



Yarriambiack Shire Council

Annual Report

2016-17





Yarriambiack
SHIRE COUNCIL

Three strong elements make up the Yarriambiack Shire Council logo: wheat, land and the Yarriambiack Creek.

The logo embraces all three images in a neat and stylish representation, intertwining as a consolidated unit.

Relaxing by Beulah Weir Pool



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1. THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Places & Faces of Yarriambiack

Yarriambiack Shire Council offers a relaxed atmosphere, affordable housing options, a safe and healthy family environment and easy access to public land, lakes and recreational activities.

But what makes our Municipality a true community, beyond the Yarriambiack Creek, parks, buildings and lakes, is the people who call this place their home. With the pictorial theme 'Places & Faces of Yarriambiack' we are recognising and paying tribute to the people who make our Municipality such a vibrant, special place – the families and children, students and business owners, the 'born and bred' and the newly arrived.

HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

This report is structured around the strategic priorities from the Council Plan 2013 - 2017:

1. Community Engagement
2. Responsible Management
3. Asset Management
4. Sustaining the Economy & Environment

Yarriambiack Shire Council's Annual Report 2016/17 details performance against the Council Plan 2013–2017 and the 2016/17 Budget. Over the duration of the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, this report provides an honest assessment of the challenges Council faces within this Municipality and celebrates its achievements in delivering high quality community services and infrastructure. Such reporting provides the Yarriambiack Shire community and other important stakeholders with the assurance that Council spends ratepayer funds responsibly and makes good decisions for the benefit of residents, business owners and visitors.

This Annual Report fulfils Council's responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 1989* and other legislation and complies with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.



65
Planning applications received.

77  
Building Permits were issued with a total value of \$6,367,244.  



1,718
tonnes of waste collected.



374 Fire Prevention Notices issued.

Yarriambiack Shire Council

in numbers

580

visitors to the library.



1,664

dogs and cats were registered for the 2016-17 financial year.



12,043 hours of ageing and disability care support provided.

\$10,233,529.63

rate revenue collected for the 2016-17 financial year.



Sheep Hills Silo's (image by Mark Playdon, Aerial Digital Technology)



Yarriambiack Shire Council Mayor, Graham Massey

A message from the Mayor

On behalf of Yarriambiack Shire Council it is a great pleasure to present Council's Annual Report for the year 2016-2017.

I have enjoyed my year as Mayor and leader of a Council that has worked hard to represent the residents of Yarriambiack Shire.

The Victorian *Local Government Act (1989)* requires all Councils to provide an Annual Report to the Minister for Local Government by 30 September each year. The Annual Report is an important document that provides a transparent record of the Shire Council's performance in addressing the strategic objectives that are set out in the Council Plan. The report ensures that all individuals, groups and organisations are kept informed of Council's decision-making processes during the last financial year.

I thank my fellow Councillors for their willing co-operation in all matters. Their role in representing ratepayers has been diligent, thoughtful and incisive.

I also sincerely thank our Chief Executive Officer and his staff for their conscientious dedication to their respective responsibilities. At all times they have been approachable and willing to assist myself and other Councillors with any concern or issue we have had.

I wish to thank our ratepayers and residents for their support over the past year. As a Council we rely on your input and we have appreciated the positive advice and suggestions you have raised regarding all matters. I believe that this report has established a sound framework through which our Council can develop a positive and fruitful direction in coming years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Massey'.

Cr Graeme Massey

Mayor



Yarriambiack Shire Council CEO, Ray Campling

A message from the CEO

On reflection the 2016/2017 financial year was very much a duplication of previous years and again a year in which we worked extremely efficiently, diligently and effectively to further develop, enhance and strengthen our commitment of sustained and continual improvement in providing realistic, relevant and appropriate services to our ratepayers, residents and visitors to the Yarriambiack Shire.

It was also a year in which we continued to actively advocate and lobby both State and Federal Governments for and on behalf of the residents and ratepayers of the Yarriambiack Shire.

As in past year's, significant time, effort and commitment was expended and focused on relationship building and development, enhancement, collaboration, planning, financial accountability and addressing our identified

goals, objectives and outcomes. Additionally, Council also placed considerable emphasis on developing an understanding and a constructive and supportive relationship with the various and diverse sectors of our community and region.

As mentioned earlier, Council also placed considerable emphasis on further developing its relationships with both the State and Federal Governments and as a consequence, particularly beneficial outcomes have been achieved, which has resulted in significant direct and indirect benefits and funding being provided to our various communities.

Council is very much committed and obligated to further establishing and capitalising on its various relationships and partnerships to ensure that a positive and advantageous difference is made to our communities. We propose to ensure that Yarriambiack Shire Council continues to engage and relate to its diverse communities and fully examine how these important relationships can become even more productive and successful for the overall benefit of the Shire and ultimately the achievement and fulfilment of our community's realistic needs, expectations and aspirations in accordance with the Council Plan.

The information contained in this report will hopefully provide the community with an opportunity to not only fully examine and determine, but also judge the progress that Yarriambiack Shire Council has made during the 2016/2017 financial year. It is envisaged that the year ahead will again offer a broad range of unparalleled challenges.

But in saying that, Council has planned to ensure that its activities support, encourage and provide added value, enabling our community to fully derive benefit from every opportunity that is presented to us.

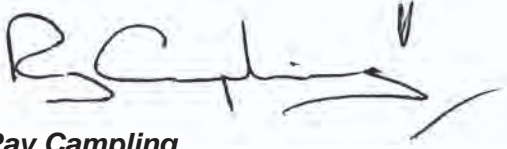
There will undoubtedly also be numerous challenges that we will be required to address. Possibly even more than we have experienced and encountered in previous years. However, I am particularly confident that we have the leadership, commitment, passion, desire and professionalism and most importantly, the teamwork plus an amazingly positive, proactive and resilient community to succeed!

Council is particularly committed to continually reviewing the way in which we operate, how we do things and identify areas where we can further improve and develop and be even more responsive, efficient and effective. We have definitely adopted a philosophy and commitment of, if we are going to do something then let's do it properly and very importantly, let's do it properly the first time! I would very much like to extend my personal gratitude to every member of staff and sincerely thank them for their much appreciated efforts and endeavour. I am extremely proud of every one of them. It is definitely a pleasure and privilege to lead and work with them.

To the Mayor, Graeme Massey and your fellow Councillors, in all honesty and sincerity, congratulations and well done in respect to your leadership and in particular your common sense and realistic approach to matters. I would also like to commend you and the other Councillors for the excellent working relationship that has been established and developed with the management team, general staff and very importantly with the overall community and region over

the past twelve months.

In closing, I would particularly like to thank our exceptional and highly resilient community and in particular, our many selfless, tireless and much appreciated volunteers for their support, co-operation, understanding and assistance throughout the year and for also making the Yarriambiack Shire an absolutely fantastic place to live, work, visit, raise a family and especially a place that we can proudly call home!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Campling', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ray Campling
Chief Executive Officer





highlights of our year

A TOTAL OF \$1.457MILLION (EXCLUDING ROADWORKS) WAS INVESTED THIS YEAR ON MAJOR PROJECTS ACROSS THE MUNICIPALITY. THESE ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS

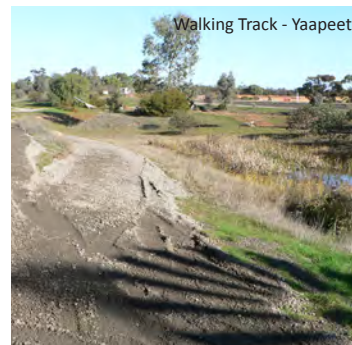
2016/2017 Achievements

RUPANYUP BOWLING CLUB

Installation of synthetic surface

\$140k

Allocated by State Government



Walking Track - Yaapeet

- Successfully secured funding through the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund to install Solar Heating at the Beulah Memorial Pool
- Successfully implemented a mosquito surveillance, media and control program
- Implemented a cricket club subsidy program in partnership with Cricket Victoria

- A wide range of promotional material has been produced for communities across the Shire. Outdoor brochure holders have been installed at most public amenities providing visitors with access to travel ideas 24 hours, 7 days a week
- Implementation of FReeZA funds to support Battle of the Bands HeT and Final

- Completion of six Drought Community Projects valued at around \$250,000
 - Brim solar panels at Rec Reserve
 - Hopetoun Tennis Club community area
 - Yaapeet air conditioning at Community Centre
 - Brim Weir Pool Pontoon
 - Minyip Town Project
 - Tempy Reserve watering system

REDDA'S PARK PLAYGROUND SHADE

Installation of a shade structure over the playground

\$16k

Allocated by State Government



Sheep Hills Silo

SHIRE WALKING TRACKS

Construction of five walking tracks in Minyip, Woomelang, Yaapeet and two in Murtoa

\$112k

Allocated by State Government



Streetscape - Minyip

- Completed the Minyip Recreation Reserve Facilities Upgrade project with funding of \$100,000 from the Country Football and Netball Program. Upgrades included construction of female showers and toilets facilities, new football showers and toilets, new floor coverings and re-surfacing of the netball court

- The Silo Art Trail was initiated and murals have been completed on the Patchewollock, Sheep Hills, Rupanyup and Lascelles silos. Rosebery will be completed in the second half of 2017
- Warracknabeal celebrated 150 years over three days in June attracting many visitors and previous residents into town



Streetscape - Brim

BRIM & MINYIP STREETScape

Upgrade works were completed including landscaping and adding sculpture artwork

\$135k

Allocated by State Government

- Obtained a grant of \$100,000 from the Country Football and Netball Program to construct female change rooms at Anzac Park. Project has been completed
- Lobbied for better quality and coverage with nbn services particularly at Woomelang and Warracknabeal

- Undertook drainage improvements in Beulah and Warracknabeal
- Assisted the Warracknabeal Men's Shed in obtaining a grant of \$30,000 from the Men's Shed Program to extend their existing building. Project is currently underway

\$k = \$thousands

highlights of our year

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: *Community Engagement*

To engage appropriate interest groups and individuals on awareness of Council activities and services.

Achievements:

- Improvement of Yarriambiack Shire Councils relationship with the Hands on Learning Programs at Murtoa College, Hopetoun P-12 College and Warracknabeal College
- Implementation of FReeZA funds to support Battle of the Bands heat and final
- Yarriambiack Youth Action Council held its first ever Murtoa v's Warracknabeal gamers night in August 2016
- Drought funding was sought to host free-of-charge family events. Live music events were held at Brim and Beulah

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: *Responsible Management*

To provide leadership and advocacy and be accountable to the local community.

Achievements:

- Successfully planning partnerships to complete community based projects
- Act@Work program established to educate staff about respect, trust and discrimination as the building blocks to preventing family violence

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: *Asset Management*

The communities current and future needs for assets and facilities are responsibly managed based on community service needs.

Achievements:

- Safety and drainage improvements at Murtoa Glenorchy and Horsham Lubeck Roads intersection (completed).
- Removal of two redundant channel crossing structures south of Murtoa on the Murtoa Glenorchy Road (removal completed with road reconstruction in next financial year)
- Reconstruction of outer kerbing at the Minyip Roundabout and redesign and reconstruction of central portion with semi mountable annulus. Project formed part of streetscape project (completed)
- Provision of guardrail to Two Mile Bridge on Henty Highway just south of Hopetoun where a fatality occurred in April this year (completed)
- Lobbied and gained funding for drainage of the Birchip Rainbow Road directly east of the railway line in Beulah
- Completed Stage Two of the construction of a new Hopetoun Works Depot
- Undertook drainage improvements in Beulah and Warracknabeal
- Submitted the following projects to VicRoads for funding under their priority projects program:
 - Realignment of the Murtoa Glenorchy and Horsham Lubeck Road intersection
 - Replacement of Cannings Channel culverts on the Borung Highway – East Side of Warracknabeal Township
 - Application of a slurry seal through the curves of the Henty Highway at Goyura (323.1 - 325.2km). The seal is quite slick in this area, the highway is deformed with rutting in the wheel tracks and holds water during and after rain due to lack of superelevation. There is a massive risk of aquaplaning in this section
 - Tree canopy clearance and seal widening on curves of Hopetoun Walpeup Road, Patchewollock
 - Removal of old disused footway and widening of trafficable portion of Borung Highway Bridge over the Yarriambiack Creek at Warracknabeal
 - Safety improvements including realignment of Warracknabeal Birchip Road and Warracknabeal Watchem Road intersection
 - Safety improvements including realignment of Warracknabeal Rainbow Road and Jeparit Warracknabeal intersection
 - Widening of narrow sections of Murtoa Glenorchy Road
 - Safety improvements including realignment of intersection of Stawell Warracknabeal Road and Boolite Sheep Hills Road
 - Safety improvements at the Rainbow Road Bridge, Warracknabeal

highlights of our year

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Asset Management (cont)

The communities current and future needs for assets and facilities are responsibly managed based on community service needs.

- A flood study regarding possible impacts of removal of the regulator from the mouth of Yarriambiack Creek
- Submitted an application for funding to Federal and State Government for the construction of a flood levee at Warracknabeal
- Submitted an application for funding for the installation of a stream gauge on Yarriambiack Creek at Ailsa Road south of Warracknabeal
- Obtained funding through the Federal Government for replacement of the major culvert over Dunmunkle Creek on the Banyena Pimpinio Road
- Obtained State Government funding via the Local Roads to Market Program for road reconstruction on the Glenorchy Road, Minyip Dimboola Road and as well as the entrance to Wilken Grain on the Warracknabeal Birchip Road
- Lobbied and gained funding for drainage of the Birchip Rainbow Road east of the railway line in Beulah

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Sustaining the Economy & Environment

Lead in sustainable growth and development to meet the community needs

Achievements:

- Yarriambiack Shire Council was represented at Mallee Machinery Field Days at Speed. Over the two day event, patrons had the opportunity to engage with Councillors and officers to provide feedback and access service information
- Successfully secured funding through the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund to install Solar Heating at the Beulah Memorial Pool
- Improvement of Yarriambiack Shire Councils relationship with the Hands on Learning Programs at Murtoa College, Hopetoun P-12 College and Warracknabeal Secondary College
- Completed the following Drought Communities Program projects:
 - Tempy Recreation Reserve sprinkler system installation,
 - Installation of a pontoon at the Brim Weir Pool,
 - Minyip Township Facilities Upgrade which included: concreting under new shed at the Recreation Reserve, installation of solar panels at Emma's building, installation of synthetic tees at the Golf Club and re-surfacing of the tennis courts and new nets and posts
- Beulah and Rupanyup Kindergarten/Childcare facilities have successfully secured a share in funding for minor infrastructure and IT grants
- Warracknabeal Showgrounds is now able to host caravans, campervans and motor homes when they cannot be accommodated at Warracknabeal Caravan Park

major changes

- At the Council Local Government Elections on 29 October 2016 Graeme Massey, Kylie Zanker, Jean Wise, Corinne Heintze, Tom Hamilton, Helen Ballentine and Shane Roberts were elected to Council. At the Council Statutory meeting conducted on Monday 7 November 2016, Councillor Graeme Massey was elected to the position of Mayor and Councillor Helen Ballentine was elected as Deputy Mayor.

- In February 2017 Yarriambiack Shire Council announced the appointment of a new replacement Shire Ranger/By-Laws Officer, Craig Byron. Born and raised in the Stawell area Craig has a long history associated with farming and animals.

- Dennis Smith officially retired on 17 February 2017 and during his time with the Yarriambiack Shire Council as the Community Projects Co-ordinator he was successful in generating in the vicinity of \$8 million in grants for the community. In April, Andrea Stepney was appointed the new Projects Officer. She has settled in well and is developing relationships with community groups across the Shire.



challenges and the future outlook...

Challenges

Our economy is changing:

- Changing technology will provide us with more innovative business opportunities especially around on-line retailing and social media
- The continued consolidation of farming enterprises to create larger farms and/or corporate entities
- Rate Capping and cost shifting to Local Government
- Mining in the municipality may increase, providing economic activity and employment opportunities.

Our community is changing:

- The municipality is continuing to experience some population decrease, mainly from people moving or from natural causes
- Increase in people from diverse cultures moving to our municipality
- Our population is ageing
- Volunteer groups need help to be sustainable.

The future

To attract and retain people in our municipality, quality services and cultural activities are needed including:

- Opportunities for sport, recreation and physical activity
- Facilitate the attraction of major events
- Growth and quality of preschool, primary and secondary educational services
- Provide support to existing businesses to grow and develop
- Promote 'Buy Local' Campaign
- Support and assist communities in the development and promotion of special events, expo's and festivals.

For the Municipality to be a good place to live and preserve our natural environment we need to:

- Make greater use of assets such as Yarriambiack Creek, Lakes and Weir pools
- Maintain assets that meet the community's needs
- Ensure that appropriate and accessible public transport services are provided across the Shire
- Better manage our waste management to educate the community on recycling and energy efficiency.

shire happenings...

July 2016

Staff and Managers from three Yarriambiack Shire organisations gained a better understanding of Aboriginal values after a cultural diversity session at Rural Northwest Health's Warracknabeal campus. Guest speaker and Wotjobaluk traditional owner Joanne Clarke from Yangg Ngalung, Mailgundidj Cultural Training led representatives from Yarriambiack Shire Council, Dunmunkle Health Services and Rural Northwest Health through the four hour session.

Former Yarriambiack Shire Mayor and Councillor Stewart Petering OAM has been farewelled at a service after he died aged 85. Mr Petering was the Mayor of the Yarriambiack Shire in 1999 and 2000. He served as a Councillor from 1997 to 2002. Before the Yarriambiack Shire was formed he was a Councillor on the Shire of Dunmunkle for more than 10 years. Mr Petering was the second Mayor for the Yarriambiack Shire.

Mayor Ray Kingston opened a round of SHARE funding. Groups selected for funding will be eligible to receive up to \$3,000. Mayor Ray Kingston said the program for Yarriambiack Shire Council will provide much needed funding for community projects. These grants are just one of the many ways the Shire tries to support our hard working community groups in implementing their visions.

Staff members and Councillors from Council met with members of the Murtoa community. The consultation meetings are held annually to give ratepayers a chance to ask questions, air grievances and find out in more detail what the Shire has to offer in the way of amenities and resources.

August 2016

After four years on Council, Lisa Woods decided to call time as a Yarriambiack Councillor as her priorities shift towards her young family. When Lisa initially ran for Council, she thought she could make a difference in the local community and beyond. One of the greatest rewards for Lisa was the many people she had the pleasure of meeting. Lisa said it had been a privilege to meet so many everyday hard working locals who help the community groups stay afloat, who advocate for their passions, who lend a hand, who help contribute to the social fabric of the Yarriambiack Shire. Lisa's highlight is the time she met Her Excellency The Governor of Victoria Linda Dessau with her husband Dion and first born son Joshua at the Brim Silos.

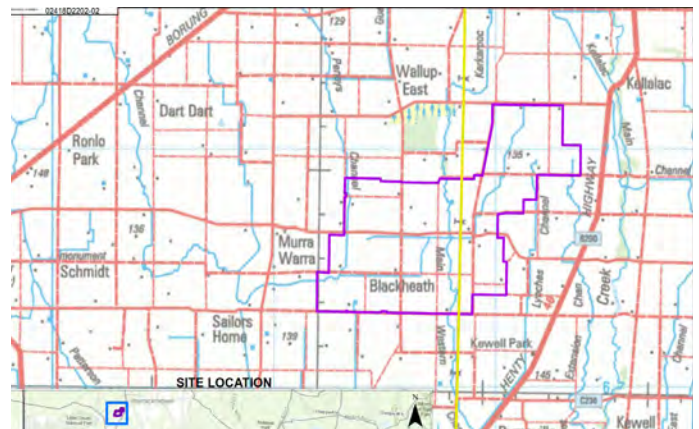
Yarriambiack Shire Council hosted a successful Hopetoun Community Consultation night at Gateway BEET. A host of Councillors and Council Staff were joined by Deputy Mayor Terry Grange and CEO Ray Campling for an informative hour of updates and discussion. Highlights from the consultation included an overview of proposed mobile phone towers at various locations including Yaapeet, Hopevale, Yarto, Gama, Reedy Dam and between Woomelang and Hopetoun.

Yarriambiack Youth Action Council's first ever Murtoa v's Warracknabeal gamers night was run and won on Friday evening, with competitors playing for the KAOS Games town trophy. Warracknabeal's crew dominated the events winning all

five competitions to have a resounding victory. The night was a terrific success with a great turn up.

Yarriambiack Youth Action Council in collaboration with Yarriambiack Shire, Warracknabeal Rotaract, Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly and YCHANGE Yarriambiack bring live Laser Tag to Murtoa, Warracknabeal and Hopetoun over the month. Teams of up to 10 players or individuals were invited to sign up with the organisations for the first games held at Murtoa College. Games were for all ages and the equipment was supplied.

A proposed wind farm at Murra Warra has moved a step closer with RES Australia hoping to release its planning application details within the next few weeks. Projects Manager Kevin Garthwaite said a number of project stages have been approved. The wind farm will sit between Yarriambiack and Horsham Rural City Municipalities. The project is set to have 117 turbines on 4250 hectares of land. Construction will see about 250 people employed directly on site with 350 additional supporting roles in the region. Yarriambiack Shire Council decided to close an unused road at Kewell to assist with the development. Mayor Ray Kingston said the road closure would allow the wind farm to go ahead without any interference.



Site location for Murra Warra wind farm

Yarriambiack Shire Council in conjunction with the Wimmera CMA held another drop-in session to receive further public input on the levee design. A small group of local residents made use of the information session to help fine tune the last components before the plans are sent to the State Government for funding.

Yarriambiack Shire Council in association with the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Electoral Commission conducted a Candidate Information Session in relation to the October 2016 Council Elections.

Yarriambiack Shire Councillors believe it is their moral obligation to improve known road black spots after a woman died at Lubeck. Council wrote to VicRoads about upgrading an intersection at Horsham Lubeck Road and Murtoa Glenorchy Road Lubeck. It comes after a 56 year old Meredith woman died in a two car crash at the intersection. Cr Kylie Zanker said it was Council's moral purpose to advocate for improvements where there were black spots. If there are fatalities, it is our ethical and moral compass that tells us to do something about it. Mayor Ray

Kingston said the upgrade was something Council had written to VicRoads about in the past, but nothing had happened yet. Chief Executive Officer, Ray Campling also said that Council had invited VicRoads representatives to attend a community meeting at Lubeck. Council produced a list of priority projects that could be put forward for funding. The Lubeck intersection was on the list, along with a call for guardrails at Two Mile Bridge on the Henty Highway near Hopetoun, where there was a fatality in April.

Council Forum met and moved a motion to engage the community to establish a process to name three un-named lanes in Murtoa. Council invited any interested members of the public and/or community groups wishing to nominate names to do so, specifying if they wish the name to apply to a particular lane.

