first warning, and second and final warning (after the third incident). Penalties will be applied in accordance with Council's Local Laws.

9.6 If contamination persists, Council may replace the kerbside service with a waste-only service, with all costs payable by the resident. This action will only be taken following thorough communication and support. A final warning letter will be issued before action is taken.

9.7 Properties moved to waste-only service may return to the 4-bin system after a minimum of 12 months. Reinstatement is subject to passing a resource recovery test, completing a waste education session, and committing to improved waste sorting practices.
Note: If the property has new owners or tenants, the 4-bin system may be made available upon request.

9.8 Council will offer bin audits and waste education programs to residents who regularly fail to comply with waste sorting guidelines.

9.9 Council will monitor contamination rates across the municipality to identify areas needing targeted support and education.

10.0 Shared Bin Services and Multi-Unit Developments

10.1 Owners' Corporations of multi-unit developments are encouraged to apply for shared bin services, which must meet Council's Waste Management Plan requirements to ensure services are efficient and environmentally responsible.

10.2 Shared bin services must ensure communal bin areas are accessible, clearly labelled, and provide equal waste disposal opportunity for all residents. The cost will be billed to the Owners' Corporation representative.

10.3 Multi-unit developments must provide each residence with a kitchen caddy for FOGO services. Where Council provides the kerbside collection service, Council provides the bins and initial FOGO caddies for each unit.

10.4 Council reserves the right to revoke shared services if bins are misused, services are unpaid, or waste guidelines are not followed. This will occur only after clear communication.

10.5 Businesses and adjacent properties may request shared bin services at Council's discretion, subject to capacity and best practice alignment.

10.6 Council will support multi-unit developments in implementing best-practice waste solutions, including additional bins, recycling hubs, or community composting, depending on the development size and structure.

10.7 All shared services will be reviewed annually to ensure they contribute to Council's waste diversion targets and meet community needs. Resident feedback will be considered.

11.0 Exemptions

11.1 Exemptions from kerbside collection may be granted for properties with access challenges, approved alternative arrangements, or exceptional circumstances, in accordance with Council guidelines.

11.2 Exemption requests must be submitted in writing by the property owner and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

11.3 Properties may qualify for an exemption under the following circumstances:

a) Properties where;

- The collection truck cannot safely access the property.
- The owner cannot reasonably transport the bins to the nearest collection point without significant hardship.

b) Properties where a development approval requires private waste arrangements.

c) Commercial and non-residential properties with private waste services.

d) Flats or units in the Designated Collection Area where the Owners' Corporation has a private waste agreement and can provide evidence.

e) Dependent relative units where a second residence is occupied by a dependent family member.

11.4 Properties meeting exemption criteria may also be exempt from Kerbside Waste Services and Charges for the duration of the exemption.

11.5 All exemption requests must be submitted in writing by the ratepayer or their representative.

11.6 In exceptional circumstances, where an application does not meet policy criteria, the Director, Assets and Operations may grant an exemption at their discretion.

12.0 Review

12.1 The Kerbside Collection and Associated Services Charge Policy will undergo a biannual review to ensure it meets community needs, aligns with sustainability goals and complies with the latest state policies. The review will assess:

- Effectiveness of education and compliance programs
- Efficiency of Kerbside collection and waste diversion
- Resident feedback on service delivery
- Opportunities to reduce landfill waste and increase recycling and FOGO participation

12.2 Any significant changes will include public consultation to ensure the policy remains responsive to community needs and emerging waste trends.

12.3 Changes or improvements will be communicated to residents via Council's website, newsletters, and other channels. Changes to the Kerbside Collection and Associated Services Charge will be included in the annual budget review.

ATTACHMENTS - 2 Documents

A Additional, Upsize and Downsize Bin Guidelines

B Shared Bin Agreement Guidelines

A: Additional, Upsize, and Downsize Bin Guidelines

All properties serviced by Council's kerbside collection service are provided a range of options for residents to customise their kerbside collection service to meet household needs. These options include requesting additional bins, upsizing existing bins, or downsizing to a smaller capacity. The objective is to support effective waste management while promoting sustainability and reducing waste to landfill.

Note: Bin exchanges are *not permitted*. All properties must use the standard Council-issued four-bin system.

1.1 Eligibility for Additional, Upsize, and Downsize Bins

To be eligible for an additional, upsized, or downsized bin, the following conditions apply:

- **Payment of Applicable Charges:** The ratepayer must agree to pay the relevant Additional bin charge, Upsize bin charge, or Downsize bin charge.
- **Ongoing Fees:** All current and administrative charges related to kerbside collection must be paid in full
- **Application Process:** A formal application must be submitted by the ratepayer or authorised agent via Council's approved process.

1.2 Available Additional Bins

Ratepayers may request the following additional bins:

- General Recycling Bin – 240L MGB
- FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) Bin – 240L MGB
- Glass only Bin -140L MGB
- General Waste Bin – 140L MGB

1.3 Available Upsize Bins

General Waste Bin (Upsize): 240L MGB (*Limited to one per property*)

1.4 Available Downsize Bins

Residents may apply to downsize their bin if their current service capacity exceeds their needs:

- General Waste Bin (Downsize): 80L MGB (for properties currently using 140L)
- Recycling Bin (Downsize): 80L or 140L MGB (for properties currently using 240L)

1.5 Conditions for Downsizing

Eligibility Assessment: Applications will be evaluated based on waste volumes and engagement in recycling and FOGO services.

Capacity Justification: Residents must demonstrate that their existing bin capacity is being consistently underutilised.

Fee Adjustment: Reduced bin size may lower associated charges, however overall service charges may still apply depending on which bin is downsized.

Annual Review: Council will review downsize requests annually to ensure alignment with municipal waste reduction goals. Resident will be required to show compliance to council officers.

1.6 Removal of Additional, Upsize, or Downsize Bins

- Requests to remove a bin must be made in writing by the property owner or authorised agent.
- No refunds will be issued for charges incurred within the current financial year.
- Bin removal may incur administrative and service fees.
- The bin will be removed as soon as practicable following the approved request.

B: Shared Bin Agreements Guidelines

Council offers shared bin services to facilitate waste management for multi-unit developments or adjacent businesses. These shared services are designed to promote efficient waste disposal and ensure the collection of waste in a sustainable manner. The following guidelines apply:

2.1 Eligibility for Shared Bin Services

Negotiation of services: Owners Corporations may negotiate bin types and quantities. Charges will be based on agreed service levels.