Yarriambiack Shire Council sought applications from sporting clubs within the Yarriambiack Shire for funds to improve community football and netball facilities through the 2016-17 Country Football and Netball Program. All applications must be lodged through Council with Community groups required to submit a completed Expression of Interest Form to Council for consideration.

September 2016

Warracknabeal's Aerodrome application for further funding to upgrade the Ambulance Transfer Station has been successful. Member for Mallee, Andrew Broad made the final Round Two "Stronger Communities Programme" announcement. Yarriambiack Shire Council successfully applied for \$18,180 funding for its Warracknabeal Ambulance Transfer Station Upgrade project. The upgrade to the transfer station will provide far more comfortable facilities for medical staff, patients and their families, whilst they are waiting air transfers to hospital. The upgrade will provide for improved toilets, including a new shower with disability access, improved lighting, an electric hot water service, fridge and a comfortable lounge area. Outside there will be a new bay built to shade a waiting ambulance, which is extremely important during extreme heat. The Warracknabeal Aerodrome is a vital, at times lifesaving, link between this region and city hospitals.

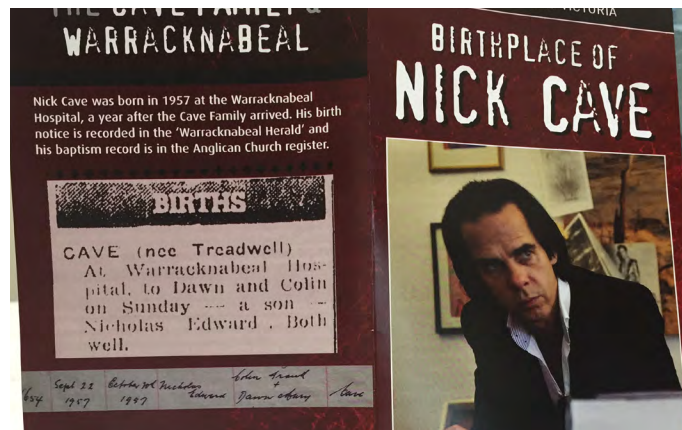
Yarriambiack Shire Council in association with the Victorian Electoral Commission conducted Candidate Information Sessions in relation to the October 2016 Council Elections.

Young families in Western Victoria are set to benefit with a number of local kindergartens and childcare centres to receive minor infrastructure and IT grants. Kindergartens in Beulah, Rupanyup, Dimboola and Horsham shared in more than \$27,000 of small grants. The grant is to upgrade computers and laptops and carry out minor maintenance projects. These grants mean local early year's teachers and educators are supported and that more children have access to high-quality early learning services.

Another successful community consultation between Yarriambiack Shire Council and the Beulah community was held at the Beulah Business and Information Centre. This great initiative instigated by Yarriambiack Shire is an excellent grass roots communication forum for information exchange and feedback. Fortythree people including Councillors and Shire

staff attended.

A newly printed pamphlet explaining to interested tourists and locals our Nick Cave connection. It gives a brief history of Nick Cave's career as well as explaining in short detail his parents role in the town in the 1950's. The attractive pamphlet was a cooperative effort between The Warracknabeal Arts Council and Council. It seems the pamphlet is quite popular with tourists and a second print run was needed sooner than expected.



Newly printed pamphlet of Nick Cave

Owners of caravans and motor homes will now be able to set up camp in Warracknabeal, with the matter having been discussed at a Special Council meeting. Council resolved to allow caravans to use the Warracknabeal Showgrounds for those caravans, campervans and motor homes that would not be able to be accommodated at the Warracknabeal Caravan Park. Under previous zoning rules, campers and caravans were unable to stay at the Showgrounds. All Councillors present at the meeting voted unanimously in favour of making the necessary changes to allow for the motor home, caravan and campers to utilise the Warracknabeal Showgrounds as a second Caravan Park.

Yarriambiack Shire Council was among the most highly contested Council with 14 people vying for a position compared with 11 at the last Council election.

Singer Grace Knight played to a packed audience at a free concert at the Warracknabeal Town Hall to begin Seniors Week festivities. Grace was joined on stage by an ensemble of artists including Phillip on bass and Jack on guitar. Council provided free transport from Woomelang, Hopetoun, Beulah, Brim, Murtoa, Rupanyup and Minyip to be able to enjoy the concert and the following barbeque lunch at the community centre.

Shire outdoor staff worked the short shifts to open the gates at the north end of the Warracknabeal Weir Pool. The operation took more than an hour per gate to open each of the extremely heavy gates and could only sustain the effort for short bursts due to the awkward reach to work the chains on each gate. This is first time that the gates had been opened since their installation and was the reason they were so difficult to open. Yarriambiack Shire Council had been vigilant in monitoring water levels throughout the length and breadth of the Creek since flood flows commenced, reporting regularly on rising levels. Monitoring levels of the Creek has been an important tool in ensuring flows are released through the weirs to accommodate incoming water volumes.

Wimmera Councils have called on businesses to step up and

lead the community with the message that family violence is unacceptable. The State Government has named Horsham Rural City Council as one of ten Victorian Councils to share in \$345,000 to launch family violence prevention programs. The funding will help Horsham Council launch an Act@Work program in partnership with Hindmarsh, Yarriambiack and West Wimmera Shires. Ray Campling, Chief Executive Officer says the program focused on educating staff about respect, trust and discrimination as the building blocks to preventing family violence. He said as community leaders, Councils and business set an example to the region and should be taking a stand to prevent family violence. Ray said he would encourage all businesses to seek opportunities with the programs. As a community leader Council sets an example and standard, at the end of the day we say no to violence against women and children, along with discrimination in workplaces is unacceptable.

October 2016

Yarriambiack Shire Council in partnership with Wimmera Uniting Care and the Brim Steering Committee, coordinated an event at the Brim Recreation Reserve. Funding for the "Rock out for RARE Concert" was provided through the Federal Governments Drought Assistance Program which fully funded the event. There was approximately 800 people present. The first act featured Waldo the Magician. 6pm to 7pm Murtoa band 'All We Need' played. Rainbow group the 'Lazy Farmers Sons' played in the lead up to the fireworks display at 8.45pm. Country music star Adam Brand performed for the remainder of the night, closing up shop at 10.45pm. It was a great night and everyone enjoyed themselves.



Adam Brand performing at 'Rock out for Rare' concert held at Brim

Community Group Financial Assistance Grants October/November 2016 - All recreation, service and community organisation volunteer fundraising groups which are formally constituted organisations, located within the boundary of the Yarriambiack Shire Council Municipal boundaries are eligible to apply for assistance under this scheme. These grants are to assist with the maintenance and capital improvements of community assets and events.

Council has been made aware that a laneway in Hopetoun called "Hopetoun Lane 12" is privately owned as per Certificate of Title. The proposal is to discontinue the road being Hopetoun Lane 12. Council is supportive of the proposal but invited comments or objections from any interested parties before any further decision is made.

Murtoa's Big Weekend was a huge success despite severe weather warnings. The grand opening of the Big Weekend on

Friday night included a performance from rock band Robyn and the Rancheros. The official opening was launched by Member for Lowan Emma Kealy at the Graincorp Art Exhibition. On the Saturday morning the monster street market and show'n'shine took place. Visitors browsed through more than 50 market stalls on the streets and 60 classic cars and motorcycles were on display. Celebrity Chef, Danni Venn, demonstrated the art of cooking with pulses at the market. The Tour de Marma relay commenced on Sunday morning with a small band of cycling enthusiasts taking to the road. The Battle of the Bands regional finals later in the day saw Mildura trio Overwound crowned the victors.

Before January this year, Yarriambiack Shire was most well known for its prolific wheat production and large population of sheep after Brisbane artist Guido Van Helten scaled a grain silo to paint a 60 foot mural, the regional Victorian area has attracted a lot more attention. Van Helten made international headlines as he painted the work over a hot summer in the small town of Brim. The mural features images of four farmers from the local area. Mayor Ray Kingston said the region previously attracted visitors because of it's natural landscape and camping opportunities, but in the terms of being on any sort of map tourist wise, you would have to say we really weren't. Now a steady stream of visitors chooses to pass by the silos in Brim, which is creating flow-on economic benefits for the region. On 30 September it was announced Yarriambiack Shire would receive State and Federal funding to expand its Silo Art Project and create a trail of similar works across the region.

Drought funding was sought from Wimmera Uniting Care, Yarriambiack Shire Council and Rural Northwest Health to host the free-of-charge family event at Beulah's football ground. Yarriambiack Mayor Ray Kingston said the community would organise the Junkyard 'N' Jive event, which would include a car boot sale and live music on the banks of the Creek. This event was held on Saturday 22 October. The Garage-car Boot Sale started from 10am to 1pm before an extensive musical program started at 2pm. There were a variety of events and attractions all day with a jumping castle, spinning wheel, rubber duck races, train rides, games, face-painting and children's movies on a large screen. Free health checks were also on the agenda. Beulah Primary School students started the entertainment with a variety act before artists Anthony Patton and Ella, Archie Davis, Maurice 'Mott' Conway, The Lazy Farmer's Sons, Black Hill Whoers, Mick Coates, Allnitelongs, Old Melbourne Road and finishing the evening with After Dark.



Spectators at Beulah's Junkyard 'n' Jive event

Yarriambiack Shire Council once again offered Celebrating

Young People Youth Grants. The program encourages groups and individuals to work with young people to develop ideas for the involvement in the area of arts, culture, recreation, environment, health and welfare. Community Groups and individuals are able to submit applications for up to \$1,000. Successful projects will target teenagers and young adults (12-25 years of age) young people must be involved with the development of the project and it must clearly demonstrate benefits for young people living in Yarriambiack Shire.

A plan to create a unique silo art trail across Yarriambiack Shire has entered a new chapter with Australian Street artist Fintan Magee rapidly working on transforming a silo at Patchewollock. Magee, who has painted murals across Australia and around the world, arrived in the Mallee late last week and started painting on the Friday night of the Patchewollock Music Festival. The Silo Art Trail concept, which also involves murals on silos at Rupanyup, Sheep Hills, Rosebery and Lascelles, started with a giant Guido Van Helten mural in the heart of the Shire at Brim. Community leaders expect the trail to inject millions of tourist dollars into the Wimmera Mallee.

Property Owners and Residents throughout Yarriambiack Shire are advised that fees for the disposal of Green Waste will be waived for the period of 7th to 13th November during normal tip operating hours.

Silos at Sheep Hills earmarked for the next giant artwork as part the Yarriambiack Shire's Silo Art Trail will have an indigenous theme. Matt Adnate, renowned internationally for huge evocative portraits, particularly his renaissance style chiaroscuro impressions of Aboriginal children, is tentatively booked to start painting at Sheep Hills between Minyip and Warracknabeal. Chief Executive Officer Ray Campling said Adnate was in discussion with Barengi Gadjin Land Council on subject matter after the Sheep Hills community agreed on the theme.

November 2016

Dunmunkle Ward had a complete turnover with Mayor Ray Kingston's retirement and Cr Grange's defeat. According to the Victorian Electoral Commission's provisional result, the Ward will now be represented by Tom Hamilton who polled 38.65 percent and Corrine Heintze 31.53 percent. With a voting enrolment of 1848, 1462 formal votes were counted with one informal vote on first preferences, which is 79.76 percent of the roll. Mr Hamilton, a Dunmunkle area farmer, having grown up in Murtoa said during the election that he decided to run for Council as a way to give back to the community. Ms Heintze, a farmer from Minyip and rural supply business owner who ran on her wholesaling experience. Hopetoun Ward will now be represented by first time Councillor Shane Roberts with 38.80 percent of the first preference votes and incumbent Councillor and former Mayor Helen Ballentine with 36.33 percent of the first preferences votes. Mr Roberts is an ambulance officer who supported the rates rise cap and called for a fairer rates structure for farmers. Incumbent Councillor Graeme Massey was the overwhelming winner in the first preference votes with 49.70 percent of the votes with 980 followed by fellow incumbent Kylie Zanker with 32.35 percent of the vote with 638 and returning to Council is Jean Wise with 11.82 percent of the vote at 233 votes. All election results were formally declared on November 4th.

On 7 November 2016 a Statutory Meeting was called to conduct the installation of the Councillors and the election of Mayor. The meeting was also to set the Mayoral and Councillor allowances. Cr Graeme Massey was elected as Mayor with Helen Ballentine nominated as Deputy Mayor.



The newly appointed Councillors:

L-R: T.Hamilton, K.Zanker, C.Heintze, G.Massey, S.Roberts, J.Wise and H.Ballentine

Nominations were sought by Yarriambiack Shire Council for persons who may qualify as 'Citizen of the Year', 'Young Citizen of the Year' and the Community Event of the Year'. Nominations may be lodged by individuals or organisations.

Yarriambiack Shire hosted a lunch to thank the volunteer drivers and Meals on Wheels delivery crews that give their time to help others. Manager of Community Services and Development, Gavin Blinman, thanked all the groups that attended for their help in delivering the Meals and Wheels and driving those that need transport to medical appointments in Horsham, Mildura and Ballarat. Mr Blinman went on to say that the volunteers are saving the Shire in excess of \$2 million per year with their selfless donation of their time and energy.

In accordance with section 54(5) of the Road Management Act 2004 and Road Management (General) Regulations 2016, Yarriambiack Shire Council conducted a review of its Road Management Plan. The purpose of the review, consistent with the role, functions and responsibilities of the Council as a road authority under the Act, is to ensure the standards in relation to and the priorities to be given to the inspection, maintenance and repair of the roads and the classes of road to which Council's Road Management Plan applies are safe, efficient and appropriate for use by the community served by the Council. The review applied to all of the roads and classes of roads to which the Road Management Plan applies. A copy of the current Road Management Plan was available for inspection. Written submissions on the proposed review were received up until 9th December.

Notice was hereby given that the Annual Report, including the report of operations and audited financial and performance statements of the Yarriambiack Shire Council for the period ended 30 June 2016 had been prepared. Council will meet to consider the Annual Report 2015-16 at its Ordinary Meeting to be held in Council Chambers, Municipal Office Wednesday 23rd November 2016. In accordance with Section 134 of the Act, copies of the Annual Report, including the Audit Report, are available for inspection prior to the meeting.

Council invited tenders for Contract No C209/2016 Provision of

Kerb and Channel and Footpath Construction. Tenders closed 2.00pm Friday 2nd December.

Melbourne's Matt Adnate started works at the Sheep Hills Silos. From humble beginnings as a street level graffiti artist on the streets of Melbourne as a teenager, Mr Adnate has spent the last seven years working around the world on art installations in New York, London, Singapore and even the island nation of the Maldives. Managed by Juddy Roller Productions, Mr Adnate was introduced to the Silo project and was drawn to the possibility to use a different style of canvas. Adnate was looking forward to using the rounded new dimension. Indigenous art and portraits have always been Adnate's forte. Even though the artist has travelled around the world this would be the smallest community he has worked in and he has been blown away with the help and support of the community not only for the Silo Art Trail as a whole. Mayor Graeme Massey said The Silo Art Trail is shaping up to be iconic for rural Australia and the completion of the silos will cement the Wimmera and Mallee region as a must see destination for travellers. Sheep Hills is a magical outback place, where the bright sunsets will provide the perfect backdrop for photography lovers to capture a tribute to the indigenous people of Australia.



Sheep Hills Silo Artwork

Yarriambiack Shire Council has denied a request to upgrade to a Rupanyup road, despite residents believing it could be the difference between life and death. Residents on Dunlops Road, Rupanyup, wrote to Council with concerns about the northern third of the road. In a letter to Council, one resident said the road was in poor form and a "dry weather road" sign had been placed on it. She told Council she had not been able to access the bus stop at the north end of the road for many years in winter because of the possibility of being bogged. She said she had to drive her children 13 kilometres to Rupanyup to catch the bus to school in Murtoa, despite there being a bus stop only three kilometres away. Council's Technical Officer, Nathan McLean said the cost to upgrade the road would be between \$36,244 and \$77,095. The road was down graded in Council's Road Hierarchy in 2008. Mr McLean recommended Council deny the request because the cost to upgrade the section of the road was considered too high when Council had already met their requirements by providing an access point to the properties. Cr Shane Roberts said if a resident needed an ambulance, the closest one would come from Rupanyup. He said if the ambulance took the most direct route to the properties it wouldn't travel along that section of Dunlops Road.

Yarriambiack Has Talent again hit the big stage at the Warracknabeal Town Hall featuring some of the regions most

talented youngsters in various art forms from painting and drawings to photography and vocal and dancing skills. This event was sponsored by the Yarriambiack Shire and was a family friendly event. For those that arrived early there was barbeque lunch offered by Warracknabeal Rotaract Club.

Sheep Hills is now home to a huge 300m x 40m Indigenous mural celebrating members of the Barengi Gadjin community that has been unveiled highlighting the importance of indigenous heritage throughout this region. Opening the ceremonies Yarriambiack Graeme Massey said "the importance of the art work on this set of silo's relates to the original inhabitants of the area who celebrated their corroborees in this location and the area in this location and the area holds a significant place in the life of Barengi Gadjin community. "The mural celebrates Indigenous art, history and knowledge sharing through the depiction of Barengi Gadjin community".

Council invited tenders for Contract C211/2016 Removal of Fire Hazards (3 year contract). Tender documents and specifications were available at Warracknabeal Shire Office. Tenders closed on Wednesday 2nd November 2016. Shorty and Debs mowing was the successful Tender.

Drivers travelling on the Stawell Warracknabeal Rd through the township of Minyip have been surprised to see the lone figure of a man kneeling down in the middle of the town centre roundabout. Known as the heart of the wheat belt the Minyip Progress Association were granted funds totalling \$130,000 for beautification works that included the travellers rest and garden beds and the refurbishing of the toilets and the sculpture. The sculpture symbolises the life cycle of rural life from the planting of seed to the nurturing of the crop to harvest and was designed and constructed by Grant Fink who also completed the sculptures in Warracknabeal. The Minyip Progress Association were very grateful to Dennis Smith and the Yarriambiack Shire through Rural Development Victoria and Jaala Pulford's office for the chance to beautify their town. The sculpture was installed with the approval of Vic Roads and the plans also took into consideration future plans to make the roundabouts more "truck friendly".

Warracknabeal Kindergarten welcomed a new teacher Kate Williamson to the role. With the departure at the end of 2016 of the graduate teacher for family reasons Yarriambiack Shire Council with support from the Warracknabeal Kindergarten Committee announced the appointment of Mrs Williamson. Mrs Williamson was raised in Dimboola is married with five children of her own and thinks that has helped her love of teaching. Some of Kate's passions are about arts and in particular children's literature, music and the visual arts.

December 2016

Mayor Graeme Massey conducted an Australian Citizenship ceremony for Christine Gumpala. Christine took the pledge in front of work colleagues from Woodbine and Rural Northwest Health.

Yarriambiack Shire Council announced Ms Volchkova would paint the Rupanyup silos for the region's Silo Art Trail. Mayor Graeme Massey said the Shire was looking to showcase the work of a female artist and Ms Volchkova's work was of an extremely high calibre. The Siberian-born artist studied classical painting

before picking up her first spray can aged 18. Her work adorns buildings across St Petersburg in Russia, Siberia as well as walls in Indonesia and Malaysia. Mayor Graeme Massey said the art trail attracted impressive international artists due to its unique concept and the chance to have work displayed for decades. It's probably a landscape they've never worked on before.

Mayor Graeme Massey, Cr Helen Ballentine, Cr Shane Roberts and CEO Ray Campling attended the Hopetoun Secondary College presentation night. The Mayor gained much pleasure in presenting the annual awards.

Mayor Graeme Massey, Cr Corinne Heintz and Cr Tom Hamilton had the pleasure of attending the annual presentation evening at Murtoa College. The Mayor was privileged to present the Sports Awards and the Year 12 Certificates.

January 2017

More than 250 Yarriambiack residents descended on Warracknabeal's Anzac Park for a celebration of community, patriotism and friendship for Australia Day and launch of Warracknabeal's 150th birthday celebration. Yarriambiack Shire Mayor Graeme Massey said the turnout was fantastic. Rural Northwest Health Chairman former Warracknabeal Secondary College Principal and stalwart Leo Casey, was named Yarriambiack Shire 2017 Australia Day Citizen of the Year. Cr Tom Hamilton announced that Tom McGrath was the Yarriambiack Shire Young Citizen of the Year. Warracknabeal Rotary Club named Jack Quick its Young Achiever of the Year, Brad Krahe is SportPerson of the Year and Phillip Gunn is Citizen of the Year.

Council looked for a suitably qualified community member to join its Internal Audit Committee. The committee generally meets on a quarterly basis. The role of the Internal Audit Committee is to assist financial reporting, maintaining a reliable system of internal controls, asset management and fostering the organisation's ethical development. A background or qualifications in business management, accounting, financial management or asset management would be advantageous. Expressions of Interest closed Friday February 10th 2017.

February 2017

Groups and organisations wishing to make an application for the SHARE Community Grants could contact the Shire Municipal Office to obtain application forms. All recreation, service and community organisations located within the boundary of the Yarriambiack Shire Council Municipal boundaries are eligible to apply for a maximum of \$3,000. Eligible projects may include small equipment, events, projects that encourage shared facilities and equipment and projects that encourage visitors and tourism to the region.

Ratepayers were reminded that the final date for payment of Council Rates in full was Wednesday 15th February 2017.

The Australian Skate Park League came to the Warracknabeal Skate Park, this round was one of nine interconnected skate park events that were held across the region. The Warracknabeal round has been brought to life through a partnership between YMCA, Victorian Skateboarding Association and the Yarriambiack Shire Council through a partnership between FReeZA funding that the Shire has been fortunate enough to

secure for three years. This was the second year Yarriambiack Shire Council has been able to run a Skate Park League event in the region.

Network Ten's production of MasterChef Australia is one of the world's most loved food and cooking shows on TV. On February 22nd MasterChef paid a visit to Brim's silo art to film at the base of the giant mural. The TV crews brought in trucks with five kitchens, pantries, make up artists and all the equipment. Yarriambiack Shire did well with supporting the visitors. Member for Lowan Emma Kealy said it was a great achievement



TV Show 'MasterChef' filming at the base of Brim Silo's - February 2017

Design of the system for the wire to node high speed internet service for Warracknabeal has commenced. The construction for the project should commence later in 2017 to bring coverage to the whole town.

After a successful harvest, Council is currently working with the Grampians Central West Waste and Resource Recovery Group regarding the possibility of recycling the large white PVC sausage sleeved grain bags. Due to the size of this year's harvest and the amount of grain that is being stored on farm in these bags, there will be a need to deal with the bags, when grain is emptied. The group are investigating a process in which Council can accept bags, store them and then have them collected for recycling.

Brim's Lions Club in partnership with Yarriambiack Shire Council and the Victorian Government have finished the installation of the new fishing pontoon at the Brim Weir Pool at Redda's Park. The project was supported by a grant from the Drought Communities Program of \$55,625 and a grant from the Victorian State Government's Better Fishing Fund of \$12,500 and a donation from the Brim Lions of \$405. The pontoon is great for residents and visitors alike as it will make it easier when launching boats and it gives fishermen a better spot to enjoy their fishing. EBAZ Marine Works and Jetty Construction built the pontoon in Melbourne and transported it to the site, where it was positioned using a crane and secured to abutments installed on site by Minter Civil of Horsham.

Yarriambiack Shire Council announced the appointment of their new Shire Ranger/Local Laws Officer, Mr Craig Byron. Born and raised in the Stawell area and born into a farming family Mr Byron has a long history in farming and animals.

Despite trying to bow out quietly, Dennis Smith, a Yarriambiack Shire staff member who during his time with the Shire managed

to raise in excess of \$8M in grants for the community. Dennis officially retired on 17th February. Yarriambiack Shire Mayor Graeme Massey said "Dennis took great pride in responding to community requests in a timely and professional manner and as such built up an excellent working relationship with all groups throughout the Shire". Dennis expressed his thanks by saying it had been a real privilege to work with the Yarriambiack Shire and the community for the last 12 years.

Yarriambiack Shire's new network of walking tracks were officially opened along with streetscape in Minyip and Brim and upgrades at Warracknabeal Airport. The projects used contractors in the Wimmera to develop walking tracks at Rabl Park at Murtoa, Minyip Bushlands Reserve and at the Minyip Wetlands, Cronomby Tanks, Woomelang and Turkey Bottom Ponds at Yaapeet. Yarriambiack Shire Mayor Graeme Massey said "the tracks would fit in very well with the Shire's sport and recreation strategy. It's concerning that surveys have found that Yarriambiack Shire has high rate of heart attacks and obesity. Hopefully these tracks will encourage people to get out and about and use them". Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism and Major event's Danielle Greened announced the official openings.

Yarriambiack Shire Councillors will petition the Federal Government to not continue with the proposed cuts to Kinder funding, which was discussed at the monthly Council meeting. The cuts will mean kindergarten children will only receive 10 hours per week, instead of 15 hours, (current agreement is 10 hours funded by the State Government and 5 hours Federal Government funding). Councillor Kylie Zanker spoke passionately about the proposed cuts, stating that 15 hours of kindergarten was a necessity for the development of children. Kinders are already partly funded by the Shire and parents. Cutbacks matter when it affects the little people, kinder is a precursor to school and we don't want to see the children missing out. Cr Zanker moved a motion that Council write a letter to Federal Minister Simon Birmingham to highlight the importance of and ensure that the five hours of Federal Government Kindergarten funding continues after the current National Partnership Agreement ends in December 2017.

Council is calling for nominations from community members to recognise young members of the Shire in the Annual Young Achiever Award. The awards give the community a chance to recognise some of the great achievements of young people between the ages of 12-25. The Young Achievers awards form a major part of the Yarriambiack Shire Council's National Youth Week celebrations, where Council honour those young people in our Shire that are achieving. These awards are the community's opportunity to recognise these young people's contributions and acknowledge the great work they have done.

Council has submitted an application via the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme for the flood levee at Warracknabeal. The total project cost is \$1.1M of which the Council is required to provide a third of this.

March 2017

Yarriambiack Shire Council Deputy Mayor Helen Ballentine is the new leader of Wimmera Mallee Tourism. Cr Ballentine was an inaugural member of the group, which first came together as a steering committee in 2008. The organisation promotes tourism

in Yarriambiack, Buloke, Hindmarsh and West Wimmera Shire's.

On March 21st a severe windstorm went through the township of Yaapeet and surrounding areas. Heavy rain and hail fell with approx 2 inches of rain in 15 minutes. Many trees were brought down across roads and streets.



Storm damage in Byrne St Yaapeet - March 2017

April 2017

In support of the community organised events held within our Municipality, Yarriambiack Shire Council offered the opportunity for Council sponsorship of events. The Sponsorship Grants are to be used for prize money or purchase of a trophy for a competition open to the public and scheduled as part of an event or festival. The sponsorship cannot be used for internal club competitions. Only one allocation will be made per community group.

International street artist Julia Volchkova and assistant Georgia Goodie have left a mark on Rupanyup. The pair have found canvasses on school walls, an old Council building and a house burnt down in a fire. Ms Volchkova set down her brushes and retired the apple-picker as she completed the artwork on the town's silo. Yarriambiack Mayor Graeme Massey said the latest addition to the Silo Art Trail complemented existing works at Patchewollock, Brim and Sheep Hills. Mayor Massey said he would go as far to say the trail is one of the most unique features in the world. No one has a silo trail like us. It looks great.



Painting by Georgia Goodie on the old Shire building, Rupanyup

Council advertised the Sport & Recreation – Community Sports Infrastructure Fund 2018-19. Sport and Recreation Victoria seeking applications from sporting clubs and community groups within Yarriambiack Shire Council for funds to improve community sport and recreation facilities.

Two faces now feature on silos at Rupanyup. Russian artist Julia

Volchkova is in town painting. The faces are of a Rupanyup footballer and a netballer. Yarriambiack Shire Councillor Corinne Heintze said the silos were already bringing people to the region with visitors from the Surf Coast Shire, near Geelong, coming at the weekend. She said the visitors went to Rupanyup and then continued on to Sheep Hills and Warracknabeal. The silos at Rupanyup are the fourth to be painted as part of the trail, after Brim, Patchewollock and Sheep Hills. Silos at Lascelles and Rosebery will be painted later this year. Cr Heintze said her father could remember when the government of the day decided to go with bulk handling in the 30's and concrete silos were built throughout the region. She said the silos were now landmarks in many Wimmera and Mallee towns. Now 80 years on, those silos are obsolete," she said. "But they are having a new lease on life, thanks to the Yarriambiack Silo Trail. The works being painted on them are amazing and hundreds of people are now touring the route each week".



Artist Julia Volchkova adding final touches to Rupanyup Silo

Yarriambiack's obesity prevention program, YCHANGE, has sparked interest from public health experts from around the globe at the World Congress on Public Health in Melbourne last week. Deakin University research fellow Jill Whelan, who presented about YCHANGE at the event, said public health professionals are showing a strong interest in the work being done in rural and remote communities, particularly in the Yarriambiack Shire where the rate of obesity is one of the highest in Victoria. "Rural and remote communities are known to have a higher prevalence of people who experience unhealthy weight and related health outcomes compared to metropolitan areas," Jill Whelan said.

"Our work has potential to reverse these trends and is generating attention from public health professionals. "We have done a lot since the program started 20 months ago" "Traffic light food labelling, healthy food policies, better food choices at key venues and in catering, parent information sessions, walking groups and promotion of water as the drink of choice are some of the major changes we have implemented across the Shire so far," Jill Whelan said.

Sport and Recreation Victoria is seeking applications from sporting clubs and community groups within Yarriambiack Shire Council for funds to improve community sport and recreation facilities.

The Easter weekend was a busy time for Warracknabeal. Many hundreds of visitors came to be part of Y-Fest activities. The Warracknabeal Arts Council hosted the official opening on Good Friday evening at the Shire Offices. The function room was packed with young and old who had come to see the artwork

of local artists – Joan Goad of Brim and Ron Penrose of Harrow. Saturday saw a huge crowd of spectators line both sides of Scott Street to witness the 50th Annual Parade of Vintage farm machinery classic cars and floats. Action then switched to the racecourse for the running of the Warracknabeal Cup, to the Lions Park for the busker's competition and to Wheatlands Agricultural Museum to view the extensive array of exhibits on display. On Sunday the foyer extension to the Wheatlands Museum was officially opened by Danielle Green MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Tourism.

Yarriambiack Shire has recognised the efforts of seven outstanding young people during a ceremony held at Lake Lascelles in Hopetoun. Tenaya Zanker of Warracknabeal received the Youth Leadership Award. Joe Collins from Woomelang received the Community Service and Social Impact Award. Zac Robbins was awarded Group Club Achievement in the Community Award, Cr Shane Roberts presented this award. Mayor Graham Massey awarded the Arts and Creativity Award to Chelsea Michael of Woomelang. Kelsey Renkin of Hopetoun was awarded the Business Achievement Award by Mayor Graeme Massey. Hope Dempsey was awarded with the Health and Wellbeing Award presented by Cr Kylie Zanker. Riley Keel of Murtoa was awarded the CFA Area 17/18 Award. Mayor Graham Massey said he had the pleasure of presenting the Yarriambiack Youth Achievement Awards, recognising the excellent contribution made by seven young people of our shire.



Tenaya Zanker with Cr Jean Wise receiving the Youth Leadership Award

Yarriambiack Shire Council CEO Ray Campling was able to get close and personal with the Prime Minister during a group dinner while in Canberra recently as part of a delegation of Wimmera Mayors and CEO's. The visit to Canberra allowed the delegation to collectively campaign for more funding for their projects and to seek the reintroduction of the financial assistance grants that the Prime Minister had placed a three year moratorium on. Member for Mallee Andrew Broad, hosted the delegation and placed office facilities at the group's disposal, while they met with ministers and senior public servants. Yarriambiack's representatives raised several vital issues while in Canberra that included access to general practitioners, construction of a weather radar, augmentations to the Victorian electricity transmission declared shared network, among many others. While the delegation worked extremely hard, time was set aside for a group dinner that included the chance to speak directly with the Prime Minister. The delegation made the most of the opportunity that had been presented to them.

May 2017

Approval of funding for restoration has been given for the September 2016 flooding event and works have commenced. The works will include grading and formation of earth roads, some gravel re-sheeting, gravel road grading and stabilising of some sealed road sections. The estimated cost is \$500,000.

The capital works program is continuing with several works on urban streets nearing completion. On the rural roads front, six projects have been completed with four more projects currently underway. Two of four gravel shoulders have been completed, with four more projects currently underway. Twenty-eight of the thirty-six gravel re-sheets projects have been completed, with more projects set to begin in the coming months.

Works on footpaths are continuing with four projects completed and another five set to get underway shortly. Two kerb and channel projects will start soon, with two already completed. Bridges, culverts and drainage has seen three of four projects completed.

The Commonwealth Home Support Programme recently had their three year audit and a team of HACC and CHSP staff and administration staff received a high rating, the highest rating to be given at 18/18. The audit was part of the national accreditation which runs approximately every three years.

Yarriambiack celebrated its greatest resource. Volunteers are the most important resource the community has and the ability of people to work willingly together for the betterment of their community and themselves is the most valuable resource available. Yarriambiack Shire Council hosted a 'thankyou' barbeque for all volunteers at the Warracknabeal Neighbourhood House. Volunteering touches every section of Australian society and Warracknabeal is no different with over 60 services and sporting clubs that all volunteer their time to improve the community. Without these volunteers the town will not survive or thrive. "The personal contributions of volunteers cannot be under estimated" Yarriambiack Shire Mayor Graeme Massey said "Warracknabeal enjoys many facilities thanks to the hard work put in by different groups that give their time and efforts. Volunteers play an integral role in many organisations such as the CFA, SES, Woodbine, Lions, Rotary, Apex and many other clubs within Warracknabeal".

In accordance with section 54(5) of the Road Management Act 2004 (the Act), Yarriambiack Shire Council gave notice it has conducted a review of its Road Management Plan. The purpose of the review, consistent with the role, functions and responsibilities of the Council as a road authority under the Act, is to ensure the standards in relation to and the priorities to be given to the inspection, maintenance and repair of the roads and classes of road to which the Council's Road Management Plan applies are safe, efficient and appropriate for use by the community served by the Council. Various changes have been made – a complete listing of the changes, along with a copy of the draft 2016 Road Management Plan were available for inspection at the Municipal Office Warracknabeal, Gateway BEET Hopetoun or via Council's Website.

Property Owners and Residents throughout Yarriambiack Shire were advised that fees for the disposal of Green Waste will be waived for the period of 30th May 2017 to 4th June 2017 during

normal transfer stations hours of operation.

On 24th May 2017, Yarriambiack Shire Council formally considered its Budget for 2017/18 and gave notice to advertise the Draft Budget. Copies of the Proposed Draft Budget were available for inspection until 21st June 2017. Any persons wishing to make submission on the Draft Budget could do so before the 21st June 2017.

Council has applied to State Government for funding to upgrade the Warracknabeal Regional Livestock Exchange in the next financial year. Improvements will include the replacement of a ramp and conversion of other ramps, concreting, covered areas, drainage and improved lighting. The project is estimated at \$200,000 with Council proposing to allocate \$50,000 should the application be successful.

Caravan Park occupancy numbers have steadily increased mainly due to the Silo Art Trail visitors flocking to the district. In Warracknabeal numbers have increased from 513 in March to 719 in April. Hopetoun have also seen an increase in numbers from 85 in March to 170 in April based on receipts taken. Murtoa saw a slight decrease in numbers, from 232 in March to 194 in April.



Hopetoun Caravan Park

Council have signed and sealed the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Service and Funding Agreement for 2017-2020. Council is a member of the WRLC. Along with the static Library in Warracknabeal, Shire residents also have access to the Mobile Library Service - of the six Shires on the Board, our Shire is the largest user of the Mobile service.

A new Council Plan has been released for 2017-21, ready for the engagement and feedback of the communities within the Yarriambiack Shire. The plan was released at the monthly Council meeting. In accordance with Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council was required to prepare and approve a four year Council Plan. The 2017-21 Council Plan is Council's key strategic document for the term of Council, which reflects the outcomes of stakeholder and community engagement. The Council Plan describes Council's strategic objectives and how the outcomes will be measured. Supporting the delivery of Council's version is the Strategic Resource Plan which describes the financial and non-financial resources required to implement the Council Plan over the four year period. The Council Plan incorporates the requirements of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 for Council to prepare a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. The Council Plan is structured across five key strategic objectives of Good

Governance; A Place to Live and Grow; a Safe and Active Community and Sustainable Environment; A Planned Future; and Health and Wellbeing. Mayor Graham Massey said, "This is an easy document to follow and it's well prepared," Councillor Jean Wise said, "We would love to receive feedback from the public on this well presented and easy to read document. Councillor Kylie Zanker said, "I hope people take the time to read the document and give their feedback. It is easy to see where the communities are going," Chief Executive Officer Ray Campling said, "This document shows the vision we have for the next four years right across the Shire."

June 2017

The newest piece on the Silo Art Trail depicts the faces of Lascelles couple, Geoff and Merrilyn Horman, whose families have lived and farmed in the area for four generations. Acclaimed Melbourne street artist Rone paying homage to two of the towns most respected elders. With his work included in permanent collections at the National Gallery of Australia and the National Gallery of Victoria and his distinctive murals being commissioned in cities as far and wide as London, Paris, New York, Havana, Port Vila, Taipei, Mexico City and Hong Kong, Tyrone (Rone) Wright has established himself as a leader in the international street art scene.



Lascelles Silo

Council conducted a review of its Footpath Hierarchy. The Hierarchy is an essential tool in the management of all footpaths for which Council has responsibility. The Hierarchy will determine a footprint of standards for the footpaths and will assist Council and its Officers to plan for new, upgrade, renewal works and maintenance regimes, allowing Council to direct its limited footpath funding to where it will achieve best value.

Warracknabeal's 150th birthday celebrations were kicked off with a civic reception held at the Council Chambers on the Friday night of the long weekend. Invited guests included Warracknabeal's honours recipients and the town's sportsmen and women who have presented Australia in their chosen sport. The Mayor Graeme Massey and the 150th Anniversary Chairman, Kevin Gebert, both spoke to 100 guests about the importance and significance of the coming weekend. "The celebrations we were able to have should remind many of the hardships endured by our ancestors in moving to and creating the township" said Mayor Massey. The Mayor also received a gift on behalf of the Yarriambiack Shire, an original piece of artwork painted by artist Ray Hinchcliffe, from Woodbine, depicting one of Warracknabeal's iconic roundabouts. It was lovely evening for all who attended, said the Mayor.

During Warracknabeal's 150th Birthday celebrations a commemorative plaque was unveiled at the Tourist Information Centre, Mayor Graeme Massey performed the unveiling in front of an enthusiastic crowd. Graeme spoke briefly of the history of the town before officially unveiling the plaque.

Council at its meeting on 28 June 2017 declared a differential rate for rateable land having the following characteristics for the period commencing 1 July 2017 and concluding on the 30 June 2018:

"Farm Land" within the meaning of section 2 of the Valuation and Land Act 1960.

The differential rate so declared was expressed by reference to a uniform rate of .006550 cents in the \$, so that the differential rate payable by each owner of rateable land in these categories will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value by the following percentage:

Category	%	cents in \$ of CIV
Farm Land	05325%	.005325

A municipal charge of \$71.83 per rateable assessment is also declared.

Ratepayers were advised that Government assistance is available for Municipal rates and charges and the Fire Services Property Levy, for eligible Social Security and Repatriation Pensioners for a single rateable property used exclusively for residential purposes.

Council completed and submitted an application through the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund in the 2018-2019 program for \$200,000 to upgrade the Murtoa Swimming Pool change rooms. The upgrade will also provide facilities for the Murtoa Tennis and Angling Clubs. The project has been raised by the Murtoa Progress Association as a priority project for the Murtoa Community. It is listed in Council's Community Action Plan that co-ordinates the community's efforts to develop services, infrastructure and resources for their communities.

A man wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a plaid shirt, and an orange vest is riding a brown horse with a white blaze on its face. The horse is standing in a field of dry grass and shrubs. In the background, there are trees and a cloudy sky.

2. ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

We continue to seek ways to improve how we include and involve residents in the decision-making process on decisions that affect them and to have their say on what they want for their community.

While this engagement process does not replace the final decision-making power of Councillors or the CEO, it strengthens Council's capacity to make well-informed, acceptable and sustainable decisions.

In an effort to become an organisation that truly engages its community, we continued to have a strong strategic focus.

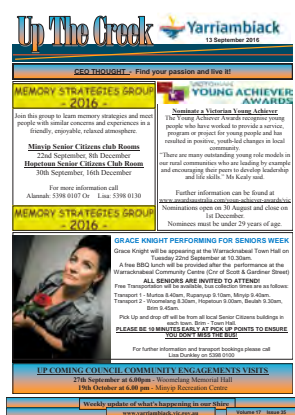
keeping residents informed

IN 2016-17, RESIDENTS WERE KEPT INFORMED USING A RANGE OF COMMUNICATION METHODS

Up the Creek Newsletter

Published every week and delivered to every town across the Municipality and it is displayed throughout various areas.

Up the Creek is available to download at <http://www.yarriambiack.vic.gov.au/news/article/up-the-creek-newsletter>



Yarriambiack Shire Council Website

www.yarriambiack.vic.gov.au

Continuously updated (content and features) to make it easier for residents to find the information they are looking for.

Social Media

Accounts were used to communicate (fact-based) directly to residents:

- Facebook - www.facebook.com/

Dedicated Facebook pages

These were maintained to meet specific needs:

- Yarriambiack Shire Council
- Silo Art Trail
- Yarriambiack Tourism

Targeted Direct Mail

This was used to keep residents updated on things happening in their local neighbourhood. Some examples include:

- 3,161 'Beat the Bite' pamphlets were sent to all homeowners advising precautions people can take to prevent mosquitoes.

encouraging residents to have their say

Customer Service

- We are committed to being a customer-focused organisation that delivers excellent and effective customer service at all levels
- We will endeavour to provide you with information that is accurate, up-to-date and easy to understand
- We will make every effort to answer your questions and deal with your requests promptly
- We will keep your personal information private and secure
- We will ensure you are referred to the right person if your request cannot be immediately dealt with.

WHAT CUSTOMERS CAN EXPECT ON THE TELEPHONE:

- We will answer ringing phones promptly and we will identify ourselves
- We will ask for your name, phone number and the reason for your call and ensure we record your messages accurately
- If the person that you are trying to contact is not available when you call you will be able to leave a message and you will receive a return call within two working days.

WHAT CUSTOMERS CAN EXPECT WITH FACE-TO-FACE CONTACT:

- We will provide assistance with Council forms if this is required
- We will greet you in a courteous, helpful and friendly manner.

Residents are able to call our Customer Service Officers to have their say, give feedback or ask questions. Our customer service team are available Monday - Friday 8:30am to 5pm.

community consultations

Yarriambiack Shire Council is committed to community consultation as a way of ensuring Council provides services and programs in line with the needs and preferences of the community. Council's

community consultation program allows people to become involved in Council's decision-making processes so they can help shape decisions that affect them and their community.

Examples of community consultation include asking the community for feedback on Council policies, service delivery performance or involving the community in the progress or review of specific projects or developments.

In 2016-17, residents were encouraged to have their say about issues that affect them, to tell us what's important to them and to give feedback on any active projects.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS WERE HELD AT:

- Yaapeet - 19 July 2016 - Yaapeet Recreation Centre
- Speed - 31 August 2016 - Speed Recreation Reserve
- Woomelang - 27 September 2016 - Woomelang Memorial Hall
- Rupanyup - 12 September 2016 - Rupanyup Recreation Centre
- Murtoa - 28 June 2017 - Murtoa Mechanics Hall
- Brim - 25 July 2016 - Brim Memorial Hall
- Beulah - 17 August 2016 - Beulah Business Centre
- Hopetoun - 1 August 2016 - Gateway BEET
- Minyip - 19 October 2016 - Minyip Recreation Centre

volunteer program

Council's Volunteer Program aims to facilitate opportunities for community capacity building by enhancing community connectedness. Our volunteers contribute invaluable resources and time in a range of areas across the Yarriambiack Shire and have had another busy year.

Yarriambiack Shire Council gratefully acknowledges all of our community volunteers who have gone above and beyond in supporting the various schools, sporting groups and not-for-profit organisations across the municipality in 2016-17.

More information about Council's volunteering programs can be found by calling the Aged & Disability Services Officer on 5398 0100.

Where our volunteers contribute:

- Meals on Wheels
- Volunteer Transport



Community Consultation visit in Murtoa



Thank you bbq, celebrating MOW volunteers at Warracknabeal

community grants

This program supports and helps build capacity and connectedness in our community by encouraging community organisations to be innovative and creative and address needs within their community.

All recreation, service and community organisation volunteer fundraising groups which are formally constituted organisations, located within the boundaries of the Yarriambiack Shire Council municipal boundaries are eligible to apply for assistance under the Community Grant and SHARE Community Grant Schemes.

In 2016-17, Yarriambiack Shire Council's Community Grant and SHARE Community Grant schemes awarded \$65,000.35 to 95 community projects and events across a wide range of areas.

community grants (cont.)