Kitchen Caddies: Where Council provides the FOGO service each residence within the shared arrangement will be provided with a kitchen caddy to support correct FOGO separation.

Compostable liners: A pack of AS4736/AS5810 compostable liners per Kitchen Caddy will be provided upon service commencement. Additional packs may be purchased from Council.

Evidence of Eligibility: A completed service request form and eligibility evidence must be submitted by the Owners' Corporation.

Invoicing: Approved service charges will be invoiced directly to the Owners' Corporation representative.

Non-Payment: Failure to pay fees will result in immediate termination of the shared service and reversion to standard kerbside system

2.2 Shared Bin Access and Use

Communal bin areas must be maintained by the Owners' Corporation, ensuring easy access, clear labelling, and orderly placement.

All residents must comply with bin usage and waste separation requirements, including appropriate separation of FOGO, recyclables, and general waste.

2.3 Waste Diversion and Environmental Impact

Council encourages all residents to actively participate in waste diversion initiatives. Key components include:

- **FOGO Service:** Supports diversion of organic waste from landfill.
- **Recycling Education:** Ongoing education to assist with contamination prevention and improved recycling.
- **Sustainability Targets:** Council aims to reduce landfill waste through promotion of FOGO, glass recycling, kerbside recycling and waste minimisation practices.

2.4 Review and Continuous Improvement

The Additional, Upsize, Downsize and Shared Bin Services will be reviewed each year. During the review, Council will:

1. Assess the effectiveness of differing bin sizes in reducing landfill waste.
2. Consider community feedback regarding flexibility and service suitability.
3. Ensure alignment with state regulations and best practice waste management standards.

Gender Impact Assessment

In accordance with the Gender Equality Act 2020, a Gender Impact Assessment has been conducted in relation to the subject matter of this report.

Based on findings of this assessment, it is recommended that as far as is practical, that actions are taken to ensure that the current inclusion practices continue, specifically that:

Officers examine family composition and waste needs from a GIA perspective; and

Officers to ensure communications are appropriate in terms of language, accessibility and provide available options to the community members.

These recommendations will enable a more inclusive and accessible service for the local community.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Approved collection point	Means the nature strip or any other location designated or advised by Council for collection of waste. any other location designated or advised by Council for collection of waste.
Associated Services	Means domestic waste collection and disposal, management of public place litter bins, landfill rehabilitation, waste education and minimisation initiatives and the management of waste contracts, street sweeping, dumped rubbish collection and Resource Recovery Facilities.
Collection day	The day designated by Council for General Waste, Recycling, Glass recycling and/or FOGO collection for the relevant address, as advised by Council on Council's website or Macedon Ranges Shire Council Waste App.
Collection Zone	Means the area designated by Council where Kerbside Collection Services are compulsory
Commercial waste	Any landfill, recycling, rubbish, or other waste matter arising from or generated by any trade, industry or commercial activity.
Contamination	Means the presentation of the wrong material in the wrong Mobile Garbage Bin (MGB) as per Council's Waste A-Z of what goes where Located on our website
Council	Means Macedon Ranges Shire Council, whether constituted before or after the commencement of this Policy.
Designated Collection Area	Means the area set by Council where Four-bin service collection services apply
E-waste	Any material that is powered by an electrical lead or battery operated.
FOGO	Means Food Organics Garden Organics
Kerbside Collection Charge	Means the charge applied for a Kerbside Collection Service in accordance with Clause 2.0
Kerbside Collection Service(s)	Means the collection service received for payment of the Kerbside Collection Charge in accordance with Clause 3.0
MGB	Means a Mobile Garbage Bin for either general waste, FOGO, general recycling or glass-only recycling, which is provided by Council to a property as part of the Kerbside Collection Service
Owners' Corporation	Means the same meaning as within the Owners Corporation Act 2006 but is only applicable where there are more than two (2)

	rateable assessments associated to it within a Designated Collection Area.
Private waste service	A waste collection service by a private commercial service provider.
Rates Notice	The notice issued under section 158(3) <i>Local Government Act 1989 & 2020</i>
Resource Recovery and Waste Service Charge	A charge applied to a property under sections 155 and 221 and declared under Section 162 (1) of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> for the cost of the waste services provided by Council to a property.

Related Policies

- > Waste and Resource Recovery Management Strategy 2021-2026
- > Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029
- > Community Local Law 2023 Part 4 – Community Amenity and Safety Division 4 – Waste and Resource Recovery
- > Financial Hardship Policy

Related Legislation

- > *Local Government Act 1989* and *Local Government Act 2020*
- > *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*
- > *Recycling Victoria - A New Economy Policy 2020*

Kerbside and Associated Services Charge Policy 2026 Consultation Summary

Response Number	Q1 Does the new multi-unit development section allow enough flexibility to get more uptake of the 4-bin system?	Q2 Do the new additions to bin contamination and enforcement section clarify how reinstatement of the 4-bin service will be achieved?	Q3 Is the document clear on where the waste charge is spent on associated services?	Submitters Comment	Officer comment
1	No	No	Yes	The proposed bin changes are not suitable. General waste (red) bins should be collected weekly. FOGO could be collected less frequently, and free green waste disposal at transfer stations would improve value for money.	Noted, no change to Policy. Weekly red bins would not meet the State government mandate of 80% diversion of waste from landfill by 2030 and would cost residents more to operate.
2	Yes	Yes	Yes	No comment.	Noted, no change to Policy.

3	No	No	Not Sure	Request to return to weekly general waste and recycling collections due to insufficient bin capacity. Also requesting regular hard rubbish collections similar to other councils.	Noted, no change to Policy. Weekly red & yellow bins would not meet the State government mandate of 80% diversion of waste from landfill by 2030. Kerbside hard rubbish collection has been reviewed and continues to present as high cost and inefficient, both suggestions would increase costs to residents.
4	No	No	No	Disappointed that hard rubbish collection is not included, unlike other councils. The current 4-bin system does not adequately support larger families, particularly with nappies, leading to odour and hygiene concerns. Guidance on bin placement is unclear and has resulted in missed collections.	Noted. The draft Policy has been updated with bin placement guidance added in section 3.6. Other items noted with no change to policy. Regarding red bin issues, soft plastic recycling reduces the amount in the red bin dramatically. Council also offers families rebates for reusable nappies to reduce landfill and cost of living. Kerbside hard rubbish collection has been reviewed and continues to present as high cost and inefficient, this would increase costs to residents.
5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No comment.	Noted, no change to Policy.
6	Not Sure	No	No	Concern about being held responsible for bin contents once bins are placed outside the property.	Noted, no change to Policy. When placed out the night before collection most bins are unaffected if there are any issues contact the Resource Recovery team.