Contributions & Donations

1st Warracknabeal Scout Group	\$1,000.00	Rupanyup Nursing Home Support	\$800.00
Access Ministries	\$3,051.00	Rupanyup Recreation Reserve	\$17,370.00
Anzac Memorial Park	\$51,794.00	Rupanyup Swimming Pool	\$21,184.00
Beulah Business & Information Centre	\$1,147.92	Rural Northwest Health	\$500.00
Beulah Memorial Hall Committee	\$2,789.08	Speed Public Hall	\$2,363.61
Beulah Park Trustees Committee	\$11,347.82	Speed Recreation Reserve	\$3,080.00
Beulah Pre-school	\$2,000.00	St. Mary's Cricket Club	\$924.00
Beulah Swimming Pool	\$23,183.00	Tempy Memorial Park	\$7,688.00
Boolite Public Hall & Recreation Committee	\$1,587.23	Tempy Swimming Pool	\$8,444.00
Brim Active Community Group	\$1,647.91	Tigers Cricket Club	\$528.00
Brim Kellalac Sheep Hills Cricket Club	\$504.00	Wallup Hall Committee	\$1,779.03
Brim Lions Club	\$2,295.82	Warrack Eagles Football Netball Inc	\$1,000.00
Brim Memorial Hall	\$1,890.00	Warracknabeal & District Band	\$1,850.00
Brim Recreation Reserve	\$8,464.00	Warracknabeal 150th Anniversary	\$1,000.00
Dunmunkle SES	\$13,046.00	Warracknabeal Action Group	\$2,147.91
Friends of Wyperfeld National Park	\$750.00	Warracknabeal Boxing Group	\$500.00
Gateway BEET	\$1,647.91	Warracknabeal Girl Guides	\$1,475.00
Hopetoun & District Historical Society	\$750.00	Warracknabeal Memorial Kindergarten	\$2,000.00
Hopetoun & District Preschool	\$2,000.00	Warracknabeal Memorial Swimming Pool	\$67,622.00
Hopetoun & District Traders Group	\$1,000.00	Warracknabeal Mens Shed Group	\$2,000.00
Hopetoun A & P Society	\$500.00	Warracknabeal Playgroup	\$500.00
Hopetoun Bowls Club	\$500.00	Warracknabeal Racing Club Inc.	\$1,500.00
Hopetoun Landcare Group	\$800.00	Warracknabeal Secondary College	\$2,000.00
Hopetoun Mens Shed	\$600.00	Warracknabeal SES	\$13,046.00
Hopetoun Progress Association	\$1,000.00	Warracknabeal Show Yards Reserve	\$1,500.00
Hopetoun Recreation Reserve	\$21,240.00	Wimmera Roller Derby League	\$500.00
Hopetoun Senior Citizens	\$970.00	Woodbine Inc	\$1,000.00
Hopetoun Swimming Pool	\$31,693.00	Woods Farming & Heritage Museum	\$1,400.00
Hopetoun Table Tennis Club	\$500.00	Woomelang & District Development Association	\$2,647.91
Hopetoun Tennis Club	\$500.00	Woomelang Historical Society	\$500.00
Lake Lascelles/Corrong Committee of Management	4,591.64	Woomelang Memorial Hall	\$7,539.58
Lake Marma Committee of Management	4,591.64	Woomelang Recreation Reserve	\$3,296.00
Lascelles Progress Association	\$1,647.91	Woomelang SES	\$6,734.00
Lubeck Memorial Public Hall Inc	\$2,789.08	Woomelang Swimming Pool	\$21,761.00
Lubeck Recreation Reserve	\$3,080.00	Yaapeet Community Club Inc	\$5,727.91
Minyip Memorial Hall Inc.	\$4,098.04	Yarriambiack Creek Development	\$3,295.82
Minyip Progress Association	\$1,647.91		
Minyip Recreation Reserve Committee	\$12,047.00	TOTAL:	\$549,567.51
Minyip Senior Citizens	\$1,000.00		
Minyip Swimming Pool Inc	\$25,215.00	Memberships	
Minyp Pre-School	\$2,000.00	Australian Airports Association	\$520.00
Murtoa Angling Club Inc	\$1,000.00	Australian Livestock Saleyards	\$1,302.00
Murtoa Bowling Club	\$1,690.00	Sunraysia Highway Improvements Committee	\$1,000.00
Murtoa Golf Club Inc	\$1,000.00	Garage Sale Trail Foundation	\$1,725.00
Murtoa Mechanics Institute	\$1,040.00	Australian Rural Road Group	\$500.00
Murtoa Progress Association	\$1,147.91	Rail Freight Alliance	\$2,000.00
Murtoa Showyards Reserve Inc	\$19,279.00	Municipal Association Of Victoria	\$24,452.82
Murtoa Swimming Pool Inc	\$36,189.00	National Saleyards Quality Association	\$500.00
Murtoa Tennis Club	\$1,600.00	North West Municipalities Association	\$1,000.00
Patchewollock Memorial Hall	\$4,098.04	Rural Councils Victoria	\$3,000.00
Patchewollock Progress Association	\$1,500.00	Victorian Local Governance Association	\$2,820.00
Patchewollock Sheep Dog Trials	\$500.00	Wimmera Development Association	\$55,581.00
Rupanyup A & P Society	\$1,850.00	Wimmera Mallee Tourism	\$3,523.65
Rupanyup Consultative Committee	\$1,147.91	Wimmera Regional Library Corporation	\$163,903.00
Rupanyup Kindergarten Committee	\$2,000.00		
Rupanyup Memorial Hall Committee	\$4,394.97	TOTAL:	\$261,827.47
Rupanyup Minyip Cricket Club	\$1,020.00		

3. OUR COUNCIL

Local Government is the third level of democratically-elected government in Australia and operates under the Local Government Act 1989, which specifies Council powers, duties and functions.

Yarriambiack Shire Council is one of 79 Councils in Victoria. Each Municipality varies in size, population, rate base and resources.

Councils plan and deliver services to meet the needs of their communities, specifically in the areas of health, planning and building control, business and economic development, waste and environmental management, and human and community services. They are responsible for implementing programs, policies and regulations set by the Victorian and Australian Governments, managing community infrastructure and assets, and managing local issues with the power to set their own regulations and by-laws.



Silo artwork located at Patchewollock

council profile

Yarriambiack Shire Council has an area of 7,158 square kilometres with an estimated residential population of 6,627 people and includes the townships of Warracknabeal, Murtoa, Hopetoun, Minyip, Rupanyup, Beulah, Brim, Lascelles, Lubeck, Lah, Patchewollock, Speed, Tempy, Woomelang, Yaapeet, Sheep Hills, Rosebery and Turriff.



Municipal Office located in Lyle Street, Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal is the major service centre in the region and provides a wide range of services. It is complemented by Hopetoun in the north and Minyip, Murtoa and Rupanyup in the south, with another thirteen small towns spread throughout the Municipality.

- 6,627 estimated residential population
- 7 Councillors
- 2,852 dwellings
- Agriculture, Retail and Health Care are the major employment sectors

The Yarriambiack Creek is the main natural feature traversing the Shire. The area is also linked by road and rail systems that run in a north-south direction. The area has an almost ideal climate with a short winter and delightful autumn and spring. Summer temperatures can be hot, particularly in the north.

The Shire is situated between the Grampians and Murray Tourist Regions and provides a link between Horsham in the south and Mildura in the northern end of that region. It is located immediately to the east of some of Victoria's main eco-tourist attractions, including the Big

Desert, Wyperfeld National Park, Lake Hindmarsh, Lake Albacutya and the Little Desert.

Of the population, almost half the workforce is employed in agriculture. Many other residents depend indirectly on farming, as they are employed in services used by the farming population. The population trends are remarkably similar to other areas across most of the Wimmera/Mallee. The rural areas and small towns have tended to lose population, while the population bases of the larger towns have shown more stability.

The Shire is the heartland of grain production and handling in the Wimmera/Mallee. The dry-land farming area produces one quarter of Victoria's total production of wheat and barley and is noted for the production of lambs and wool. Legume and oilseed crops are very important and alternative livestock enterprises are also well established.

The Shire is well situated to serve the needs of local economies and communities and promote and

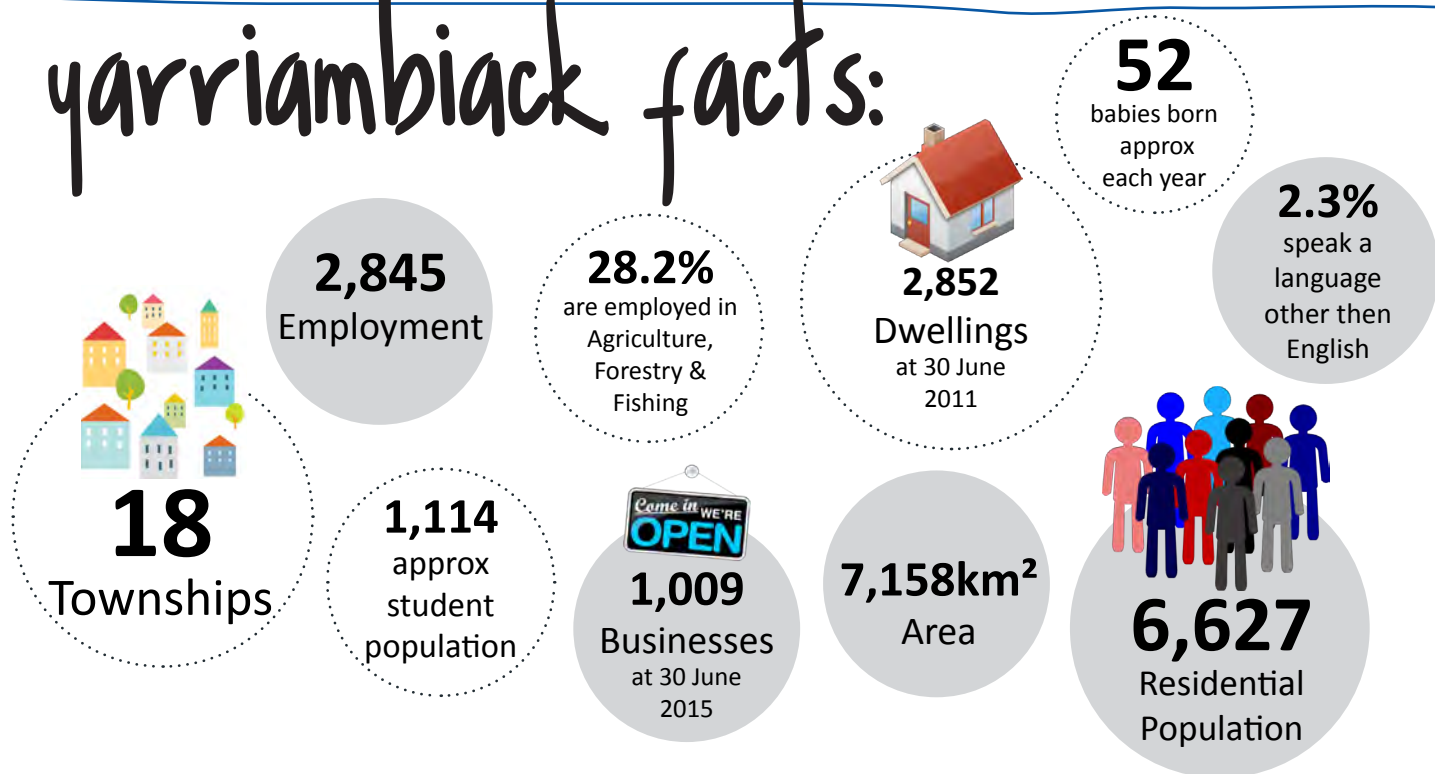
facilitate increased public and private investment in developing its grain and related industries. Warracknabeal is the sub-regional centre for the northern Wimmera and southern Mallee, with excellent facilities for shopping, aged care, health, recreation and other commercial activities. The saleyards are an important selling feature. There is an industrial estate with sites available for development.

Attractions within the Yarriambiack Shire include:

Murtoa Stick Shed, Wimmera Inland Freezing Works Museum, Water Tower Museum and Concordia Cottage, Marma Lake and Rabl Park, Minyip Heritage Town, Yarriambiack Creek, Warracknabeal Agricultural Machinery Museum and Historical Centre, Federation Place, Silo artwork located at Brim, Lascelles, Patchewollock, Rupanyup and Sheep Hills, Corrong Homestead, Mallee Bush Retreat, Wood's Museum, Wyperfeld National Park, Jack Emmett Billabong, Redda's Park, and Cronomby Tanks Reserve.



yarriambiack facts:



Facts are referenced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Yarriambiack Shire Council Data

our vision, mission & values

Vision

In consultation with our community, Yarriambiack Shire Council aims to provide a viable, sustainable and vibrant future.

Mission

Through strong leadership, transparency and strategic planning Councillors and Staff in partnership with community will achieve our vision.

Our Values:

Customer Service

- treat our customers with courtesy and respect;
- lead and develop leadership within our community;
- constantly strive to improve our services;
- forge closer relationships with customers;
- investigate matters thoroughly and objectively, and keep our customers informed, in plain language, about the process and outcome;
- treat people fairly, with respect and have proper regard for their rights;
- make decisions lawfully, fairly, impartially, and in the public interest;
- we are honest, trustworthy, reliable, transparent and accountable in our dealings;
- we are careful, conscientious and diligent;
- use public resources economically and efficiently, and
- actively pursue positive outcomes for the community.

Continuous Improvement

We drive continuous and sustainable improvement in service provision, operational efficiency and stakeholder relations to create a leading organisation.

our councillors

Yarriambiack Shire Council provides leadership and good governance to the Municipality. The role of Council is to represent its community by considering its diverse needs when making decisions, advocating in the interests of ratepayers and encouraging active participation in community life.

Our Municipality is divided into three Wards, represented by two Councillors in the Hopetoun and Dunmunkle Wards and three Councillors in the Warracknabeal Ward.

On Monday 7th November 2016 the newly appointed Councillors were sworn into Council after voting in the recent election. The seven Councillors are the elected representatives of all residents and ratepayers across the Shire.

For information on Councillor allowances, expenses and meeting attendance, see page 39.

Mayor

Cr Graeme Massey

Deputy Mayor

Cr Helen Ballentine

Councillors

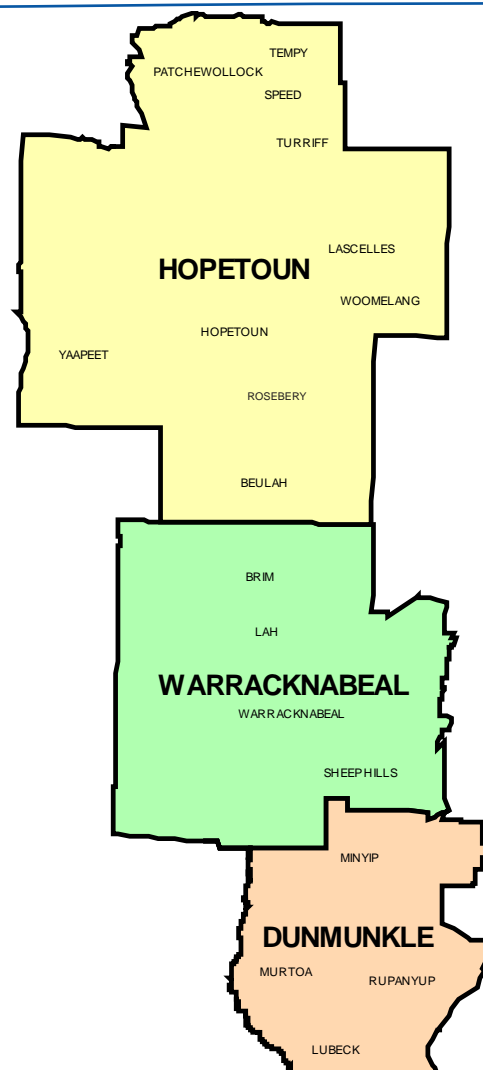
Cr Kylie Zanker

Cr Shane Roberts

Cr Corinne Heintze

Cr Jean Wise

Cr Tom Hamilton



Woomelang artwork located on the side of community cafe

councillor profiles

The current group of Councillors was first elected to Council on 7 November 2016 for a four-year term.



CR GRAEME MASSEY (Mayor)

Elected: 2012

Ward: Warracknabeal

E: gmassey@yarriambiack.vic.gov.au

M: 0428 339 377



CR KYLIE ZANKER

Elected: 2008

Ward: Warracknabeal

E: kzanker@yarriambiack.vic.gov.au

M: 0428 349 058



CR JEAN WISE

Elected: 2016

Ward: Warracknabeal

E: jwise@yarriambiack.vic.gov.au

M: 0407 242 914



CR SHANE ROBERTS

Elected: 2016

Ward: Hopetoun

E: sroberts@yarriambiack.vic.gov.au

M: 0429 833 027

CR GRAEME MASSEY (MAYOR)

About

Cr Massey is a retired secondary school teacher and passionate Bulldogs supporter. His interests and hobbies are walking, reading, playing golf, researching military history, gardening and travelling. He and his wife Mary enjoy visiting their three grandsons in Melbourne and Lara as often as possible.

Committees

Municipal Association of Victoria, North West Municipalities Association, Wimmera Development Association, Yarrilinks - Yarriambiack Landcare Group, Yarriambiack Tourism Association.

CR KYLIE ZANKER

About

Cr Zanker is family orientated and enjoys spending time with her 4 children, friends and family.

Her special interest lies with children, youth and community-minded projects. She is a qualified Early Childhood Years teacher and her past employment includes teaching and co-ordination within early childhood years programs and university lecturing in the area of social sciences.

Kylie is passionate, dedicated and immersed within community organisations and her aim for the Yarriambiack Shire is to build capacity, confidence, resilience and ability within stakeholder groups.

Committees

Municipal Association of Victoria, North West Municipalities Association, Internal Audit Committee, Wimmera Mallee Sustainability Alliance, Rural Finance Counselling Services Victoria, Centre for Participation, WORDS Steering Committee, Yarriambiack Chaplaincy Council.

CR JEAN WISE

About

Cr Wise, a retired librarian, is a community minded resident of the Shire, heavily committed to supporting her community in trying to ensure a viable and long term future for all. Jean is personally involved in a number of organisations in Warracknabeal, including Rotary, Show Society, Historical Society and School Chaplaincy. Through her Council involvement since 1999, Jean has gained a lot of knowledge in advocacy and governance to assist her in working with the community.

Committees

Internal Audit Committee, RoadSafe Wimmera, Wimmera Regional Library Corporation.

CR SHANE ROBERTS

About

Cr Roberts lives in Hopetoun with his partner and three children. Although he was born in Hopetoun and grew up there, he spent many years away and returned home in 2012. Since returning home, Cr Roberts has become actively involved with his community and was elected to Council in November 2016.

Committees

GWM Water Community Consultative Mallee Users Group, Henty Highway Action Group, Sunraysia Highway Improvement Committee, Western Highway Action Committee.

councillor profiles



CR HELEN BALLENTINE

Elected: 2005

Ward: Hopetoun

E: hballentine@yarriambiack.vic.gov.au

M: 0429 006 016



CR TOM HAMILTON

Elected: 2016

Ward: Dunmunkle

E: thamilton@yarriambiack.vic.gov.au

M: 0428 339 377



CR CORINNE HEINTZE

Elected: 2016

Ward: Dunmunkle

E: cheintze@yarriambiack.vic.gov.au

M: 0428 596 790

CR HELEN BALLENTINE

About

Cr Ballentine farms with her husband Leigh and sons at Goyura East, near Hopetoun. Her life has included farm book-keeping, welfare roles and many past community roles. Her commitment to Council of twelve years has included the advocacy for topics of recreational water, regional and Shire wide tourism, and economic development. Her personal interests are photography, walking trails and history. Helen sees a great future for our Shire from the nbn network, better mobile phone coverage and reviewed rate formulas.

Committees

Wimmera Development Association, Yarriambiack Tourism Association, GWM Water Regional Recreational Water Users Group, Victorian Local Governance Association, Wimmera Mallee Tourism Association, Yarriambiack Creek Advisory Committee.

CR TOM HAMILTON

About

Cr Tom Hamilton lives with his partner Kendra about 10km south of Murtoa on his family farm. Tom is involved in a number of community groups and enjoys living and working in the Wimmera.

Committees

Yarrilinks - Yarriambiack Landcare Group, Yarriambiack Tourism Association, Rail Freight Alliance, Seasonal Conditions Committee.

CR CORINNE HEINTZE

About

Corinne runs a sheep and grain farm at Minyip as well as Minyip Agritech Rural, a farming supply business. Previous occupations include wool classing, bus driving and horticultural work. Interests include walking, golf, floral design and Ag Art, which is the making of wearable outfits from recycled farm junk. Apart from volunteering for many Minyip organisations, Corinne regularly participates in visits to check out church sponsored educational projects in developing countries. She is passionate about the freedom and benefits of a rural lifestyle and believes smaller, peaceful country towns will be seen as desirable places to live as cities become unaffordable and crowded out and 'working from home' internet technology becomes the norm. She also enjoys home brewing and a good laugh.

Committees

Grampians Central West Waste & Resource Recovery Group, Livestock Saleyards Association of Victoria, Warracknabeal Saleyards Committee, Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group.

our people

Council is the governing body that appoints a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO has the responsibility for the day-to-day management of operations in accordance with the strategic directions of the Council Plan. One director, three managers and the CEO form the Executive Management Group and lead the organisation. Details of the CEO and Senior Officers reporting directly to the CEO are set out below:



Ray Campling

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Ray Campling was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Yarriambiack Shire Council in January 2003. His previous employment was Director Community Services and Director Operations for 6 years with Mildura Rural City Council. Ray delivers strategic guidance for all management and operations of Council and is responsible for providing strong leadership to the organisation. He has more than 28 years experience in Local Government in Victoria & New South Wales.



James Magee

DIRECTOR PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE

James Magee has 28 years of experience in Local Government. James manages Planning and Infrastructure for Yarriambiack Shire Council. His portfolio covers a number of significant areas including Town Planning, Building Control, Asset Planning and Management, Design and Technical Services and Infrastructure Maintenance/Construction.



Anita McFarlane

CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER

Anita McFarlane has 21 years of experience in Local Government. Anita manages Corporate Services for Yarriambiack Shire Council. Her portfolio covers a number of significant areas including Financial Services, Information Technology Services, Corporate Planning and Insurance.



Bernie Naylor

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES MANAGER

Bernie Naylor has more than 40 years of experience in Local Government. Bernie manages Infrastructure Services for Yarriambiack Shire Council. His portfolio covers a number of significant areas including Contracts, Works/Technical Services, Waste & Recycling, Swimming Pools and Caravan Parks.