7	Yes	Not sure	Not Sure	No comment.	Noted, no change to policy.
8	Not Sure	Yes	No	Suggest reducing glass bin collection frequency (e.g. quarterly or twice yearly) due to low usage.	Noted, no change to Policy. Glass collection is being monitored for collection scheduling and to date no change is required. The collection presentation rate is around 30% of households per month and the amount averages 120t saving council significant amount of money compared to sending the same material for comingled recycling.
9	Not Sure	Yes	Yes	Notes inconsistencies between sections regarding additional bins, and identifies a minor typographical error.	Noted, changes reflected in draft Policy.
10	No	No	No	Strong preference for weekly general waste collection.	Noted, no change to Policy. Weekly red bins would not meet the State government mandate of 80% diversion of waste from landfill by 2030 and would cost residents more to operate.
11	No	No	No	Suggest reverting to a two-bin system or increasing general waste bin size without additional cost. Also proposes free tip passes to better support residents.	Noted, no change to Policy. A two bin service would not meet the State government mandate of 80% diversion of waste from landfill by 2030 and would cost residents more to operate. Undertaking soft plastic recycling reduces the amount in the red bin dramatically.

12	Not Sure	Yes	Not Sure	Questions the relevance of gender considerations within a waste management policy.	Noted, no change to Policy. All Council policies and reports to Scheduled Council Meetings are required to include the provisions of the Gender Equality Act 2020.
13	Not Sure	Not Sure	Not Sure	Raises concern about the inclusion of gender equality considerations in the policy.	Noted, no change to Policy. All Council policies and reports to Scheduled Council Meetings are required to include the provisions of the Gender Equality Act 2020.
14	Yes	Yes	Yes	Suggest providing at least one annual hard rubbish collection or a free tip pass.	Noted, no change to Policy. Resource recovery facilities are subsidised using the waste charge to keep the cost of disposing of hard waste items as low as possible. Kerbside hard rubbish collection has been reviewed and continues to present as high cost and inefficient, this would increase costs to residents.
15	Yes	Not sure	Not sure	No comment.	Noted, no change to Policy
16	Yes	Yes	Yes	No comment.	Noted, no change to Policy

17	Not Sure	No	No	Concern about affordability and avoiding further charges.	Noted, no change to policy. The 4-bin system is a part of meeting the State government mandate of diverting 80% of waste from landfill. Landfill is increasing in cost and will very soon run out. The system we have helps to keep the cost of disposal as low as possible
18	No	No	No	Concern that managing four bins may be difficult for elderly people or those with disabilities.	Noted, no change to Policy. Smaller bins makes it possible for the elderly to move their own bins assisting them in staying independent longer.
19	Not Sure	Not sure	Yes	Document is lengthy and could be simplified. Suggest smaller glass bins due to low usage.	Noted, no change to Policy. Waste is a complex area and a shorter document is difficult to create. The bin must be able to be picked up by the same arm that collects the other bins. Residents do not need to wait for their glass bin to be full before presenting it. Glass collection is being monitored for collection scheduling and to date no change is required.

20	Not Sure	Not Sure	Not Sure	Suggest providing tip passes to help reduce illegal dumping.	Noted, no change to Policy. A lot of dumped waste is not by local residents but is from small waste operators being paid to collect small amounts of household or building waste and instead of taking it to the legal disposal point, they dump it on a rural road. Council is finalising a dumped rubbish plan to address this issue.
21	Not Sure	Yes	Yes	No comment.	Noted, no change to Policy
22	blank	blank	blank	Request at least one annual hard rubbish collection or multiple tip passes, and raises concerns about overall service value.	Noted, no change to Policy. Resource recovery facilities are subsidised using the waste charge to keep the cost of disposing of hard waste items as low as possible. Kerbside hard rubbish collection has been reviewed and continues to present as high cost and inefficient, this would increase costs to residents.
23	No	No	No	Strong dissatisfaction with the current system and perceived lack of community benefit.	Noted, no change to Policy. The 4-bin system is a part of meeting the State government mandate of diverting 80% of waste from landfill. Landfill is increasing in cost and will very soon run out. The system we have helps to keep the cost of disposal as low as possible

24	No	No	Yes	Request for tip passes and/or annual hard rubbish collection.	Noted, no change to Policy. Resource recovery facilities are subsidised using the waste charge to keep the cost of disposing of hard waste items as low as possible. Kerbside hard rubbish collection has been reviewed and continues to present as high cost and inefficient, this would increase costs to residents.
25	Yes	Not sure	Not Sure	Suggest periodic hard rubbish collection. Notes challenges with excess cardboard from deliveries exceeding recycling bin capacity.	Noted, no change to Policy. Cardboard, polystyrene, ewaste and textiles are free year-round at the 3 resource recovery facilities in addition to Kerbside collection. Kerbside hard rubbish collection has been reviewed and continues to present as high cost and inefficient, this would increase costs to residents.
26	Not sure	Not sure	No	No comment.	Noted, no change to Policy
27	No	No	No	Request reinstatement of weekly general waste collection.	Noted, no change to Policy. The 4-bin system is a part of meeting the State government mandate of diverting 80% of waste from landfill. Landfill is increasing in cost and will very soon run out. The system we have helps to keep the cost of disposal as low as possible

28	Yes	Yes	No	No comment.	Noted, no change to Policy
29	No	No	Not Sure	Suggest weekly general waste collection. Also requests flexibility to opt out of the green bin where alternatives exist, and provision of tip passes during fire reduction periods.	Noted, no change to Policy Weekly red bins would not meet the State government mandate of 80% diversion of waste from landfill by 2030 and would cost residents more to operate. Council's kerbside services are all inclusive, there is no opt out provision. Free green waste disposal is provided over two weeks a year plus two vouchers for trailers to use anytime.
30	No	No	No	Suggest clearer communication using simple visuals or education campaigns to improve correct bin usage.	Noted, no change to Policy. A good point and we are making our communications as accessible as possible.
31	Yes	Yes	Not Sure	No comment.	Noted, no change to Policy
32	Yes	Yes	Yes	Positive feedback: the waste system is seen as leading practice, particularly the soft plastics recycling initiative.	Noted, no change to Policy. Soft plastic separation is a big change in what is collected in the red bin, approximately 30% of the Shire is now participating
33	Not Sure	No	No	No comment.	Noted, no change to policy
34	Not Sure	Not sure	No	Reports issues with the council app bin collection calendar not functioning and difficulty obtaining support.	Noted, no change to Policy. Item followed up by officers, a few residents were required to reload and refresh the App. A new App is coming soon.

35	No	Not sure	No	Suggest removing the glass bin and incorporating glass and soft plastics into recycling.	Noted. no change to Policy. Glass is heavy and is cost effective to process when separated. If bagged it would be crushed in the truck and shred the bag. There are significant cost benefits to residents by not sending glass to comingled recycling. Glass collection is being monitored for collection scheduling and to date no change is required.
36	Yes	Not sure	Yes	Suggest improved communication about contamination, including visual indicators. Also proposes a community-focused hard rubbish reuse event.	Noted, no change to Policy. With the new collection trucks comes better technology for capturing contamination, we will be using this information to inform education campaigns and directly target contaminants. Kerbside hard rubbish collection has been reviewed and continues to present as high cost and inefficient, this would increase costs to residents.
37	Not Sure	Yes	Yes	Questions whether the policies have been trialled and requests more visibility on bin options. Emphasises the importance of addressing contamination.	Noted, no change to Policy. This is a reviewed Policy, most of the policy is not new and has been fully tested, such as contamination issues. Bin sizes is new as is bin numbers for multi unit developments.

38	Not Sure	Yes	Yes	Strong preference for weekly general waste collection due to odour, hygiene, and pest concerns, particularly with nappies.	Noted, no change to Policy. Regarding the red bin issues, soft plastic recycling reduces the amount in the red bin dramatically. Council offers families rebates for reusable nappies to reduce landfill and cost of living. Weekly red bins would not meet the State Government mandate of 80% diversion of waste from landfill by 2030 and would increase cost residents.
39	Yes	Yes	Yes	No comment.	Noted, no change to Policy

Survey Question Response Summary					
	No		Not sure		total
Q1	12	(31%)	15	(38%)	39
Q2	14	(36%)	11	(28%)	39
Q3	15	(38%)	10	(26%)	39

AO.2	RESPONSE TO PETITION REGARDING URGENT REPLACEMENT OF THE LIFT AT KYNETON TOYOTA SPORTS & AQUATIC CENTRE
Officer:	Jarrold Westwood, Manager Aquatics, Recreation and Facilities
Council Plan relationship:	Our Places
Attachments:	J000573 Kyneton Sports and Aquatic Centre CAN ↓

Summary

A petition has been received from Pam Galbraith of Kyneton on behalf of 39 residents requesting that Council urgently replace the lift at the Kyneton Sports and Aquatic Centre (KSAC) to ensure reliable access to the upstairs Studio space.

This report responds to the petition and outlines the current status of the lift, accessibility considerations, interim management measures, and future infrastructure planning implications.

The existing lift is at the end of its operational life and has experienced repeated outages over the past two years. Specialist advice indicates that replacement would require construction of a new compliant lift shaft and associated building works, with an estimated project cost of approximately \$600,000.

Council engaged Get Skilled Australia (GSA) – Senior Access Consultants to undertake an independent accessibility assessment of the facility and current arrangements.

While the current situation presents challenges for some users accessing the upstairs Studio, Council has continued to provide alternative accessible venues and is proposing an interim accessibility management approach while future capital funding requirements are considered through Council's broader asset and budget planning processes.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Receives and notes the petition submitted on behalf of residents regarding lift access at the Kyneton Sports and Aquatic Centre.**
2. **Notes that the existing lift is at the end of its operational life and that replacement of the lift and lift shaft is estimated to cost approximately \$600,000.**
3. **Notes the findings and recommendations of the Get Skilled Australia Accessibility Assessment report J000573.**
4. **Refers consideration of lift replacement funding to Council's annual budget and long-term capital planning processes.**
5. **Develops and implements an Interim Accessibility Management Plan for affected users of the upstairs Studio space, including:**
 - (a) **ongoing engagement with user groups and affected individuals;**
 - (b) **provision of alternative accessible spaces where required;**
 - (c) **operational protocols during lift outages; and**
 - (d) **review of future accessibility requirements for the facility.**

6. Meets with the petition submitter and affected user groups to communicate the outcome of this report and discuss interim arrangements.

Background

Council has received a petition from Pam Galbraith of Kyneton on behalf of 39 residents requesting that Council “urgently replace the lift to ensure continuing reliable access to all users” at the Kyneton Sports and Aquatic Centre (KSAC).

The petition relates to the temporary but repeated outages of the existing lift servicing the upstairs Studio space. These outages have impacted access for some community members who rely on lift access to participate in activities conducted within the Studio.

The upstairs Studio is currently used by a range of community and fitness groups, including U3A Kyneton. Council officers have previously worked with affected users to identify alternative accessible spaces during lift outages, including the Kyneton Stadium courts and Red Brick Hall. While alternative venues have been available, some user groups have identified concerns regarding suitability for their activities.

The existing lift has reached the end of its useful operational life. Specialist advice indicates that replacement of the lift would require construction of a new compliant lift shaft and associated building modifications to meet current accessibility and building standards.

Council has engaged GSA – Senior Access Consultants to undertake an independent accessibility assessment of the current arrangements and available options. The final report is attached as appendix 1.

Discussion

One of Council’s priorities within the Council Plan is ensuring community infrastructure is accessible, fit for purpose, and able to meet the needs of current and future generations.

Council acknowledges the importance of equitable access to community facilities and recognises the impact that repeated lift outages have had on affected users of the upstairs Studio space at KSAC.

The current lift has experienced increasing reliability issues over the past two years. While servicing and maintenance have continued, advice from Council’s lift contractor indicates the lift is nearing the end of its operational life and ongoing outages are likely to continue.

KONE has advised that the operational life of the existing lift may potentially be extended for a limited period through operational restrictions and modified usage arrangements. However, these measures do not remove the likelihood of future outages and are considered an interim management response only.

A full replacement of the lift would require significant capital investment, including:

- removal of the existing lift infrastructure;
- construction of a new compliant lift shaft;
- building and structural modifications;
- electrical and fire compliance upgrades; and
- procurement and installation of a replacement lift system.

The current estimated project cost is approximately \$600,000, with procurement lead times of up to 22 weeks once funding and design requirements are confirmed.