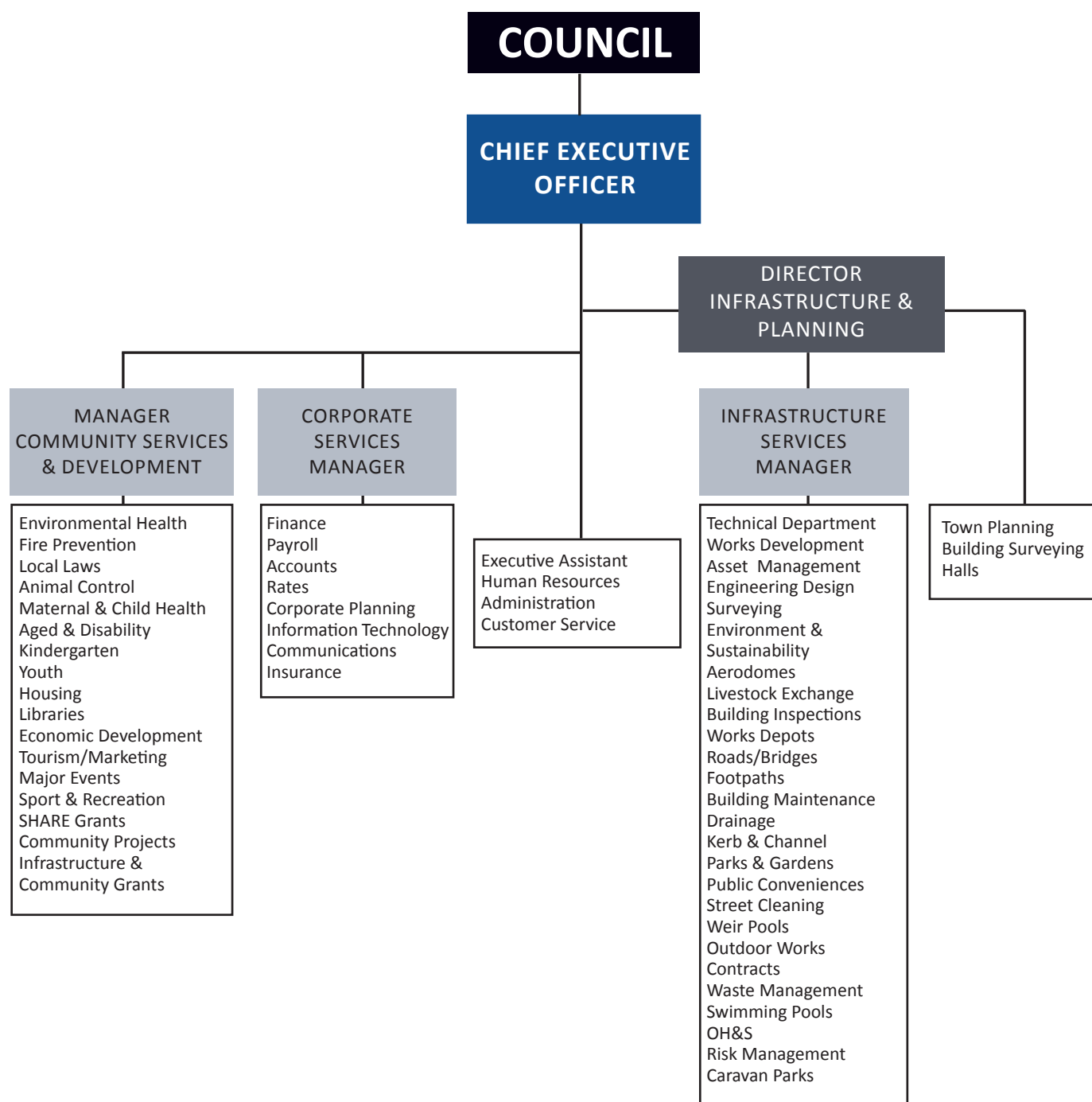
Gavin Blinman

MANAGER COMMUNITY SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT

Gavin Blinman has 9 years of experience in Local Government. Gavin manages Community Services & Development for Yarriambiack Shire Council. His portfolio covers a number of significant areas including Maternal & Child Health, Home & Community Care Services, Environmental Health & Local Laws, Business & Economic Development, Community Projects/Grants and the Library.

organisational structure

A CHART SETTING OUT THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF YARRIAMBIACK SHIRE COUNCIL



council staff

A SUMMARY OF THE NUMBER OF FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) COUNCIL STAFF BY ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE, EMPLOYMENT TYPE AND GENDER IS SET OUT BELOW

Employment type/gender	CEO FTE	Director Infrastructure FTE	Corporate Services FTE	Community Services & Development FTE	Infrastructure Services FTE	Total FTE
Permanent FT - F	1	-	7	3	-	11
Permanent FT - M	1	1	-	4	66	72
Permanent PT - F	-	-	1	16	-	17
Permanent PT - M	-	-	-	-	.75	.75
Total	2	1	8	23	67	101

council staff

A SUMMARY OF THE NUMBER OF FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) STAFF CATEGORISED BY EMPLOYMENT CLASSIFICATION AND GENDER IS SET OUT BELOW

Employment classification	Female FTE	Male FTE	Total FTE
Band 1	1.25	-	1
Band 2	5.46	9.25	15
Band 3	1.5	39	40
Band 4	5	7	12
Band 5	1.13	3.5	5
Band 6	5.84	6	12
Band 7	1	4	5
Band not applicable	7.31	4	11
Total	28.49	72.75	101



Equal Employment Opportunity Program

Yarriambiack Shire Council is committed to providing a workplace free of all forms of discrimination and harassment including bullying. It aims for equality of opportunity for all employees – both permanent and temporary.

By effectively implementing our Equal Opportunity Policy we will attract talented people and use their abilities to maximum advantage for both the organisation and the employee alike.

The objective of Council's Equal Opportunity Policy is to ensure there is no discrimination relating to the characteristics listed under the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 such as race, colour, sex, marital status, parenthood, physical or mental impairment, age, religious or political affiliation, gender identity and sexual orientation. Further objectives include ensuring the workplace is free from bullying and harassment. Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying is not only unacceptable it is unlawful.

Health and Safety

Yarriambiack Shire Council is fully committed to the provision of the highest levels of Occupational Health and Safety within the Shire. Council is seen by contractors, volunteers and the public as the leader in this field, the expectation that Local Government will be exemplary in their management of health & safety. Yarriambiack Shire Council achieves this by fostering a health and safety culture and top down safety culture from management whereby this culture has now become a core value of Council.

Council is exposed to a wide range of risks from managing heavy engineering work, running sport and entertainment venues to delivering community services to households. Therefore the health and safety portfolio for staff is diverse and tailored to individual tasks and programs. Through continuous improvements in implementing safety systems and employee training, Council will continue to strive to be an exemplary performer in health and safety management within the Shire.

Act@Work

Yarriambiack Shire Council is participating in a program called Act@Work. It is an organisation-wide program developed by Women's Health Grampians that provides intensive support to organisations in the planning and implementation of an Action Plan and includes staff training across the organisation.

Workplaces are an important part of people's lives and they need to be safe. They are increasingly prominent sites for violence prevention and intervention. While most strategies focus on responses to victimisation, a growing number of organisations also engage in activities designed to prevent men's violence against women. Workplaces can also be a site for social change and can be used as a catalyst for reaching men and women.



4. GOVERNANCE

GOOD GOVERNANCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Under the *Local Government Act 1989*, elected Councils are required to make decisions for the municipality or delegate the decision-making power to Council Officers.

What are the characteristics of good governance in Local Government?

- » Councils are required to report, explain and be accountable for the consequences of decisions it has made on behalf of the community it represents.
- » People should be able to see clearly what the Council considered in the decision-making process, including information, advice, consultation and legislation.
- » Decisions made by Councils need to be in line with relevant legislation (in Victoria, this includes the *Local Government Act 1989*, the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* and the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*).
- » Councils need to be as responsive as possible to the needs of the entire community while balancing competing interests.
- » Councils need to provide opportunities for all members of the community, and especially the most vulnerable, to participate in the decision-making process.
- » Councils need to make the best use of the available people, resources and time to deliver the best possible results for their community.
- » Any member of the community should have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process about issues that affect or interest them.

governance

Good governance is a critical and important part of Local Government, particularly in respect to Council's relationship and accountability to the community. Good governance is identified in the Council Plan as a reflection of Council's commitment to open and transparent government, acting with integrity, compassion and aspiring to the highest level of good management.

Good governance provides residents with the acknowledgement and confidence that their rates and assets are being used appropriately and efficiently and that their democratically elected members are making informed decisions based on proper and accepted processes and systems.

Yarriambiack Shire Council is constituted under the Act to provide leadership for the good governance of the Municipal district and the local community. Council has a number of roles including:

- Taking into account the diverse needs of the local community in decision-making
- Providing leadership by establishing strategic objectives and monitoring achievements
- Ensuring that resources are managed in a responsible and accountable manner
- Advocating the interests of the local community to other communities and governments
- Fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic life.

Council is committed to effective and sustainable forms of democratic and corporate governance as the key to ensuring that Council and its administration meet the community's priorities. The community has many opportunities to provide input into Council's decision making processes including community consultation, Progress Association meetings and the ability to make submissions to Special Committees of Council.

Council's formal decision-making processes are conducted through Council meetings and Special Committees of Council. Council delegates the majority of its decision-making to Council staff. These delegations are exercised in accordance with adopted Council policies.

In the past 12 months Council has successfully:

- Obtained a grant of \$100,000 from the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund 2017/18 to install a fully automated sprinkler system to all fairways at the Warracknabeal Golf Club. Works are to be undertaken in the 2017/18 financial year.
- Obtained a grant of \$59,000 from the Sustainable Water Fund Community Sport and Recreation Program to construct a new dam to supply irrigation water to Anzac Park. Project is currently underway.
- Obtained a grant of \$15,000 from the Transport Investing in Regions Program to construct a walking track at Patchewollock and install interpretive signage. Project has been completed.
- Completed the Brim Sporting Facilities Upgrades project with funding of \$85,200 from the Community Sports Infrastructure Program 2016/17. Upgrades included installation of new lighting for the bowling green at the Brim Memorial Bowling Club and levelling and installation of a fully automated sprinkler system at the Recreation Reserve sporting oval.
- Lobbied for and gained completion of the following VicRoads priority projects:
 - safety and drainage improvements at Murtoa Glenorchy Road and Horsham Lubeck Road intersection (completed)
 - removal of 2 redundant channel crossing structures just south of Murtoa on the Murtoa Glenorchy Road (removal completed with road reconstruction in next financial year)
 - reconstruction of outer kerbing at the Minyip Roundabout and redesign and reconstruction of central portion with semi mountable annulus. Project formed part of streetscape project (completed)
 - provision of guardrail to Two Mile Bridge on Henty Highway, south of Hopetoun where a fatality occurred in April this year (completed).

Organisational Plans, Policies & Strategies

THIS YEAR, THE FOLLOWING PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AND/OR REVIEWED:

- Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Policy
- Council Plan 2017-21
- Planning Scheme Amendment C20
- Footpath Capital Works Program
- Road Management Plan
- Access and Inclusion Plan
- Service Planning/Level of Service Plan (LOS Plans)
- Service and Funding Agreement (Wimmera Regional Library Corporation)
- Safe Driving Policy
- Long Service Leave Policy
- Mental Health Policy for the Workplace
- Return to Work Policy
- Indoor Staff Rostered Days Off (RDO)/Higher Duties
- Seasonal Heat Policy
- Smoking Policy
- 48/52 Policy
- Disciplinary Policy and Procedure
- Alcohol and Drug Policy
- Equal Employment Opportunity, Anti Discrimination & Bullying Policy
- Health & Wellbeing Policy
- Interstate Conference Application Form
- Leave without Pay
- Capital Works Program

Meetings of Council

Council conducts open public meetings on the 4th week of each month on a Wednesday. Members of the community are welcome to attend these meetings and observe from the gallery. Council meetings provide the opportunity for community members to submit a question to the Council, make a submission or speak to an item. For the 2016-17 year Council held the following meetings:

- 10 Ordinary Council Meetings
- 5 Special Council Meetings

The following table provides a summary of Councillor attendance at Council meetings and Special Council meetings for the 2016-17 financial year.

Councillors	Council Meeting	Special Council Meeting	Total
Cr Ray Kingston (Mayor until Nov 2016)	3	2	5
Cr Graeme Massey (Mayor Nov 2016 onwards)	9	5	14
Cr Andrew McLean	3	1	4
Cr Corinne Heintze	7	3	10
Cr Helen Ballentine	9	5	14
Cr Jean Wise	7	3	10
Cr Kylie Zanker	8	5	13
Cr Lisa Woods	3	2	5
Cr Shane Roberts	7	3	10
Cr Terry Grange	2	2	4
Cr Tom Hamilton	5	3	8

Code of Conduct

The Local Government Act 1989 requires Council's to develop and approve a Councillor Code of Conduct within 12 months after each general election.

On 22 February 2017, Council adopted a revised Councillor Code of Conduct which is designed to:

- Assist Councillors to maintain the highest standards of conduct and behaviour as well as provide a means to deal with problems they may encounter
- Attract the highest level of confidence from Council's stakeholders
- Assist the Mayor and Councillors to discharge the responsibilities of their public office appropriately.

In addition to setting out the Councillor Conduct Principles, the Code also outlines:

- Other conduct definitions under the Act, such as those relating to misuse of position, improper direction, breach of confidentiality and conflict of interest
- Roles and relationships
- Dispute resolution procedures.

Special Committees

The Local Government Act 1989 allows Council's to establish one or more special committees consisting of:

- Councillors
- Council Staff
- Other persons
- Any combinations of the above.

No special committees were established by Council for the 2016-17 financial year.

Change of Councillors

On Monday 7th November 2016, four (4) newly appointed Councillors were sworn into Council after voting in the recent election.

They were: Tom Hamilton, Corinne Heintze, Jean Wise and Shane Roberts.

Yarriambiack Shire Council farewelled Andrew McLean, Ray Kingston, Terry Grange and Lisa Woods.

We thank you for your commitment and involvement towards Council over the last 4 year term from 2012-2016.

Conflict of Interest

Councillors are elected by the residents and ratepayers to act in the best interests of the community. This is a position of trust that requires Councillors to act in the public interest.

A conflict of interest occurs when a personal or private interest might compromise the ability to act in the public interest. A conflict of interest exists even if no improper act results from it.

Council has a comprehensive procedure in place to accommodate the disclosure of a conflict of interest. Declaration of a conflict of interest is a standard agenda item for all Council and Committee meetings.

While the procedures vary depending on the particular role and circumstances, in general they involve disclosing the relevant interests in a specific way and then stepping aside from the relevant decision-making process or from the exercise of the public duty. A register is maintained to record all disclosed conflict of interests.

During the 2016-17 year, four conflict of interest were declared at Council and Special Council meetings.

Councillor Allowances

In accordance with Section 74 of the Act, Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duty as a Councillor. The Mayor is also entitled to receive a higher allowance.

The State Government sets the upper and lower limits for all allowances paid to Councillors and Mayors. Councils are divided into three categories based on the income and population of each Council. In this instance, Yarriambiack Shire Council is recognised as a category 1 Council.

For the period 1 July 2016 to 1 December 2016, the Councillor annual allowance for a category 1 Council (as defined by the Act) was fixed at \$19,350 per annum and the allowance for the Mayor was \$57,812 per annum. The Minister for Local Government approved an annual adjustment of 2.5 per cent to take effect as from 1 December 2016. The annual allowances were adjusted for the period 24 December 2016 to 30 June 2017 at \$19,834 per annum for the Councillor allowance and \$59,257 per annum for the Mayoral allowance.

The following table contains a summary of the allowances paid to each Councillor during the year.

Councillors	Allowance \$	Superannuation \$	Total \$
Cr Ray Kingston	19,270	1,830	21,100
Cr Graeme Massey	45,954	4,365	50,319
Cr Andrew McLean	6,450	612	7,062
Cr Corinne Heintze	13,222	1,256	14,478
Cr Helen Ballentine	19,672	1,868	21,540
Cr Jean Wise	13,222	1,256	14,478
Cr Kylie Zanker	19,672	1,868	21,540
Cr Lisa Woods	6,450	612	7,062
Cr Shane Roberts	13,222	1,256	14,478
Cr Terry Grange	6,450	612	7,062
Cr Tom Hamilton	13,222	1,256	14,478
TOTAL	\$176,806	\$16,791	\$193,597

Councillor Expenses

In accordance with Section 75 of the Act, Council is required to reimburse a Councillor for expenses incurred whilst performing his or her duties as a Councillor. Council is also required to adopt and maintain a policy in relation to the reimbursement of expenses for Councillors. The policy provides guidance for the payment of reimbursements of expenses and the provision of resources, facilities and other support to the Mayor and Councillors to enable them to discharge their duties. Council also publishes in its Annual Report the details of the expenses, including reimbursement of expenses for each Councillor and member of a Council Committee paid by the Council.

Details of these expenses for the 2016-17 year are set out in the following table:

Councillors	TR \$	DA \$	RFA \$	APR \$	OTH \$	Total \$
Cr Ray Kingston	-	40	-	-	-	40
Cr Graeme Massey	-	120	-	-	-	120
Cr Andrew McLean	1,465	40	680	-	-	2,185
Cr Corinne Heintze	-	80	-	-	150	230
Cr Helen Ballentine	3,564	120	-	2,485	-	6,169
Cr Jean Wise	-	80	-	-	90	170
Cr Kylie Zanker	-	120	-	230	-	350
Cr Lisa Woods	-	40	-	-	-	40
Cr Shane Roberts	-	80	-	-	-	80
Cr Terry Grange	1,426	40	240	-	-	1,706
Cr Tom Hamilton	-	80	-	-	-	80
TOTAL	\$6,455	\$840	\$920	\$2,715	\$240	\$11,170

Legend:

TR-Travel Recoup, DA-Data Allowance, RFA-Remoteness Factor Allowance, APR-Accommodation & Parking Reimbursement and OTH-Other Reimbursement.

management framework

COUNCIL HAS IMPLEMENTED A NUMBER OF STATUTORY AND BETTER PRACTICE ITEMS TO STRENGTHEN ITS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Having strong governance and management frameworks leads to better decision making by Council. The Act requires Council to undertake an assessment against the prescribed governance and management checklist and include this in its report of operations. Council's Governance and Management Checklist results are set out on the following pages. The following items have been highlighted as important components of the management framework.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee's role is to oversee and monitor the effectiveness of Council in carrying out its responsibilities for accountable financial management, good corporate governance, maintaining an effective system of internal control and risk management and fostering an ethical environment. The Audit Committee consists of two independent members James Gregson, Leo Casey and two Councillors; Cr Jean Wise and Cr Kylie Zanker. Independent members are appointed for a two-year term, with a maximum of three terms. The chair is elected from amongst the independent members.

The Audit Committee meets three times a year. The Internal Auditor, Chief Executive Officer and Corporate Services Manager attend all Audit Committee meetings. Other management representatives attend as required.

Recommendations from each Audit Committee meeting are subsequently reported to and considered by Council.

External Audit

Council is externally audited by the Victorian Auditor-General. For the 2016-17 year the annual external audit of Council's Financial Statements and Performance Statement was conducted by the Victorian Auditor-General's representative. The external auditors attend in May and August each year to present the audit plan and Independent Audit Report. The external audit management letter and responses are also provided to the Audit Committee.

Internal audit

Council's internal audit function provides independent and objective assurance that the appropriate processes and controls are in place across the Council. A risk based Strategic Internal Audit Plan (SIAP) is revised annually to ensure the audit resources remain focused on the appropriate areas. The review process considers Council's risk framework, the Council Plan, the impact of any change on operations, systems or the business environment; prior audit coverage and outcomes and management input. The SIAP is reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee annually.

The Internal Auditor attends each Audit Committee meeting to report on the status of the SIAP to provide an update on the implementation of audit recommendations and to present findings of completed reviews. All audit issues identified are risk rated. Recommendations are assigned to the responsible Manager and tracked in Council's performance management system. Managers provide quarterly status updates that are reviewed by the Internal Auditor and the Audit Committee.

The SIAP for 2016-17 was completed with the following reviews conducted:

- contract management
- records management
- disaster recovery & business continuity
- project management.

Risk Management

In April 2014, Council adopted the Risk Management Framework and Policy in line with current best practice in the management of business enterprise risks and current AS/NZS 31000 guidelines. The Risk Management Framework and Policy addresses items such as:

- risk management culture and branding
- communication and training
- best practice in risk management
- responsibilities of and to internal and external stakeholders
- risk registers and risk management software development
- the Council planning cycle, budget cycle and annual audit cycle
- a performance measurement system to determine the effectiveness of the framework.

governance and management checklist

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS IN THE PRESCRIBED FORM OF COUNCIL'S ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE PRESCRIBED GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

Governance & Management Items	Assesment
1. Community Engagement Policy - policy outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest	No Policy Council has a Community Engagement Strategy in draft format. It will be adopted in the 2017-18 financial year.
2. Community Engagement Guidelines - guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community	No guidelines Reason for no guidelines: Guidelines form part of the Community Engagement Strategy which is expected to be adopted in the 2017-18 financial year.
3. Strategic Resource Plan - plan under section 126 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next 4 financial years	Plan: Adopted in accordance with Section 126 of the Act Date of adoption: 28/06/2017
4. Annual Budget - plan under section 130 of the Act setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken over the next 12 months and the funding and other resources required	Annual Budget: Adopted in accordance with Section 130 of the Act Date of adoption: 28/06/2017
5. Asset Management Plans - plans that set out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years	No Plans Plans are currently being developed and are in draft format and will be adopted by the end of 2017-18.
6. Rating Strategy - strategy setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges	Strategy Rating Strategy has been developed and will be adopted by the end of 2017-18.
7. Risk Policy - policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk's to Council's operations	Policy Date of operation of current plan: 9/04/2014
8. Fraud Policy - policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud	Policy Date of operation of current policy: 30/06/2015
9. Municipal Emergency Management Plan - plan under section 20 of the Emergency Management Act 1986 for emergency prevention, response and recovery	Plan: Prepared and maintained in accordance with Section 20 of the Emergency Management Act 1986 Date of Preparation: 1/10/2015 Update version currently in draft format and will be adopted by Council in the 2017-18 Financial Year.
10. Procurement Policy - policy under section 186A of the Local Government Act 1989 outlining the matters, practices and procedures that will apply to all purchases of goods, services and works	Policy: Prepared and approved in accordance with Section 186A of the Local Government Act 1989 Date of Preparation: 12/03/2014

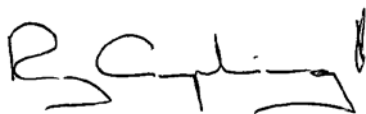
Governance & Management Items Assessment

11. Business Continuity Plan - plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster	Plan Date of approval: 27/05/2016
12. Disaster Recovery Plan - plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster	Plan Disaster Recovery Plan is incorporated in the Business Continuity Plan
13. Risk Management Framework - framework outlining Council's approach to managing risks to the Council's operations	Framework Date of operation of current framework: 9/04/2014
14. Audit Committee - advisory committee of Council under section 139 of the Act whose role is to oversee the integrity of a Council's financial reporting, processes to manage risks to the Council's operations and for compliance with applicable legal, ethical and regulatory requirements	Audit Committee: Established in accordance with Section 139 of the Act Date of establishment: 9/02/2004 The audit committee reviews both internal and external audits.
15. Internal Audit - independent accounting professionals engaged by the Council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving Council's governance, risk and management controls	Engaged Date of engagement of current provider: 9/02/2004 The internal audit is made up of both Councillors, staff and independent members.
16. Performance Reporting Framework - a set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 131 of the Act	Framework Date of operation of current framework: 1/07/2016
17. Council Plan Reporting - report reviewing the performance of the Council against the Council Plan, including the results in relation to the strategic indicators, for the first six months of the financial year	No Report Reason for no report: Council is in the process of implementing a new Council Plan reporting system and will begin 6 monthly reporting in relation to the strategic indicators in the 2017-18 year.
18. Financial Reporting - quarterly statements to Council under section 138 of the Act comparing budgeted revenue and expenditure with actual revenue and expenditure	Financial Reporting: Statements presented to Council in accordance with section 138(1) of the Act Statements are presented monthly at Council meetings.
19. Risk Reporting - six-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies	No Reports Reason for no report: Council is in the process of developing report processes/templates from an external auditor. This is to be implemented by the end of the 2017-18 financial year.
20. Performance Reporting - six-monthly reports of indicators measuring the results against financial and non-financial performance, including performance indicators referred to in section 131 of the Act	No Reports Reason for no report: Reports are currently being developed and are expected to be utilised at the beginning of the 2017-18 year.

Governance & Management Items Assesment

<p>21. Annual Report - <i>annual report under sections 131, 132 and 133 of the Act to the community containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements</i></p>	<p>Annual Report: Considered at a meeting of Council in accordance with section 134 of the Act</p> <p>Date statements presented: 23/11/2016</p>
<p>22. Councillor Code of Conduct - <i>Code under section 76C of the Act setting out the conduct principles and the dispute resolution processes to be followed by Councillors</i></p>	<p>Code of Conduct: Reviewed in accordance with section 76C of the Act</p> <p>Date reviewed: 22/02/2017</p>
<p>23. Delegations - <i>a document setting out the powers, duties and functions of Council and the Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff</i></p>	<p>Delegations: Reviewed in accordance with section 96 (6) of the Act</p> <p>Date of review: 23/11/2016</p>
<p>24. Meeting Procedures - <i>a local law governing the conduct of meetings of Council and special committees</i></p>	<p>Meeting procedures: Local law made in accordance with section 91 (1) of the Act</p> <p>Date of local law made: 13/02/2007 Currently under review and will be adopted by Council in the 2017-18 Financial Year.</p>

We certify that this information presents fairly the status of Council's governance and management arrangements.



Ray Campling
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 27 September 2017



Cr Graeme Massey
Mayor
Dated: 27 September 2017

statutory information

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS APPLYING TO COUNCIL

Documents Available for Public Inspection

In accordance with regulation 12 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2015 the following are prescribed documents that are available for public inspection or copies of the documents can be obtained for the purposes of section 222 of the Act at 34 Lyle Street, Warracknabeal:

- a document containing details of overseas or interstate travel (other than interstate travel by land for less than three days) undertaken in an official capacity by a Councillor or any member of Council staff in the previous 12 months
- minutes of ordinary and special meetings held in the previous 12 months which are kept under section 93 of the Act, other than those agendas and minutes relating to a part of a meeting which was closed to members of the public under section 89 of the Act and are confidential information within the meaning of section 77(2) of the Act
- the minutes of meetings of special committees established under section 86 of the Act and held in the previous 12 months, other than those minutes relating to a part of a meeting, which was closed to members of the public under section 89 of the Act and are confidential information within the meaning of section 77(2) of the Act
- a register of delegations kept under sections 87(1) and 98(4) of the Act, including the date on which the last review took place under sections 86(6) and 98(6), respectively, of the Act
- a document containing details of all leases involving land which were entered into by the Council as lessor, including the lessee and the terms and the value of the lease
- a register maintained under section 224(1A) of the Act of Authorised Officers appointed under that section
- a list of donations and grants made by the Council in the previous 12 months, including the names of persons who, or bodies which, have received a donation or grant and the amount of each donation or grant.

Best Value

In accordance with section 208B(f) of the Act, at least once every year a Council must report to its community on what it has done to ensure that it has given effect to the Best Value Principles. Council incorporates Best Value Principles through regular business planning and performance monitoring processes and through a commitment to continuous improvement and innovation.

Contracts

During the 2016-17 financial year Yarriambiack Shire Council did enter into various contracts valued at \$150,000 or more for services.

The following contracts listed are with a value over \$150,000:-

- C210/2016 Supply and Delivery of Tipping Truck and Dog Trailer.
\$245,159 - The Truck Specialist
- C212/2016 Supply and Delivery of Grader.
\$231,900 - Hitachi Machinery
- C214/2017 Road Stabilisation Works.
\$181,139 - Fulton Hogan
- C215/2017 Supply and Delivery of Front End Loader.
\$260,500 - CJD Equipment

Disability Action Plan

In accordance with section 38 of the Disability Act 2006, Council has prepared a Disability Action Plan for 2017 -2021 and it was passed by Council at its meeting on March 22 2017, for the next three years.

It is available to view on our website.

Council has prepared a Disability Action Plan and implemented the following actions:

- developed and implemented a Volunteer Strategy that integrates the needs of people with a disability
- promoted events such as Carers Week and International Day of People with a Disability
- developed accessible publication guidelines.

Carers Recognition

In accordance with the Carers Recognition Act 2012, Council is required to report annually on its care measurement obligations under Section 11 of that Act. Council has taken all practicable measures to comply with its responsibilities outlined in the Carers Recognition Act 2012.

Council has promoted the principles of that Act to people in care relationships who receive Council services, to people in care relationships, and to the wider community by:

- Distributing printed material through relevant council services
- Providing information to organisations represented in Council/community networks.

Council has taken all practicable measures to ensure staff, Council agents and volunteers working for Council are informed about the principles and obligations of the Act by including information on the care relationship in:

- Council induction and training programs for staff working in Aged and Disability Services
- Council induction and training programs for staff working in front-line positions with the general community
- induction and training programs for volunteers working directly with the community.

Council has taken all practicable measures to review and modify policies, procedures and supports to include recognition of the carer relationship and has provided the following additional activities and resources to recognise the care relationship:

- recognising carers during National Carers Week in October 2016 by promoting the week with flyers and posters at Council offices and seniors buildings.
- provision of respite services for carers.

statutory information

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS APPLYING TO COUNCIL.

Freedom of Information

In accordance with section 7(4AA)(a) and 7(4AA)(b) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, Yarriambiack Shire Council is required to publish certain statements in their Annual Report or separately, such as on its website, concerning its functions and information available. Council has chosen to publish the statements separately, however, provides the following summary of the application and operation of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Access to documents may be obtained through written request to the Freedom of Information Officer, as detailed in section 17 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and in summary as follows:

- it should be in writing
- it should identify as clearly as possible which document is being requested
- it should be accompanied by the appropriate fee (the fee may be waived in certain circumstances).

Further information regarding Freedom of Information can be found at www.foi.vic.gov.au and on the Yarriambiack Shire Council website.

During the 2016-17 financial year Yarriambiack Shire Council received four requests of Freedom of Information during the financial year.

Food Act Ministerial Directions

In accordance with section 7E of the *Food Act 1984*, Council is required to publish a summary of any Ministerial Directions received during the financial year in its Annual Report.

No such Ministerial Directions were received by Council during the financial year.

Domestic Animal Management Plan

In accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Council is required to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan at four yearly intervals and evaluate its implementation in the Annual Report.

The Plan is developed through consultation with Council's Animal Management team along with input from other Council Departments, Government agencies and animal groups. All actions relating to the document are continually implemented through Council's Animal Management team on a daily basis to ensure compliance with animal related issues within the Yarriambiack Shire Council.

Protected Disclosure Procedures

In accordance with section 69 of the *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* a Council must include in their Annual Report information about how to access the procedures established by the Council under Part 9 of that Act. It is also required to provide certain information about the number and types of protected disclosures complaints investigated during the financial year.

The Protected Disclosure Act 2012 aims to ensure openness and accountability in government by encouraging people to disclose improper conduct within the public sector and provide protection for people who make disclosures. Procedures on how to make a disclosure are publicly available on Council's website.

During the 2016-17 year no disclosures were notified to Council Officers appointed to receive disclosures, or to IBAC.

Road Management Act Ministerial Direction

In accordance with section 22 of the *Road Management Act 2004*, Council must publish a copy or summary of any Ministerial Direction in its Annual Report.

No such Ministerial Directions were received by Council during the financial year.

Victorian Local Government Indicators

The Victorian Government requires all Councils to measure and annually report against 11 Victorian Local Government Indicators (VLGIs).

These indicators provide information regarding expenditure, cost of services and infrastructure provision, customer satisfaction and governance.

The results can be found on page 62.

5. OUR PERFORMANCE

We are committed to maintaining and managing Yarriambiack's resources in a way that achieves sustainable outcomes in the following areas: Community Engagement, Responsible Management, Asset Management and Sustaining the Economy & Environment .

The Council Plan 2013-17 outlines a significant number of sustainability objectives, strategies and actions that are integrated throughout the Council Plan. The following pages outline our commitment to sustainability across the organisation.

Detailed reporting of Council's performance is contained in this section of the document.

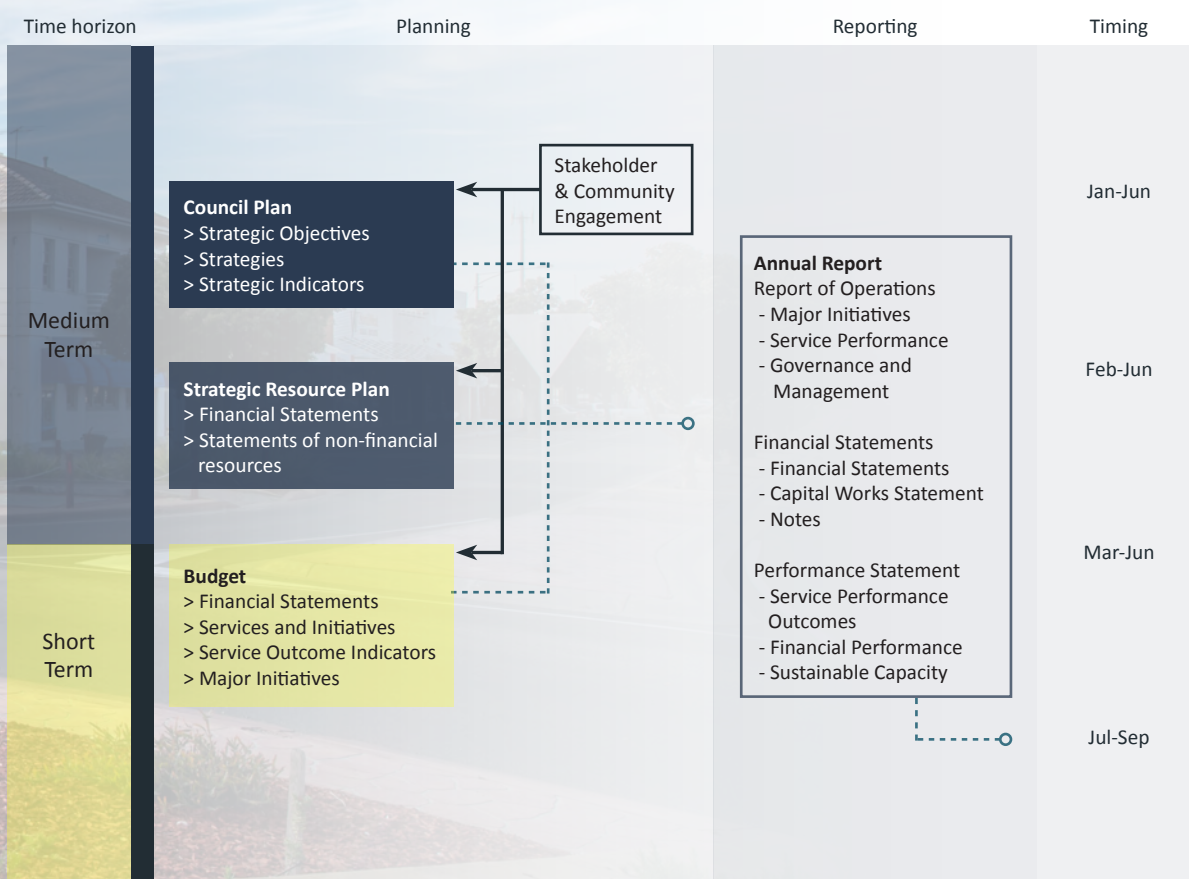
our performance

Planning and accountability framework

The Planning and Accountability Framework is found in part 6 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act). The Act requires Councils to prepare the following planning and reporting documents:

- A Council Plan within the six months after each general election or by 30 June, whichever is later
- A Strategic Resource Plan for a period of at least four years and include this in the Council Plan
- A Budget for each financial year
- An Annual Report in respect of each financial year.

The following diagram shows the relationships between the key planning and reporting documents that make up the planning and accountability framework for Local Government. It also shows that there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input and feedback at each stage of the planning and reporting cycle.



council plan

The Council Plan 2013-17 includes strategic objectives, strategies for achieving these for the four-year period, strategic indicators for monitoring achievement of the strategic objectives and a Strategic Resource Plan.

The following are the four strategic objectives as detailed in the Council Plan:



1. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** - To engage appropriate interest groups and individuals on awareness of Council activities and services.
2. **RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT** - To provide leadership and advocacy and be accountable to the local community.
3. **ASSET MANAGEMENT** - The communities current and future needs for assets and facilities are responsibly managed based on community service needs.
4. **SUSTAINING THE ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT** - Lead in sustainable growth and development to meet the community needs.



performance

Council's performance for the 2016-17 year has been reported against each strategic objective to demonstrate how Council is performing in achieving the 2013-17 Council Plan.

Performance has been measured as follows:

- results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators in the Council Plan
- progress in relation to the major initiatives identified in the Budget
- services funded in the budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided those services
- results against the prescribed service performance indicators and measures

Strategic Objective 1: Community Engagement

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
Consultation and Engagement Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council.	60%	Overall, respondents rated Council on community consultation and engagement as very good, good or average.
Satisfaction with Council Decisions Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed in making decisions in the interests of the community.	61%	Results provided from the Community Satisfaction Survey 2017.
Participation in MCH Service Percentage of children enrolled who participate in the MCH service.	89%	Participation rates have changed due to the number of births in the area and families moving in and out of the Municipality.
Participation in MCH Service by Aboriginal Children Percentage of Aboriginal children enrolled who participate in the MCH service.	67%	Yarriambiack Shire Council had Aboriginal families with children move to the shire. It has allowed Council to record data of participation in the Maternal and Child Health service for 2016/17 financial year.
Critical and Major Non-compliance Notifications Percentage of critical and major non-compliance notifications that are followed up by Council.	100%	
Animal Management Prosecutions Number of successful animal management prosecutions.	0	There were no animal management prosecutions during the 2016/17 financial year.

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2016-17 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of Community Consultation meetings held throughout the Shire. 	Every year between June and October Community Consultations are offered to every town throughout the Municipality where they can stipulate when and where they would like there consultations held.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue providing financial support to town Progress Associations 	Approximately \$1,000 is sent to each Progress Associations across the Municipality for financial support.

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2016-17 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

SERVICE	DESCRIPTION	NET COST
		Actual Budget Variance \$000
Councillors, Chief Executive Officer & Executive Team	This area includes the Mayor, Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Management Team and associated support which cannot be easily attributed to the direct service provision areas.	640 668 (28)
Councillor Expenses	The costs collected for this service relate to the direct costs of maintaining Councillor's corporate responsibilities for Council. This includes the costs associated with meetings, consultants, legal, elections and internal audit activities of Council.	47 38 9
General Council Expenses	The costs collected for this service relate to the general costs of running the Council. This includes the costs associated with public liability insurance, publications and subscriptions to Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and other professional bodies.	164 170 (6)
Law, Order & Public Safety	This service provides support services including fire prevention, animal control, local laws and emergency services.	101 313 (212)
Health, Education & Housing	This service provides family oriented support services including kindergartens, maternal & child health, counselling and support, immunisation, holiday programs and health & safety.	410 557 (147)
Aged & Disability Services	This service provides a range of services for the family, aged and disabled including home delivered meals, personal care, community transport, respite care, home maintenance and senior citizen clubs.	290 368 (78)

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of material variations.

Service/Indicator/Measure	2015	2016	2017	Material Variations
Governance				
Transparency <i>Council resolutions at meetings closed to the public</i> [Number of Council resolutions made at ordinary or special meetings of Council, or at meetings of a special committee consisting only of Councillors, closed to the public/ Number of Council resolutions made at ordinary or special meetings of Council or at meetings of a special committee consisting only of Councillors] x100	15%	12%	11%	There were fewer meetings closed to the public during the 2016/17 financial year.
Consultation and engagement <i>Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement]	63%	60%	60%	Results provided from the Community Satisfaction Survey 2017.
Attendance <i>Council attendance at Council meetings</i> [The sum of the number of Councillors who attended each ordinary and special meeting/(Number of ordinary and special Council meetings) x (Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election)] x100	90%	93%	93%	
Service Cost <i>Cost of governance</i> [Direct cost of the governance service/ Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election]	\$33,633	\$35,359	\$32,783	
Decision making <i>Satisfaction with Council decisions</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]	63%	59%	61%	Results provided from the Community Satisfaction Survey 2017.
Maternal & Child Health (MCH)				
Satisfaction <i>Participation in first MCH home visit</i> [Number of first MCH home visits/Number of birth notifications received] x100	96%	103%	97%	Participation rates have changed due to the number of births in the area and families moving in and out of the Municipality.
Service standard <i>Infant enrolments in the MCH service</i> [Number of infants enrolled in the MCH service (from birth notifications received)/ Number of birth notifications received] x100	94%	117%	97%	
Service cost <i>Cost of the MCH service</i> [Cost to Council of the MCH service/Hours worked by MCH nurses]	\$137	\$102	\$105	
Participation <i>Participation in MCH service</i> [Number of children who attended the MCH service at least once (in the year)/Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	70%	59%	89%	Participation rates have changed due to the number of births in the area and families moving in and out of the Municipality.

Service/Indicator/Measure	2015	2016	2017	Material Variations
Maternal & Child Health (MCH)				
Participation in MCH service by Aboriginal children [Number of aboriginal children who attended the MCH service at least once (in the year)/ Number of aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	0	0	67%	Yarriambiack Shire Council had Aboriginal families with children move to the shire. It has allowed Council to record data of participation in the Maternal and Child Health service for 2016/17 financial year.
Food Safety				
Timeliness <i>Time taken to action food complaints</i> [Number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints/ Number of food complaints]	N/A	1	1	
Service standard <i>Food safety assessments</i> [Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that receive an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984/Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that require an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984] x100	88%	90%	70%	Inspection rate lower than same time last year as the majority of premises inspections will be conducted in the latter half and this data is not captured in this report.
Service cost <i>Cost of food safety service</i> [Direct cost of the food safety service/Number of food premises registered or notified in accordance with the Food Act 1984]	\$1,170	\$868	\$780	
Health and safety <i>Critical and major non-compliance notifications</i> [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up/Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance outcome notifications about food premises] x100	100%	100%	100%	
Animal Management				
Timeliness <i>Time taken to action animal requests</i> [Number of days between receipt and first response action for all animal management requests/Number of animal management requests]	N/A	2	2	
Service Standard <i>Animals reclaimed</i> [Number of animals reclaimed/Number of animals collected]	76%	57%	77%	Council has made considerable effort to ensure as many impounded animals as possible are reclaimed by their owners or where appropriate rehoused.
Service cost <i>Cost of animal management service</i> [Direct cost of the animal management service/Number of registered animals]	\$28	\$42	\$53	Council has engaged several relief rangers to cover call outs and weekend work during the 2016/17 year
Health and safety <i>Animal management prosecutions</i> [Number of successful animal management prosecutions]	0	0	0	There were no animal management prosecutions during the 2016/17 financial year.

Strategic Objective 2: Responsible Management

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
Workforce Turnover Percentage of staff who resigned or were terminated from the organisation.	13.78%	The CEO undertook an organisational review during the financial year as part of cost containment measures. A number of retirements resulted in a few changes within the organisation.

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2016-17 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
• Adoption of the 10 year Long Term Financial Plan	A draft of the 10 year Long Term Financial Plan has been developed and will be adopted by the end of the 2017-18 financial year.
• Development of the Rating Strategy	A draft of the Rating Strategy has been developed and will be adopted by the end of the 2017-18 financial year.
• Development of the IT Strategy	A draft of the IT Strategy has been developed and will be adopted by the end of the 2017-18 financial year.

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2016-17 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

SERVICE	DESCRIPTION	NET COST Actual Budget Variance \$000
Councillors, Chief Executive Officer & Executive Team	This area includes the Mayor, Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Management Team and associated support which cannot be easily attributed to the direct service provision areas.	640 668 (28)
Information Services	This service provides, supports and maintains reliable and cost effective communications and computing systems, facilities and infrastructure to Council staff enabling them to deliver services in a smart, productive and efficient way.	279 341 (62)
Customer Service and Administration Staff and Municipal Offices	This service provides Council with strategic and operational organisation development support. It provides meeting rooms and function venues for Council use. It also provides a customer interface for an increasing number of service units and a wide range of transactions. The service is delivered through two customer service centres, a free call number and an emergency after hours service.	696 875 (179)
Director, Contracts, Design and Asset Management	This area includes the Director and Council Officers and associated costs of supporting these positions.	1,105 1,240 (135)
Accounting and Finance	This service predominately provides financial based services to both internal and external customers including the management of Council's finances, payment of salaries and wages to Council employees, procurement and contracting of services, raising and collection of rates and charges and valuation of properties throughout the Municipality.	554 731 (177)
Financing Costs	This service includes payment to external audit, interest received or paid on investments and loans.	(88) (55)
		33

Strategic Objective 3: Asset Management

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
Active Library Members Percentage of Municipality that are active library members.	10%	Council has one (1) static library and the other towns are serviced by the mobile library. There has been a big decline in the number of people using the library service in the 2016/17 financial year.
Utilisation of Aquatic Facilities Number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of Municipal population.	.5%	Yarriambiack Shire Council owns one outdoor swimming pool in Hopetoun. It is operational for 4-5 months of the year, during the warmer months.
Satisfaction with Sealed Local Roads Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads.	38%	Respondents rated Council on community satisfaction on the condition of sealed local roads as very average. However there is a 3% increase from last year.