Council currently spends approximately \$7,000 per annum on lift servicing, maintenance and callout costs.

As part of Council's response to the petition, GSA – Senior Access Consultants were engaged to assess the accessibility of the facility, including the upstairs Studio access arrangements and alternative options available to users. The report recommends the lift is restored or replaced, with all activities currently conducted in the Level 1 multi-purpose room temporarily relocated to a Ground Floor location.

While the lift outages have affected a limited number of users directly requiring lift access, Council recognises that accessibility considerations are broader than user numbers alone and must be considered within the context of equitable participation, reasonable adjustments, operational feasibility, and long-term infrastructure planning.

Given the significant capital investment required, the age and configuration of the existing facility, and the availability of alternative accessible venues within Kyneton, it is recommended that Council continue to manage access through interim arrangements while future funding priorities are considered through Council's broader capital planning and budget processes.

To support this approach, Council officers propose the development of an Interim Accessibility Management Plan for the upstairs Studio space. This plan would provide a structured framework for:

- engagement with affected users and user groups;
- managing future lift outages;
- identifying suitable alternative accessible venues where required; and
- informing future accessibility planning and infrastructure investment decisions.

Consultation and engagement

Engagement has occurred with relevant Council officers, user groups, lift contractors, and accessibility consultants in preparation of this report.

Council officers have engaged with U3A Kyneton and other affected users regarding alternative accessible venue arrangements during lift outages.

Council has also engaged GSA – Senior Access Consultants to undertake an independent accessibility assessment and provide recommendations regarding the accessibility of the upstairs Studio space and associated access arrangements.

Collaboration

Collaboration was not required for this report

Innovation and continuous improvement

The proposed Interim Accessibility Management Plan will provide a structured and proactive framework to support accessibility outcomes for affected users while informing longer-term infrastructure planning and future investment decisions.

Relevant law

Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* requires organisations to provide equitable access and reasonable adjustments where appropriate, having regard to operational feasibility, proportionality, and available alternatives.

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment was considered in relation to the subject matter of this report.

While the report relates primarily to infrastructure accessibility and asset management, equitable access to community facilities supports participation and inclusion outcomes across the community. The recommendations within this report are considered unlikely to result in a significant or disproportionate gender impact.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

Inclusive Victoria: State Disability Plan (2022-2026)

Relevant Council plans and policies

Our Places 1.2 Our community infrastructure is accessible, fit for purpose, and meets the needs of current and future generations:

- improve the accessibility of our physical spaces and places so that people with disabilities are not excluded.
- facilitate equitable participation of people with disabilities in Council programs and services, and in other activities taking place across our shire.

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile?

Not applicable

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services?

Not applicable

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios?

Not applicable

Financial viability

The estimated cost to replace the lift and associated infrastructure is approximately \$600,000.

Any future project funding would be subject to Council's annual budget and long-term financial planning processes.

Sustainability implications

The proposed interim management approach will support continued accessibility outcomes while enabling future infrastructure planning to align with long-term sustainability, accessibility, and community use considerations.

AI use disclosure

Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. For this report:

- AI tools were used for analysis or synthesis of information, for example summarising documents or identifying themes. Outputs were verified and validated by Council officers.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

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.

Consultant Advice Notice (Access)

for

Kyneton Toyota Sports and Aquatics Centre

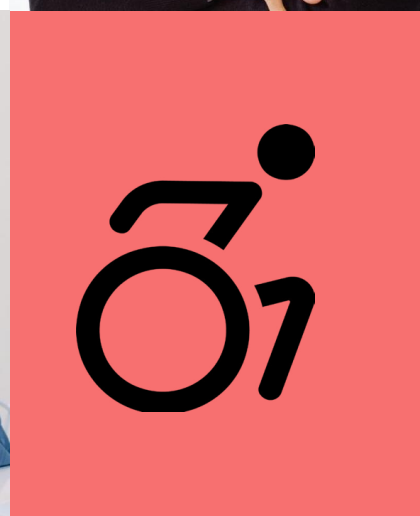
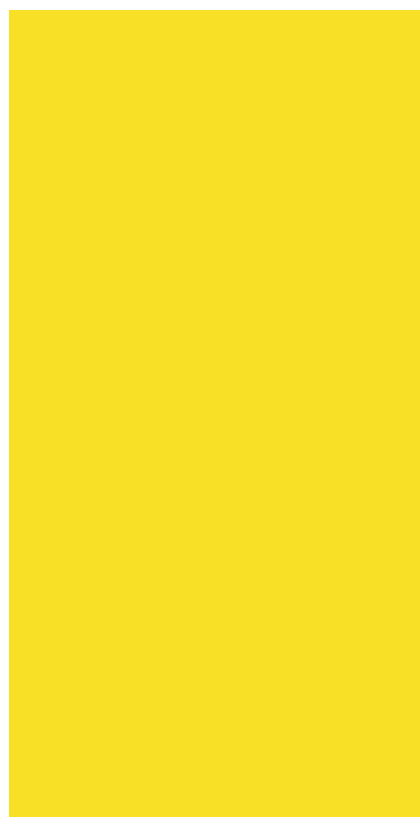
4 Victoria St, Kyneton VIC 3444

prepared for

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Reference No.: J000573

Date: 03/06/26



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Get Skilled Access acknowledges the Traditional Custodians on whose ancestral lands we live and work and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country. We also pay our respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their nations across Australia.



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Although all due care has been taken in the preparation of this document, no warranty is given, nor liability accepted (except that required by law) in relation to the information contained within this document. The advice given is based on a professional judgement and an assessment of the information that could be derived at the time of the writing the report. Opinions, judgments, and recommendations detailed in this document, are based on our understanding and interpretation of current statutory and regulatory obligations and standards and should not be construed as legal opinions. It is important to note that following the recommendations within this report will not in itself provide exemption from action under the DDA.

The process of accessibility under the DDA is much broader than just the built environment; it covers management issues, staff approach and training and ongoing maintenance issues. It is important to note that as with all aspects of the built environment, there is often more than one way of resolving any issue identified. It is for the client to ultimately assess the recommendations put forward and fully assess their suitability for the proposal and the likely use(s) that they will be used and how the completed project will operate in practice.

Please note no other access issues have been assessed within this report, and it is assumed that all other access compliance issues will be addressed by the Regulating Building Surveyor.