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2016-17 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued support of 8 seasonal swimming pools. 2% increase in annual contributions to pool committees 	Letters were sent and a total amount of \$233,001 has been allocated to all swimming pool committees. Yarriambiack Shire Council adopted the Sports and Recreation Strategy 2016-25 which formulates the distribution of these funds.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council will contribute \$154,000 to 13 recreation reserves across the Shire to assist with the annual maintenance of their facilities 	Letters were sent and a total amount of \$157,850 has been allocated to all sporting committees of management. Yarriambiack Shire Council adopted the Sports and Recreation Strategy 2016-25 which formulates the distribution of these funds.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council will contribute \$38,000 to halls within the Shire to assist with insurance renewals and general maintenance 	Contributions were issued to all halls for insurance coverage and maintenance support totalling \$35,699.

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2016-17 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

SERVICE	DESCRIPTION	NET COST
		Actual Budget Variance \$000
Public Halls	This service provides for the contributions insurance for public halls.	179
		168
		11
Library Services	This service provides the contribution to a regional library corporation for the provision of mobile and static services throughout the Shire.	178
		193
		(15)
Other Heritage and Culture	This service provides a range of services that facilitates the maintenance and development of museums, other heritage buildings and cultures for the enjoyment of future generations.	59
		54
		5
Passive Recreation	This service provides for the maintenance of public parks and gardens.	117
		160
		(43)
Active Recreation	This service provides for the contributions and maintenance of indoor and outdoor sporting complexes, clubs, amenities and Recreation Officer.	469
		277
		192
Swimming Areas and Beaches	This service provides for the contributions and maintenance of swimming pools as well as the contribution to the weir pools.	295
		317
		(22)
Roads, Streets and Footpaths	This service provides ongoing maintenance of the Council's roads, drains and footpaths.	6,412
		4,553
		1,859
Street Cleaning, Lighting and Beautification	This service provides for the cleaning, lighting and beautification of Council's streets.	581
		988
		(407)
Other Transport Services	This service provides for the works crew administration and plant operations as well as any private works.	(33)
		70
		(103)

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of material variations.

Service/Indicator/Measure	2015	2016	2017	Material Variations
Libraries				
Utilisation <i>Library collection usage</i> [Number of library collection item loans/ Number of library collection items]	1	1	1	Council has one static library and the other towns are serviced by a mobile library. There has been a big decline in the number of people using the library service in the 2016/17 financial year.
Resource Standard <i>Standard of library collection</i> [Number of library collection items purchased in the last 5 years/Number of library collection items] x100	44%	32%	44%	Data is provided from WRLC and due to the number of people accessing the library, there are less books to borrow.
Service Cost <i>Cost of library service</i> [Direct cost of the library service/Number of visits]	\$11	\$13	\$13	
Participation <i>Active library members</i> [Number of active library members/ Municipal population] x100	13%	11%	10%	Council has one static library and the other towns are serviced by the mobile library. There has been a big decline in the number of people using the library service in the 2016/17 financial year. Active User Count from Blue Cloud Analytics. Active Users report is counting users who borrowed/renewed physical items (transaction commands for checkout and renewal). Users who did not borrow or renew, but who performed other transactions, are not included.
Aquatic Facilities				
Service Standard <i>Health inspections of aquatic facilities</i> [Number of Authorised Officer inspections of Council aquatic facilities/Number of Council aquatic facilities]	2	2	1	Council inspections are done once a year. Due to major upgrades at the Hopetoun Swimming Pool, Council undertook 2 inspections in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years.
<i>Reportable safety incidents at aquatic facilities</i> [Number of Worksafe reportable aquatic facility safety incidents]	0	4	0	No incidents were reported in 2016/17 where as 4 incidents were recorded in 2015/16.
Service cost <i>Cost of outdoor aquatic facilities</i> [Direct cost of outdoor aquatic facilities less income received/Number of visits to outdoor aquatic facilities]	\$13	\$12	\$9	Increase of usage of the aquatic facility and slight decline in operational costs.
Utilisation <i>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</i> [Number of visits to aquatic facilities/ Municipal population]	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	Aquatic facility usage has remained the same as 2015/16 financial year.

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of material variations.

Service/Indicator/Measure	2015	2016	2017	Material Variations
Roads				
Satisfaction of use <i>Sealed local road requests</i> [Number of sealed local road requests/ kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	2.40	2.37	3.18	Council never documented the number of requests for roads. Therefore the data will change from year to year with ongoing figures now being recorded.
Condition <i>Sealed local roads below the intervention level</i> [Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council/Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	99%	100%	100%	
Service cost <i>Cost of sealed local road reconstruction</i> [Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction/Square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed]	\$28	\$14	\$35	Costs have changed due to review of unit rates and more Roads 2 Recovery funding.
Service Cost <i>Cost of sealed local road resealing</i> [Direct cost of sealed local road resealing/ Square metres of sealed local roads resealed]	\$5	\$4	\$6	There has been a decrease in the number of roads being resealed.
Satisfaction <i>Satisfaction with sealed local roads</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	37%	35%	38%	Result is from the annual Community Satisfaction Survey and ratepayers assuming the poor condition of some of VicRoads roads are the responsibility of Council.

Strategic Objective 4: Sustaining the Economy & Environment

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
Waste Diversion Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill, calculated as the percentage of garbage and recyclables collected from kerbside bins that is diverted from landfill.	23.44%	
Planning Scheme Outcomes Percentage of planning application decisions subject to review by VCAT that were not set aside	0	No planning applications were sent to VCAT during the 2016/17 financial year.

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2016-17 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue updating town tourism brochures 	Council continues to update town tourism brochures. Due to the Silo Art Trail the demand for these brochures has increased significantly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the Caravan and Motor Home Shows in Adelaide and Melbourne to promote our region 	In 2016-17 Wimmera Mallee tourism made the decision not to attend the Caravan and Motor Home Shows in Adelaide and Melbourne due to costs involved.

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2016-17 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

SERVICE	DESCRIPTION	NET COST Actual Budget Variance \$000
Community and Economic Development	The service provides a range of services that facilitates an environment that is conducive to sustaining and growing local residential and business sectors. The services include town planning, economic development and building control.	1,033 1,103 (100)
Tourism and Area Promotion	This service provides a range of services that facilitates the tourist industry, and the cleaning and maintenance of the tourist centre, caravan parks and public amenities.	77 (41) 36
Saleyards	This service is responsible for the management and maintenance of the Warracknabeal Municipal Saleyard.	(62) (18) (44)
Waste Management and Environment Services	This service is responsible for garbage, transfer stations, septic tanks, kerbside recycling and land care operations of Council.	1,197 565 632

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of material variations.

Service/Indicator/Measure	2015	2016	2017	Material Variations
Statutory Planning				
Timeliness <i>Time taken to decide planning applications</i> [The median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a decision on the application]	16	24	19	Town planner is a contractor and is only available at certain times. A decline in applications.
Service Standard <i>Planning applications decided within 60 days</i> [Number of planning application decisions made within 60 days/Number of planning application decisions made] x100	87%	98%	97%	
Service Cost <i>Cost of statutory planning service</i> [Direct cost of statutory planning service/ Number of planning applications received]	\$1,699	\$2,080	\$1,932	
Decision Making <i>Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT</i> [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside Council's decision in relation to a planning application/Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100	0	0	0	No planning applications were sent to VCAT during the 2016/17 financial year.
Waste Collection				
Satisfaction <i>Kerbside bin collection requests</i> [Number of kerbside garbage and recycling bin collection requests / Number of kerbside bin collection households] x1,000	16	16	17	
Service Standard <i>Kerbside collection bins missed</i> [Number of kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed/Number of scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts] x10,000	.11	.57	.95	Council never documented the number of requests for kerbside collection bins missed. Therefore the data will change from year to year with ongoing figures now being recorded.
Service cost <i>Cost of kerbside garbage collection service</i> [Direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service/Number of kerbside garbage collection bins]	\$157	\$96	\$95	
<i>Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service</i> [Direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service/Number of kerbside recyclables collection bins]	\$121	\$116	\$114	
Waste Diversion <i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i> [Weight of recyclables collected from kerbside bins/Weight of garbage and recyclables collected from kerbside bins] x100	24%	25%	23%	

community satisfaction survey

ALTHOUGH THE MANDATORY REQUIREMENT FOR COUNCIL'S TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY WAS DISCONTINUED IN 2012, YARRIAMBIACK SHIRE COUNCIL HAS CONTINUED PARTICIPATING OPTIONALLY IN THE BASE LEVEL SURVEY.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY ARE TO ASSESS COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE ACROSS A RANGE OF MEASURES AND TO SEEK INSIGHT INTO WAYS TO PROVIDE IMPROVED OR MORE EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY. TWO OF THE RESULTS FROM THE SURVEY NOW ALSO APPEAR IN THE MANDATORY LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE REPORTING FRAMEWORK.

Yarriambiack Shire Council's performance in 2017 has been generally consistent with the results from 2016 with slight improvements in all seven core measures.

Council's overall performance index of 60 which is a 1 point increase from the previous year, and is still higher than the Small Rural Group average of 58 and on a par with the state-wide average of 59.

Overall Council direction is higher than 2016 at 55. Yarriambiack Shire Council scored above the Small Rural Group average

performance on all core measures except Sealed Local Roads. Council also scored above the State-wide average on the service areas of consultation and engagement, advocacy and making decisions in the interest of the community, customer service, overall performance and overall Council direction.

The table below highlights Yarriambiack Shire Council's score on the core performance measures and how they compare with the State-wide average and the Rural Cities and Regional Centres Group average.

Core Performance Measure	Score			
	Yarriambiack 2017	Yarriambiack 2016	Small Rural	State
Advocacy	59	57	55	54
Customer Service	72	68	69	69
Community Consultation and Engagement	60	60	55	55
Overall Council Direction	55	47	52	53
Overall Performance	60	59	58	59



victorian local government indicators

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE RESULTS OF THE VLGI'S FOR THE 2016-17 YEAR

Victorian Local Government Indicators (VLGI'S)

Indicator	Calculation	2016-17	2015-16
1. Average rates and charges per assessment	Total rates and charges receivable at beginning of year/ Number of assessments in the adopted budget	\$1,699.50	\$1,660.28
2. Average residential rates and charges per assessment	Rates and charges declared for the residential assessments receivable at beginning of year/Number of residential assessments in the adopted budget	\$757.00	\$739.00
3. Average liabilities per assessment	Total liabilities/Number of assessments in the adopted budget	\$1,020.72	\$826.48
4. Operating result per assessment	Net surplus/Number of assessments in the adopted budget	\$520.00	(\$75.49)
5. Average operating expenditure per assessment	Operating expenditure/Number of assessments in adopted budget	\$3,346.61	\$3,041.00
6. Community satisfaction rating for overall performance generally of Council	Result from Annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey	55%	59%
7. Average capital expenditure per assessment	Capital expenditure/Number of assessments in the adopted budget	\$985.11	\$1,258.67
8. Renewal gap	Capital renewal/Average annual asset consumption	99%	99%
9. Renewal and maintenance gap	Capital renewal and maintenance/Average asset consumption plus planned maintenance	93%	89%
10. Community satisfaction rating for Council's advocacy and community representation on key local issues	Result from the Annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey	59%	57%
11. Community satisfaction rating for Council's engagement in decision making on key local issues	Result from the Annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey	61%	59%



Yarriambiack
SHIRE COUNCIL

PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
30 JUNE 2017

performance statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Description of the Municipality

Yarriambiack Shire Council is situated in the Grampians and Mildura & Murray Outback Regions and provides a link between Horsham in the south and Mildura in the northern end of that region. The Yarriambiack Creek is the main natural feature traversing the Shire. The area is also linked by road and rail systems that run in a north-south direction. The area has an almost ideal climate with a short winter and delightful autumn and spring. Summer temperatures can be hot, particularly in the north.

Yarriambiack Shire has an estimated residential population of 6,627 people. Warracknabeal is the main service centre of the area, with a catchment pattern that extends from the northern Wimmera to the Southern Mallee. It is complemented by Hopetoun in the north and Minyip, Murtoa and Rupanyup in the south, with 13 small towns spread throughout the Municipality.

The Shire is the heartland of grain production and handling in the Wimmera and Mallee. The dry-land farming area

produces one quarter of Victoria's total production of wheat and barley and is noted for the production of lambs and wool.

Of the population, almost half the workforce is employed in agriculture. Many other residents depend indirectly on farming as they are employed in services used by the farming population. The population trends are remarkably similar to other areas across most of the Wimmera/Mallee.



performance statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017.

Sustainable Capacity Indicators

Indicator/measure	Results 2015	Results 2016	Results 2017	Material Variations
OWN-SOURCE REVENUE <i>Own-source revenue per head of municipal population</i> [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	\$1,720	\$1,852	\$1,985	No material variations.
RECURRENT GRANTS <i>Recurrent grants per head of municipal population</i> [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	\$1,523	\$1,035	\$1,858	Half of the 2017/18 Grants Commission allocation (\$2.4 million) was received at the end of June 2016 therefore Council had a higher than normal % in the 2016/17 financial year compared to the previous year. Council received funding for the following: Roads 2 Market (\$228,000), Fire Hydrants (\$168,000) and Drought Funding Grant (\$504,000).
POPULATION <i>Expenses per head of municipal population</i> [Total expenses / Municipal population]	\$3,084	\$3,150	\$3,460	No material variations.
<i>Infrastructure per head of municipal population</i> [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	\$22,155	\$23,108	\$24,123	No material variations.
<i>Population density per length of road</i> [Municipal population / kilometres of local roads]	1.47	1.42	1.41	No material variations.
DISADVANTAGE <i>Relative socio-economic disadvantage</i> [Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage by decile]	2	2	2	No material variations.

Definitions

- “adjusted underlying revenue” means total income other than -
 - (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
 - (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
 - (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b)
- “infrastructure” means non-current property, plant and equipment excluding land
- “local road” means a sealed or unsealed road for which the Council is the responsible road authority under the Road Management Act 2004
- “population” means the resident population estimated by Council
- “own-source revenue” means the adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of Council (including Government Grants)
- “relative socio-economic disadvantage”, in relation to a Municipality, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the Municipality is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Catalogue Number 2033.0.55.001) of SEIFA
- “SEIFA” means the Socio-Economic Indexes of Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet website
- “unrestricted cash” means all cash and cash equivalent other than restricted cash.

performance statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Service Performance Indicators

Service/indicator/measure	Results 2015	Results 2016	Results 2017	Material Variations
GOVERNANCE Satisfaction Satisfaction with Council decisions [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]	63%	59%	61%	Based on the Customer Satisfaction Survey completed in the 2016/17 financial year.
STATUTORY PLANNING Decision making Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside Council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100	0	0	0	No planning applications sent to VCAT for the 2016/17 financial year.
ROADS Satisfaction Satisfaction with sealed local road [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	38%	35%	38%	Result from the annual Community Satisfaction Survey and ratepayers assuming the poor condition of some of Vicroads roads are the responsibility of Council.
AQUATIC FACILITIES Utilisation Utilisation of aquatic facilities [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	0.33	0.48	0.51	Aquatic facility usage increased due to the hot summer.
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT Health and safety Animal management prosecutions [Number of successful animal management prosecutions]	0	0	0	There were no animal management prosecutions during the 2016/17 financial year.
WASTE COLLECTION Waste diversion Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill [Weight of recyclables collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables collected from kerbside bins] x100	24%	25%	23%	No material variations.

performance statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Service Performance Indicators

Service/indicator/measure	Results 2015	Results 2016	Results 2017	Material Variations
LIBRARIES Participation Active library members [Number of active library members / Municipal population] x100	13%	11%	10%	Council has one static library and the other towns are serviced by the mobile library. There has been a big decline in the number of people using the library service in the 2016/17 financial year.
FOOD SAFETY Health and safety Critical and major non-compliance notifications [Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100	100%	100%	100%	No material variations.
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (MCH) Participation Participation in the MCH service [Number of children who attended the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100 Participation Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children [Number of Aboriginal children who attended the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children in the MCH service] x100	70%	59%	89% 67%	Participation rates have changed due to the number of births in the area and families moving in and out of the Municipality. Yarriambiack Shire Council have had Aboriginal families with children move to the Shire. It has allowed Council to record data of participation in the Maternal and Child Health service for 2016/17 financial year.

performance statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Definitions

- “Aboriginal child” means a child who is an Aboriginal person
- “Aboriginal person” has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
- “active library members” means a member of a library who has borrowed a book from the library
- “annual report” means an annual report prepared by a Council under sections 131, 132 and 133 of the Act
- “class 1 food premises” means food premises, within the meaning of the Food Act 1984, that have been declassified as class 1 food premises under section 19C of that Act
- “class 2 food premises” means food premises, within the meaning of the Food Act 1984, that have been declassified as class 2 food premises under section 19C of that Act
- “critical non-compliance outcome notification” means a notification received by Council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984, or advice given to Council by an authorised officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health
- “food premises” has the same meaning as in the Food Act 1984
- “local road” means a sealed or unsealed road for which the Council is the responsible road authority under the Road Management Act 2004
- “major non-compliance outcome notification” means a notification received by a Council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984, or advice given to Council by an authorised officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken
- “MCH” means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a Council to support the health and development of children within the Municipality from birth until school age
- “population” means the resident population estimated by Council
- “target population” has the same meaning as in the Agreement entered into for the purposes of the Home and Community Care Act 1985 of the Commonwealth
- “WorkSafe reportable aquatic facility safety incident” means an incident relating to a Council aquatic facility that is required to be notified to the Victorian WorkCover Authority under Part 5 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004.

performance statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Financial Performance Indicators

Dimension/indicator/measure		Results		Forecasts			Material Variations		
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
EFFICIENCY									
Revenue level									
Average residential rate per residential property assessment [Residential rate revenue / Number of residential property assessments]		\$699	\$739	\$757	\$679	\$693	\$707	\$721	No material variations.
Expenditure level									
Expenses per property assessment [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]		\$3,037	\$3,041	\$3,276	\$3,412	\$3,227	\$3,277	\$3,385	No material variations.
Workforce turnover									
Resignations and terminations compared to average staff [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for financial year] x100		11%	10%	14%	5%	5%	5%	5%	Council experienced a number of retirements throughout the 2016/17 Financial year.
LIQUIDITY									
Working capital									
Current assets compared to current liabilities [Current assets / Current liabilities] x100		118%	89%	159%	118%	120%	121%	120%	Half of the 2017/18 Grants Comission allocation (\$2.4 million) was received at the end of June 2016 therefore Council had a higher than normal % in the 2016/17 financial year compared to the previous year.
Unrestricted cash									
Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities [Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities]x100		61%	7%	101%	89%	89%	89%	89%	Half of the 2017/18 Grants Comission allocation (\$2.4 million) was received at the end of June 2016 therefore Council had a higher than normal % in the 2016/17 financial year compared to the previous year.
OBLIGATIONS									
Asset renewal									
Asset renewal compared to depreciation [Asset renewal expense / Asset depreciation] x 100		92%	99%	89%	85%	68%	67%	67%	The result for 2016/17 reflects the completion of major capital works projects, which increased depreciation

performance statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017.

Financial Performance Indicators

Dimension/indicator/measure	Results		Material Variation			
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
LOANS AND BORROWINGS						
Loans or borrowings compared to rates [Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	3%	2%	3%	0.9%	-	-
Loans or borrowings repayments compared to rates [Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%
Indebtedness Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100	6%	5%	4%	6%	6%	6%
OPERATING POSITION						
Adjusted underlying result Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) [Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	5%	-5%	10%	-12%	-13%	-13%
STABILITY						
Rates Concentration Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue [Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	48%	56%	46%	56%	60%	62%
Rates effort Rates compared to property values [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the Municipality] x100	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%

Council has a new Finance lease for a Street Sweeper worth \$330,000 for the 2016/17 financial year.

Council currently only has one loan and is continuing to reduce debt.

Council has an outstanding loan which is due to be fully retired during 2017-18, as per loan schedules. There are no additional borrowings planned.

Half of the 2017/18 Grants Commission allocation (\$2.4 million) was received at the end of June 2016 therefore Council had a higher than normal % in the 2016/17 financial year compared to the previous year.

Council's reliance on rate revenue is ever-increasing. Other sources of revenue are being sought and cost savings are being implemented, however to maintain services and deliver a robust capital program and renew our assets, the reliance on rate revenue continues to increase and this is very challenging in a rate capping environment.

In 2015-16 year, a general revaluation of all properties was conducted. The outcome has been a significant change in property valuations with an overall increase. The result for this measure indicates that rate revenue will remain stable over the next four years.

performance statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Definitions

- “adjusted underlying revenue” means total income other than -
 - (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
 - (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
 - (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b)
- “adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)” means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure
- “asset renewal expenditure” means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability
- “current assets” has the same meaning as in the AAS
- “current liabilities” has the same meaning as in the AAS
- “non-current assets” means all assets other than current assets
- “non-current liabilities” means all liabilities other than current liabilities
- “non-recurrent grant” means a grant obtained on the condition that it be expended in a specific manner and is not expected to be received again during the period covered by Council’s Strategic Resource Plan
- “own-source revenue” means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of Council (including government grants)
- “population” means the resident population estimated by Council
- “rate revenue” means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges
- “recurrent grant” means a grant other than a non-recurrent grant
- “residential rates” means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges levied on residential properties
- “restricted cash” means cash and cash equivalents, within the meaning of the AAS, that are not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year
- “unrestricted cash” means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.

performance statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017.

Basis of Preparation

Yarriambiack Shire Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its Annual Report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed sustainable capacity, service performance and financial performance indicators and measure together with a description of the Municipal district and an explanation of material variations in the results. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.

Where applicable, results in the performance statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The results are based on information drawn from Council information systems or from third parties (e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the results forecast by the Council's Strategic Resource Plan. The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement.

The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 requires an explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement, which have been provided where applicable as appropriate in this first year of reporting under the new Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds, unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

The forecast figures included in the performance statement are those adopted by Council in its Strategic Resource Plan on 24 February 2016 and which forms part of the Council Plan. The Strategic Resource Plan includes estimates based on key assumptions about the future that were relevant at the time of adoption and aimed at achieving sustainability over the long term. Detailed information on the actual financial results is contained in the General Purpose Financial Statements. The Strategic Resource Plan can be viewed on Council's website: www.yarriambiack.vic.gov.au.

performance statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017.

Certification of the performance statement

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.



ANITA MCFARLANE

Corporate Services Manager

Date: 27 September 2017

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the Yarriambiack Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2017 presents fairly the results of Council's performance in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.

The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the performance statement to be misleading or inaccurate.

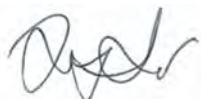
We have been authorised by the Council and by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 to certify this performance statement in its final form.



JEAN M WISE

Councillor

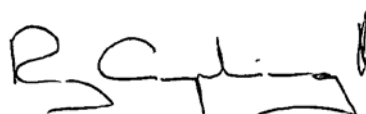
Date: 27 September 2017



KYLIE L ZANKER

Councillor

Date: 27 September 2017



RAY CAMPLING

Chief Executive Officer

Date: 27 September 2017

performance statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017.



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Yarriambiack Shire Council

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying performance statement of Yarriambiack Shire Council (the council) which comprises the:

- description of municipality for the year ended 30 June 2017
- sustainable capacity indicators for the year ended 30 June 2017
- service performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2017
- financial performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2017
- other information and
- the certification of the performance statement.

In my opinion, the performance statement of Yarriambiack Shire Council in respect of the year ended 30 June 2017 presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of Part 6 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Basis for Opinion

I have conducted my audit in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. My responsibilities under the Act are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the performance statement* section of my report.

My independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. I and my staff are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the performance statement in Australia and have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Councillors' responsibilities for the performance statement

The Councillors is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* and for such internal control as the Councillors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the statement of performance that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

performance statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017.

**Auditor's
responsibilities for the
audit of the
performance
statement**

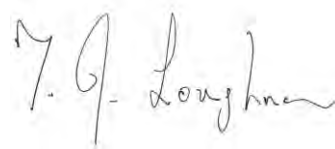
As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the performance statement based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of performance statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the statement of performance, including the disclosures, and whether the statement of performance represents the underlying events and results in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
27 September 2017



Tim Loughnan
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

A photograph of a man sitting in a silver metal folding chair on a sandy bank next to a calm lake. The man is wearing a light-colored bucket hat, glasses, a blue and white checkered button-down shirt, and grey trousers. He is holding a small book or document in his lap. In the background, there are several trees with green foliage, and the lake reflects the sky and trees. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

6. OUR FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

In line with our commitment to accountability and transparency, the following information is provided to help readers understand the financial information provided in this report.

LIST OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS INCLUDED IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT

The Financial Statements for 2016-17 provided in the detailed Financial Performance section have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*. They include the following:

- »Comprehensive Income Statement
- »Balance Sheet
- »Statement of Changes in Equity
- »Cash Flow Statement
- »Statement of Capital Works
- »Certification of the Financial Statements
- »Independent Audit Results

financial performance

What are our overall financial goals?

Council is focused on planning for a viable, sustainable and vibrant future while maintaining present and proposed assets.

A detailed report on Council's financial performance can be found in the Financial Statements starting on page 82.

A key focus of Council's financial operations is to deliver the projects outlined in each year's Budget and maintain the financial flexibility to deal with unexpected financial opportunities while delivering a financial result within the organisation's overall long-term financial strategy.

What was our overall financial performance?

At the end of the 2016-17 financial year, Council's financial performance remained within the parameters set out in Council's Long-Term Financial Strategy. Council's rating strategy has been created with this in mind, including within the parameters of the Fair Go Rates System. Over several years Council has recognised the need to plan for the future of Yarriambiack Shire Council. In 2016-17 the operating result saw a positive result of \$3.564Million.

Where did our money come from?

The majority of Council's income is achieved through government grants and charges with the next largest category being rates and charges with income reported at greater than \$26.494Million.

Figure 6.1: Council Income 2016-17

This graph shows the breakdown of Council's income.

- Rates & Charges \$11.645M
- Statutory fees and fines \$147,000
- User fees \$1.02M
- Grants - operating \$12.316M
- Grants - capital \$1.024M
- Other income \$524,000

Total income: \$26.494M

What did we deliver?

Council continued to invest heavily in capital works across the Municipality as reported elsewhere in this annual report. Council acknowledges that we still face challenges in providing sufficient resources to maintain the infrastructure needs of our Shire.

Looking ahead

The key financial challenge for Council will be to continue to meet the maintenance needs of the Council's asset base and provide the services that our community needs and wants. This challenge has been compounded by the introduction of the Fair Go Rates System which has reduced Council's ability to financial plan in the longer term. In 2017-18, we will continue to undertake an extensive service review to not only find further operational efficiencies, but also to determine whether the suite of services currently being delivered will continue in the longer term.

Where did we spend our Money?

Employee costs continue to be the greatest area of Council expenditure, followed closely by depreciation and materials and services. These areas of expenditure are critical in the delivery of services to the Yarriambiack Community.

In 2016-17 Council conducted a review of our service provision and internal systems to generate savings to negate the reduction in rates income.

Figure 6.2: Council Expenditure 2016-17

This graph shows the breakdown of Council's expenditure.

- Employee costs \$7.992M
- Materials and services \$5.586M
- Bad and doubtful debts \$27,000
- Depreciation \$6.960M
- Finance costs \$51,000
- Contributions and donations \$142,000
- Other expenses \$1.472M

Total expenditure: \$22.930M

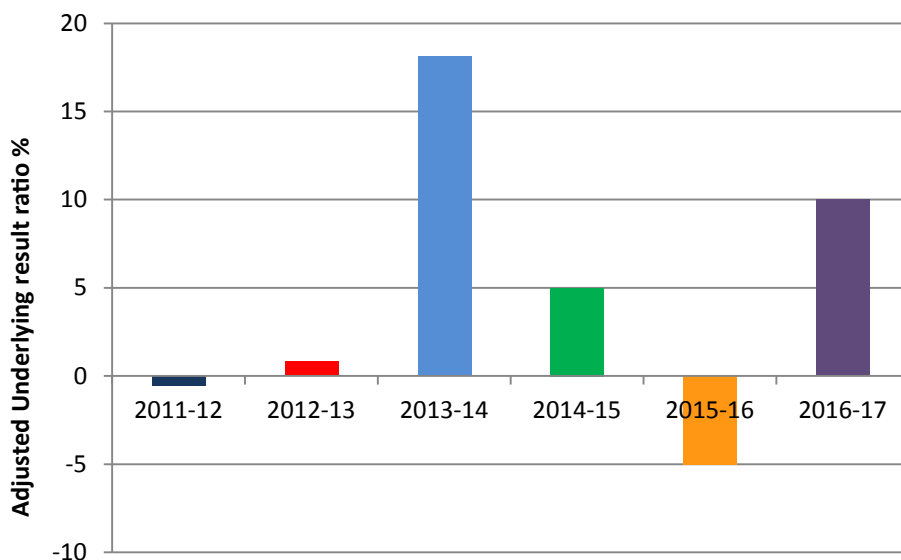
financial summary

Council's financial position continues to remain sound

A SUMMARY OF OUR PERFORMANCE IS OUTLINED BELOW. DETAILED INFORMATION RELATING TO COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE IS INCLUDED WITHIN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENT SECTIONS OF THIS REPORT.

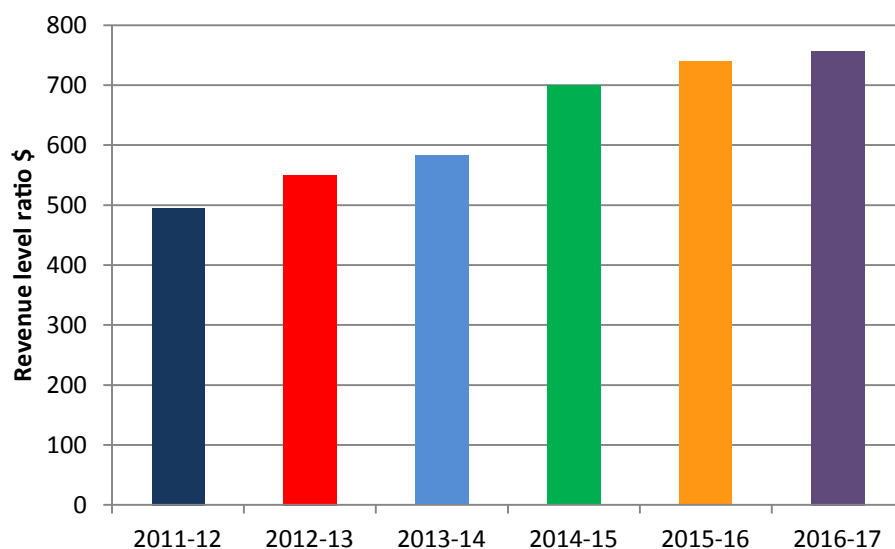
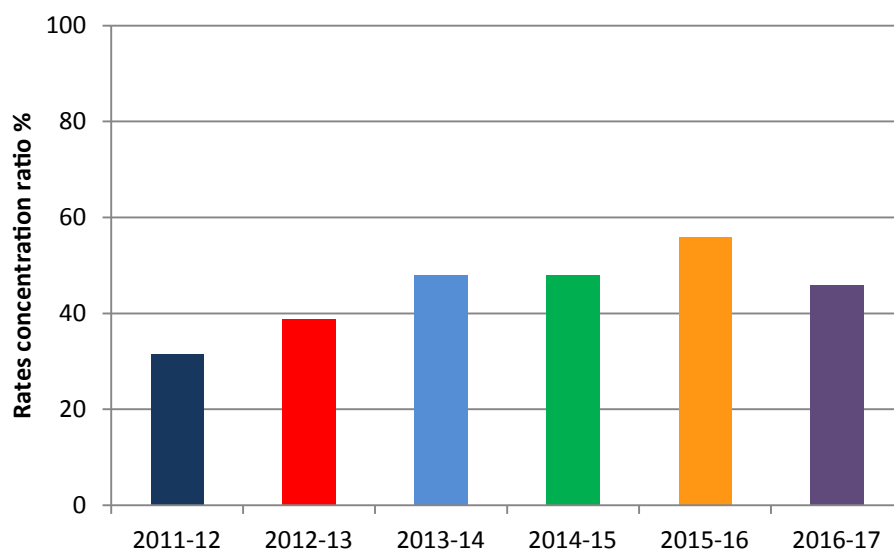
Operating Position

Council achieved a surplus of \$3.563 million in 2016-17. This surplus compares favourably to the prior year deficit of \$516,000. As per the Comprehensive Income Statement in the Financial Report, the favourable variance is due mainly to Council receiving \$2.4 million from the Victorian Grants Commission on the 30 June 2017.



Stability and Efficiency

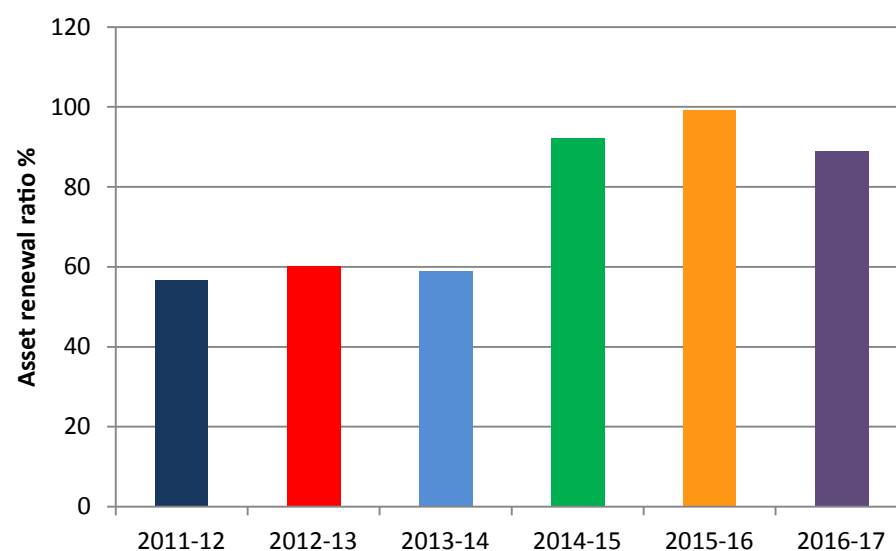
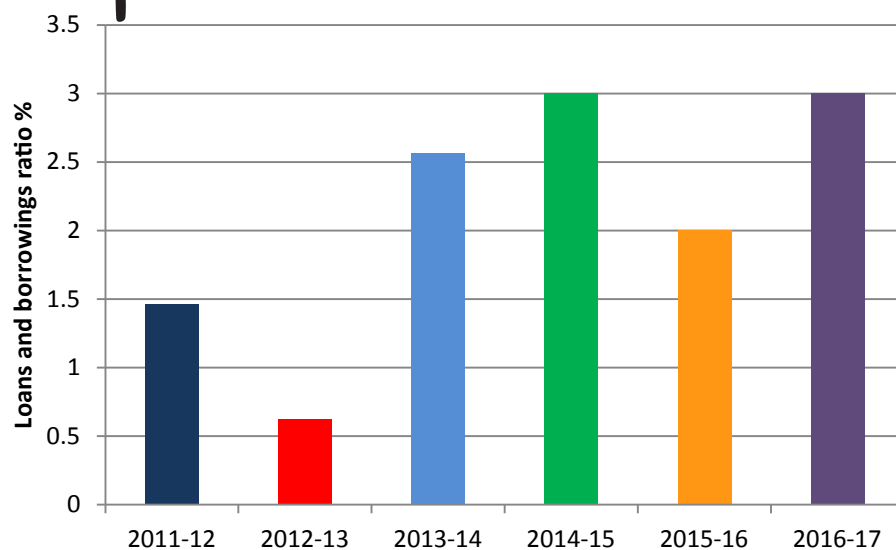
Council raises a wide range of revenues including rates, user fees, fines, grants and contributions. Despite this, Council's rates concentration which compares rate revenue to adjusted underlying revenue was 46% for the 2016-17 year which is within the expected target band of 40% - 80%. In the 2016-17 year the Council rate increased to 2%. This resulted in an average residential rate per residential assessment of \$757 which compares favourably to similar Council's in the regional area.



financial summary

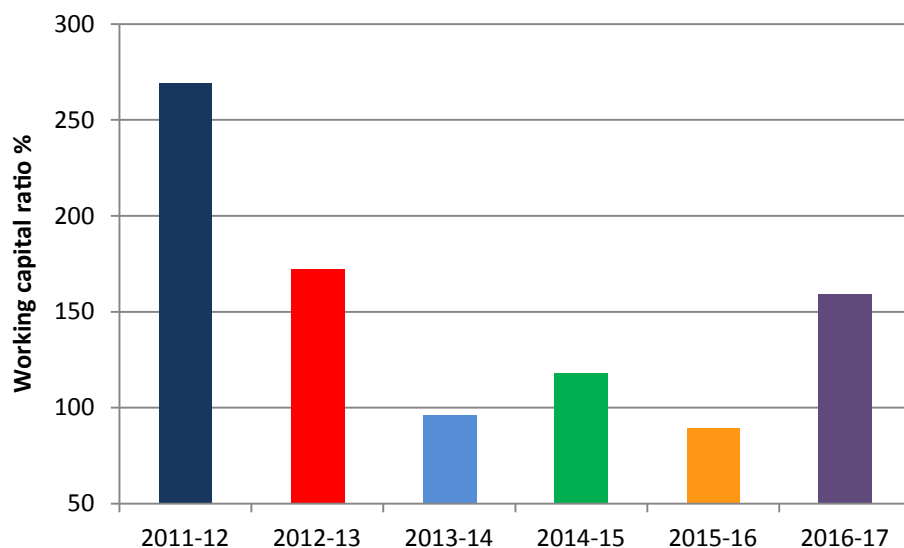
Obligations

Council aims to ensure that it is able to maintain its infrastructure assets at the expected levels, while at the same time continuing to deliver the services needed by the community. To bridge the infrastructure gap, Council invested \$6.180 million in renewal works during the 2016-17 year. This was funded from operations and cash reserves. At the end of the 2016-17 year Council's debt ratio which is measured by comparing interest-bearing loans and borrowings to rate revenue was 3% which was within the expected target band of 0% - 10%. Council's asset renewal ratio which is measured by comparing asset renewal expenditure to depreciation was 89% which was within the expected target band of 50% - 100%.



Liquidity

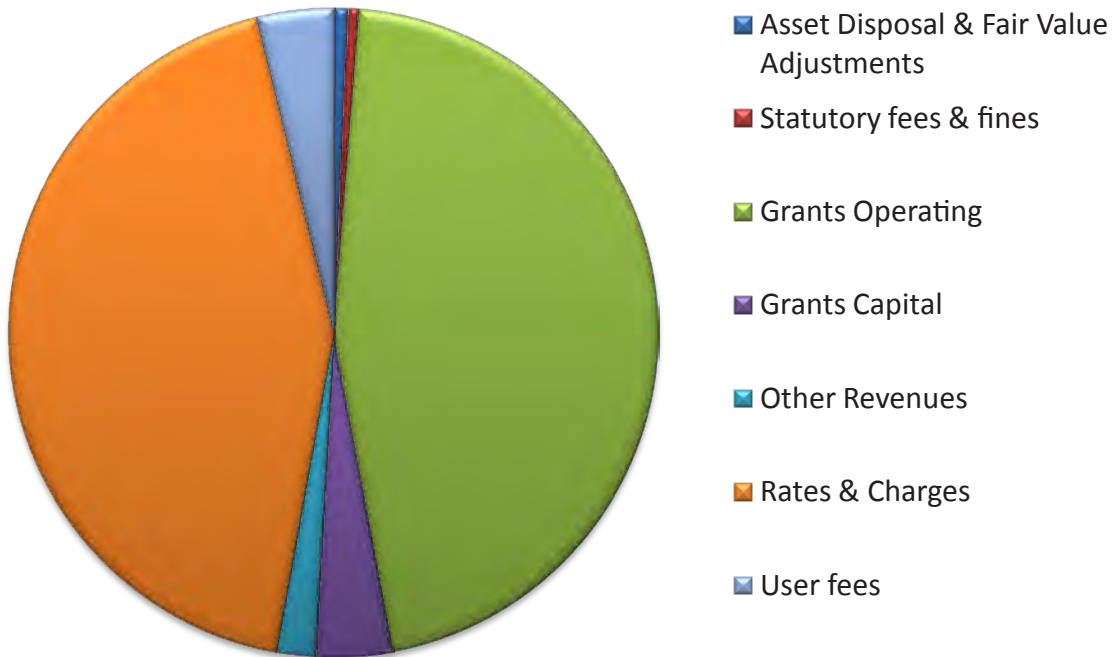
Cash has increased by \$5.343 million from the prior year mainly due to the early payment of the 2017-18 Victorian Grants Commission of \$2.4 million at the end of the 2016-17 year. The working capital ratio which assesses Council's ability to meet current commitments is calculated by measuring Council's current assets as a percentage of current liabilities. Council's result of 159% is an indicator of unsatisfactory financial position and is outside the expected target band of 100% to 300%. If the affects of unspent borrowings is removed, Council's working capital ratio was 101%



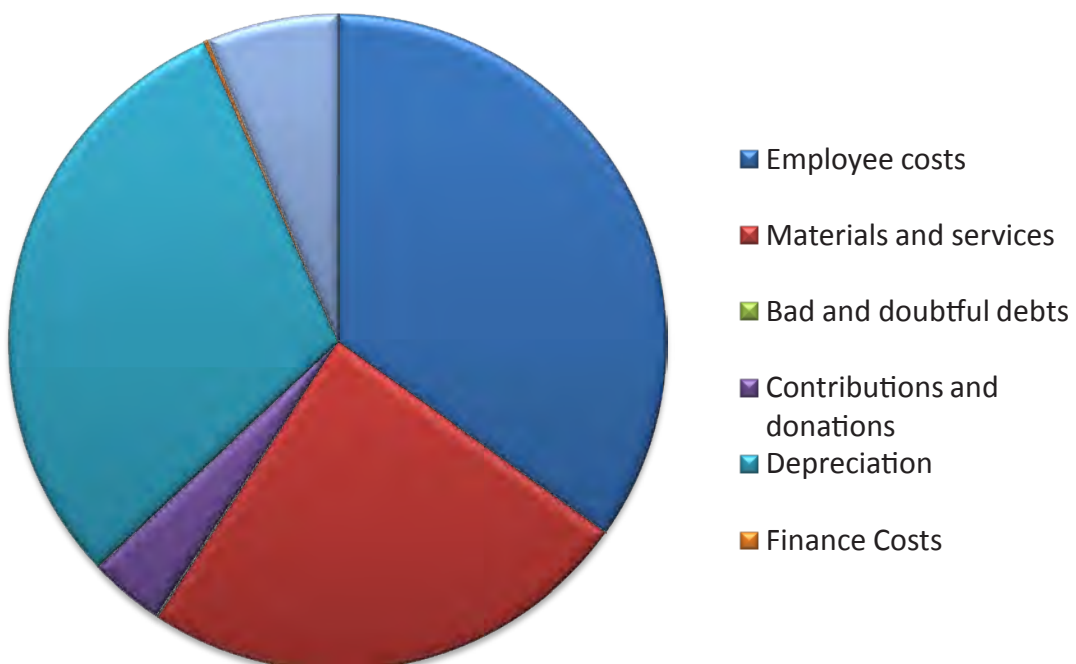
where our money comes from and where our money goes

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS APPLYING TO COUNCIL

6.1 Income



6.2 Expenditure



explanation of the financial statements

Comprehensive Income Statement

This is often referred to as the profit and loss statement and includes income earned and expenditure incurred in running Council's operations throughout the financial year.

Balance Sheet

This is a one-page summary of Council's position as at 30 June. It outlines what Council controls (assets), what it owes (liabilities) and its total equity and net financial worth at the end of the financial year. Assets and liabilities are separated into current and non-current categories.

Statement of Changes in Equity

During the course of the financial year, the value of total equity or net financial worth as set out in the balance sheet changes. Council's net financial worth can change as a result of surplus or deficit in the comprehensive income statement.

Cash Flow Statement

This summarises council's cash payments and shows all cash amounts received and cash payments made throughout the financial year. It also shows the bank balance at the end of the financial year and changes to the balance throughout the financial year.

Statement of Capital Works

This is a summary by classification of all capital works carried out during the financial year. Classifications include land, buildings, plant & equipment and infrastructure. The total expenditure is also classified by new asset expenditure, asset renewal and asset upgrades.

Certification of the financial statements

This is made by the Principal Accounting Officer, as the person responsible for the financial management of Council. Certification is made separately in respect of each statement. The Corporate Services Manager must state that, in their opinion, the statements have met all the statutory and professional reporting requirements. Two Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer make a certification separately in respect of each statement. The Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer must state that, in their opinion, the statements are fair and not misleading or inaccurate.

Independent audit reports

These are the external and independent opinion of the Victorian Auditor-General and provide the reader with an independent view about Council's compliance with the statutory and professional requirements as well as the fairness aspects of the statements. The Victorian Auditor-General issues two audit reports – a combined report on the standard statements and financial statements and a separate report on the performance statement. Each of the audit reports is addressed to the Councillors of Yarriambiack Shire Council.

Performance statement

Section 132 of the Local Government Act 1989 requires Local Government Authorities to develop a performance accountability mechanism which allows for a consistent approach in the collection and reporting of information regarding financial performance, operating costs and community satisfaction.

The use of performance indicators by Local Government Authorities provides:

- An improved capacity to objectively measure Council's performance, leading to better relationships between State and Local Governments
- Better informed local communities.

Notes