Ref: J000573 03.06.26
CAN – Kyneton Toyota Sports and Aquatic Centre

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1. Introduction

Get Skilled Access, accredited access consultants, has been engaged by Macedon Ranges Shire Council to undertake a passenger lift accessibility assessment and provide advice / recommendation on the existing lift at the Kyneton Toyota Sports and Aquatic Centre, located at 4 Victoria St, Kyneton VIC 3444.

It is understood the lift has recently failed on several occasions. This report is intended to provide an assessment on the accessibility of the lift, its compliance with legislation and referenced standards, and to provide recommendation on options to return the lift to operation and hence reinstate a continuous access path of travel to the Level 1 Multi-purpose room.

The information within this report is based upon a visual walkthrough inspection, conducted by Tanisha Simunic, accredited access consultant, on 27th May 2026. The findings of the lift assessment form part of this report and recommendations.

2. Building Description

Building function	Sports and Aquatic Centre
Building class	9b
New/existing	existing
New/affected part triggered?	n/a
Who is initiating works?	n/a
Lessee concession applicable?	n/a
Occupant profile	staff, public (including members, hirers)

3. Referenced Documentation

This report references the following documents:

- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)*
- *Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2024 (Premises Standards)*
- *Building Code of Australia 2022 Amdt 2 (BCA)*
- *Australian Standard AS 1428.1 (2021) - Design for access and mobility, Part 1: General requirements for access – New building work (AS 1428.1)*
- *Australian Standard AS 1735.12 (1999) – Lifts, escalators and moving walks Part 12: Facilities for persons with disabilities (AS 1735.12)*

Ref: J000573 03.06.26

CAN – Kyneton Toyota Sports and Aquatic Centre

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This report identifies clauses from the *Building Code of Australia 2022 Amdt 2* (BCA) and Australian Standards referenced within the BCA and not the Commonwealth *Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2024* (Premises Standards).

As the BCA access provisions identified within this report are also included within Schedule 1 of the Premises Standards, if reference is made to the BCA, it is also consistent with the provisions of the Premises Standards.

4. Building Legislation

BCA Part D4D2(8) – General building access requirements

As the building is a Class 9b building, access is required to be provided as follows:

- An assembly building, not being a school or early childhood centre — to and within
- wheelchair seating spaces provided in accordance with D4D10; and
 - **all other areas normally used by the occupants**, except that access need not be provided to tiers or platforms of seating areas that do not contain wheelchair seating spaces.

For the subject building being a sports and aquatic centre, access for staff and public is required to and within all areas normally used, including the Level 1 Multi-purpose room.

BCA Part D4D4(f) – Parts of buildings to be accessible

The BCA also instructs where a building is required to be accessible:

- A ramp complying with AS 1428.1 or a passenger lift need not be provided to serve a storey or level other than the entrance storey in a Class 5, 6, 7b or 8 building—
- containing not more than 3 storeys; and
 - with a floor area for each storey, excluding the entrance storey, of not more than 200 m².

The above requirement **does not apply** to a Class 9b building, and as such, a ramp complying with AS 1428.1 or a passenger lift to serve Level 1 is required.

BCA Part D4D5 – Exemptions

The following areas are not required to be accessible:

- (a) An area where access would be inappropriate because of the particular purpose for which the area is used.
- (b) An area that would pose a health or safety risk for people with a disability.
- (c) Any path of travel providing access only to an area exempted by (a) or (b).

The above exemption **does not apply** to the Level 1 Multi-purpose room, and as such, access to that area is required.

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CAN – Kyneton Toyota Sports and Aquatic Centre

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E3D7 - Passenger lift types and their limitations

- (1) In an accessible building, every passenger lift must be one of the following lift types, subject to the limitations (if any) of each lift type:
 - (a) There are no limitations on the use of electric passenger lifts, electrohydraulic passenger lifts or inclined lifts.
 - (b) Stairway platform lifts must not—
 - (i) be used to serve a space in a building accommodating more than 100 persons calculated according to D2D18; or
 - (ii) be used in a high traffic public use area such as a theatre, cinema, auditorium, transport interchange, shopping centre or the like; or
 - (iii) be used where it is possible to install another type of passenger lift; or
 - (iv) connect more than 2 storeys; or
 - (v) where more than 1 stairway lift is installed, serve more than 2 consecutive storeys; or
 - (vi) when in the folded position, encroach on the minimum width of a stairway required by D2D8 to D2D11.
 - (c) A low-rise platform lift must not travel more than 1000 mm.
 - (d) A low-rise, low-speed constant pressure lift must not—
 - (i) for an enclosed type, travel more than 4 m; or
 - (ii) for an unenclosed type, travel more than 2 m; or
 - (iii) be used in a high traffic public use areas in buildings such as a theatre, cinema, auditorium, transport interchange, shopping complex or the like.
 - (e) A small-sized, low-speed automatic lift must not travel more than 12 m.
- (2) A passenger lift referred to in (1) must not rely on a constant pressure device for its operation if the lift car is fully enclosed.

For the subject building, an electric passenger lift has been installed, which does not have limitations for use.

E3D8 - Accessible features required for passenger lifts

In an accessible building, every passenger lift must have the following features where applicable (as it applies to the subject building):

BCA Part	Requirement	Subject lift complies?	Comments
(a)	A handrail complying with the provisions for a mandatory handrail in AS 1735.12	Yes	
(c)	Lift floor dimensions of not less than 1100 mm wide x 1400 mm deep for all lifts which travel not more than 12m.	Yes	
(e)	Minimum clear door opening (900mm) complying with AS 1735.12.	Yes	
(f)	Passenger protection system complying with AS 1735.12.	Yes	
(g)	Lift landing doors at the upper landing.	Yes	
(h)	Lift car and landing control buttons complying with AS 1735.12.	No	Replace the car and landing buttons. See Section 5.

Ref: J000573 03.06.26

CAN – Kyneton Toyota Sports and Aquatic Centre

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(i)	Lighting in accordance with AS 1735.12 for all enclosed lift cars.	N/A	Not assessed in this review.
(k)	Emergency hands-free communication, including a button that alerts a call centre of a problem and a light to signal that the call has been received.	N/A	Not assessed in this review.

5. Passenger Lift Assessment

Through the inspection process, the following items have been identified as a departure to DtS requirements within referenced standards of the National Construction Code (NCC)/BCA:

- 1) Lift car and landing control buttons:
 - (a) The communication button was not located on the right-hand end of the lowest row of control buttons (AS 1735.12 Clause 7.2.2).
 - (b) The communication button visible symbol was not as per Fig 8.4.2.
 - (c) The control buttons did not have continuous illumination from within the button, or the coloured border contrast could not be verified for the luminance factor (AS 1735.12 Clause 7.4.8)
 - (d) The open and close door buttons within the car did not have a Braille equivalent adjacent to or on the button (AS 1735.12 Clause 7.4.9)

6. Stairway Assessment

The existing stairway adjoining the Ground and Level 1 Multi-purpose room was also assessed for compliance, as the likelihood for use may increase due to the risk of the lift malfunctioning.

The subject stairway is likely considered to be a non-fire isolated stairway. As such, general stairway provisions are required in accordance with BCA Part D4D4(a)(ii):

In a building required to be accessible—

- (a) every ramp and stairway, except for ramps and stairways in areas exempted by D4D5, must comply with—
 - (i) for a ramp, except a fire-isolated ramp, clause 10 of AS 1428.1; and
 - (ii) **for a stairway, except a fire-isolated stairway, clause 11 of AS 1428.1;** and
 - (iii) for a fire-isolated stairway, clause 11.1(f) and (g) of AS 1428.1

Through the inspection process, the following items have been identified as a departure to DtS requirements within referenced standards of the National Construction Code (NCC)/BCA:

- 1) The stairway handrails have not been provided with compliant handrail extensions to top and bottom flight landings (AS 1428.1).
- 2) The luminance contrast of the Tactile Ground Indicators, and nosings could not be verified, where they are required to contrast 30% to the background surface (AS1428.1).

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7. Recommendations

Based on the assessment within this report, the only viable short-term option to restore lift services, is to engage an appropriately qualified and experienced lift contractor to continue with the fault-finding process to identify the root cause of the current technical issues which is preventing the existing lift from being returned to normal service.

To ensure all building occupants are able to access the Level 1 Multi-purpose room, we recommend the existing passenger lift is serviced and/or replaced to functional working order. To ensure a replacement lift complies with NCC/BCA requirements and referenced standards, we recommend an accredited access consultant reviews potential product specifications prior to ordering.

We understand it can take several months to prepare full lift replacement tender documentation, tender the works, evaluate the results, decide on the successful contractor, formalise the Contract documents and finally to order the new equipment. Current procurement timeframes for new lift equipment would need to consider manufacture and shipping the new lift equipment to Australia prior to any work commencing on the site. Therefore, this extended procurement timeframe needs to be considered by the building Owners as part of their forward planning process.

Considering this, we recommend that all activities currently held in the Level 1 Multi-purpose room is temporarily relocated to a Ground Floor location until the passenger lift is in working order to ensure the safety of all building occupants.

We also recommend the existing stairway is upgraded to ensure compliant handrails, TGSIs and nosings are installed.

We strongly encourage the development of an emergency evacuation plan for people with disability, in consultation with local fire services, should a future emergency restrict egress to stairways only. A stairway evacuation chair could also be considered and stored within the Level 1 stairway landing for emergency egress support to people with mobility disability, including wheelchair users. Appropriate training would need to be provided for its use.

It is in our opinion the above recommendations will meet the Performance Requirements of the NCC to the degree necessary.

Should you require any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned via tanisha.simunic@getskilledaccess.com.au or on 1800 329 049.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TS'.

TANISHA SIMUNIC
Disability Access Consultant
Association of Consultants in Access Australia Inc.
Accredited Membership No. 527

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AO.3	RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - MANAGEMENT OF LANCEFIELD PARK
Officer:	Simon Finlay, Manager Parks, Civil Services and Resource Recovery
Council Plan relationship:	Our Places
Attachments:	Nil

Summary

This report responds to Notice of Motion No. 15/2025-26 and provides Council with an overview of the current management arrangements, operational considerations, financial implications, governance options and associated risks relating to the Lancefield Park Precinct.

The report does not seek a decision regarding transfer of management responsibility. Rather, it provides information to assist Council in considering potential future governance and management pathways for the precinct.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Notes this report in response to the Notice of Motion No. 15/2025-26 regarding the management arrangements of Lancefield Park.**
- 2. Requests officers prepare a further report exploring potential future governance and management options for Lancefield Park, including operational, financial, asset management, risk and advocacy considerations, in consultation with the Lancefield Park Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and relevant State Government agencies.**

Background

Lancefield Park is Crown land owned by the State Government and currently managed by the Lancefield Park Recreations Reserve Committee of Management (LPRRCoM), a volunteer community-based Committee of Management appointed under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act.

The Committee currently has management responsibility for three Crown land parcels within Lancefield comprising:

- Lancefield Park;
- the reserve area associated with the Men's Shed and Lancefield kindergarten; and
- the reserve area located behind Lancefield Primary School.

Lancefield Park is the primary recreation and sporting precinct within Lancefield and supports a broad range of sporting, recreation and community activities including football, cricket, bowls, pony club, walking, playground use, skate facilities and community events. Unlike most major sporting reserves and open space precincts across the municipality.

Lancefield Park is not owned or directly managed by Macedon Ranges Shire Council. As a result, the level of direct operational support provided by Council differs from arrangements that apply at many other Council-managed recreation reserves throughout the Shire.

Discussion

In March 2025, Council noted the Lancefield Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2025. The Master Plan establishes a long-term vision for the precinct and identifies a range of future recreation, sporting and community infrastructure opportunities. The Master Plan remains unfunded, and implementation responsibility currently rests with the Committee of Management.

Council has previously contributed funding toward a range of projects and operational activities within the precinct, including:

- \$64,000 sportsground lighting;
- \$45,000 goal netting;
- \$40,000 preparation of the Master Plan; and
- \$20,000 annual maintenance contribution.

In recent years, concerns have increasingly been raised by the Committee of Management and user groups regarding the sustainability of the current volunteer management model, which includes;

- maintenance and asset renewal pressures;
- increasing compliance obligations;
- safety and risk management responsibilities; and
- the ability to deliver the aspirations identified within the Master Plan.

These concerns have contributed to broader discussion regarding potential future governance and management arrangements for the precinct.

Current Governance and Management Arrangements

The Lancefield Park Recreations Reserve Committee of Management is responsible for the day-to-day management of the reserve under delegation from the State Government.

The Committee's responsibilities include:

- site maintenance and coordination;
- facility management;
- lease and licence management;
- compliance responsibilities;
- financial management;
- user group coordination; and
- oversight of public safety and risk management obligations associated with the reserve.

The current management model relies heavily on volunteers to coordinate and oversee these functions. The Committee receives income from a limited number of sources including:

- user group fees;

- lease arrangements;
- a telecommunications lease;
- project grants; and
- Council maintenance contributions.

Council currently provides limited direct operational support compared to reserves under direct Council management. Support is generally provided through:

- annual maintenance contributions;
- grant support assistance;
- project delivery support;
- strategic planning assistance;
- playground safety audits; and
- advocacy support where appropriate.

Sustainability of the Current Model

The current volunteer management model is increasingly experiencing capacity and sustainability pressures.

The Committee of Management has advised that increasing compliance obligations, ageing volunteer membership, declining volunteer participation and succession capacity, limited financial resources and growing maintenance expectations are making it increasingly difficult to manage the precinct at the standard expected by the community.

These challenges also reflect a broader trend being experienced across many volunteer and community organisations, where attracting and retaining volunteers for governance and operational roles are becoming increasingly difficult.

Several of the user groups have similarly raised concerns regarding:

- deteriorating infrastructure;
- tree safety;
- oval condition;
- pavilion suitability;
- playground and skatepark maintenance; and
- the increasing burden being placed on volunteers.

Several stakeholders also expressed concern that the current governance model may not be sustainable over the longer term without additional operational support, investment or governance reform.

Asset and Infrastructure Pressures

The Lancefield Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan identified a number of infrastructure renewal and upgrade priorities across the precinct. Key priority projects identified include:

- reconstruction of the main oval including drainage, irrigation and fencing works; and upgrade and expansion of the Laurie Green Pavilion to support football, cricket and increasing female participation in sport.
- Indicative capital costs identified through previous assessments are: Main oval reconstruction — approximately \$1.25 million; and

- Laurie Green Pavilion upgrade — approximately \$2.4 million.

These figures are indicative only and subject to future scoping, design development and market testing.

Risk and Compliance Considerations

The current governance model places significant responsibility on volunteers to manage:

- public safety;
- tree management;
- building compliance/Essential Safety Measures;
- occupational health and safety obligations;
- contractor management;
- lease administration; and
- asset maintenance and management oversight.

The increasing complexity of these obligations has been identified as a growing challenge for the existing Committee of Management.

Potential Future Governance Models

This section outlines a range of governance pathways that could be considered in the future. The inclusion of these models does not represent a preferred position of Council.

Option 1 – Status Quo

Under this model:

- the Committee of Management would retain land manager responsibility for the reserve;
- Council would continue to provide limited operational and project support;
- the State Government would remain landowner.

Potential considerations include:

- continued reliance on volunteers;
- limited operational capacity;
- potential user group disruption associated with ageing or increasingly constrained facilities;
- ongoing funding pressures; and
- potential difficulty progressing major capital projects.

Option 2 – Shared or Hybrid Arrangement

Under this model:

- the Committee of Management would remain in place;
- Council may assume responsibility for selected operational or maintenance functions;
- governance responsibilities may be shared through a formal agreement.

Potential considerations include:

- improved operational support;

- more complex governance arrangements;
- shared liability considerations; and
- the requirement for State Government support and approval.

Previous discussions with DEECA have indicated limitations regarding partial transfer arrangements.

Option 3 – Full Transfer of Management to Council

Under this model:

- Council would become the appointed land manager (Committee of Management);
- the current Committee of Management structure would cease with possible transition to an advisory model or Friends of group;
- Council would integrate the reserve into its broader recreation reserve management framework.

Potential considerations include:

- clearer governance accountability;
- increased operational consistency;
- improved alignment with other Council-managed reserves and greater consistency in service delivery across the municipality;
- increased financial responsibility for Council and additional recurrent operational costs; and
- transfer of legal and risk obligations.

Any future transfer would require negotiation and agreement with the current Committee of Management and State Government.

Consultation and engagement

Council has been approached by the existing Committee of Management to discuss the possibility Council taking on all or part of the responsibilities of the Committee of Management.

Should Council wish to further explore future governance changes, discussions with the State Government would be required regarding:

- funding support;
- transition arrangements;
- building condition assessments, compliance requirements and renewal liabilities;
- future capital investment; and
- long-term management expectations.

The timing of future State budget processes and the 2026 State election may provide opportunities for advocacy regarding the future of the precinct and associated infrastructure investment.

Subject to the outcome of this report, further consultation with the existing Committee of Management and the community will be required.

Collaboration

Initial discussion has taken place between the existing Committee of Management, Department Energy, Environment and Climate Action and Council regarding possible future management options.

Innovation and continuous improvement

Not applicable to this matter.

Relevant law

Council has not sought any legal advice in relation to this matter. However, subject to any future resolution, legal advice may be required.

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment was not required in relation to the subject matter of this report. However, should the governance model for land management of current LPRRCoM responsibilities transfer to Council a Gender Impact Assessment will be required to be prepared.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

Not applicable to this report.

Relevant Council plans and policies

Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy is relevant to this matter as it outlines Councils provision of sport and recreation opportunities across the Shire.

Council's Financial Plan 2025-2035 is also relevant to this matter should Council become the Committee of Management for Lancefield Park and take on the maintenance and renewal implications as outlined in this report.

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile?

Any impact to Council's energy use and greenhouse emissions will be subject to the future management model.

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services?

N/A

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios?

N/A

Financial viability

Preliminary high-level estimates prepared through earlier assessments indicate that annual operational and maintenance costs associated with the reserve may be in the order of approximately \$340,500 per annum, should Council assume a level of service generally consistent with other Council-managed reserves.

These indicative costs include:

- \$180,000 open space maintenance;
- \$145,000 facility maintenance;

- \$6,500 civil maintenance activities; and
- \$9,000 waste management services.

The figures do not include:

- major capital upgrades including oval reconstruction and future pavilion redevelopment;
- renewal backlog works;
- asset replacement costs;
- additional staffing requirements;
- lifecycle renewal funding; or
- any upgraded level of service.

Further detailed due diligence, asset condition assessment and lifecycle modelling would be required before any future management transfer could be considered.

Sustainability implications

Not applicable to this matter.

AI use disclosure

Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. For this report:

- AI tools were used for drafting assistance, for example generating initial text, summaries or alternative wording. All content was reviewed, edited and approved by Council officers.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

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.

16 NOTICES OF MOTION AND RESCISSION

Nil

17 URGENT BUSINESS

18 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil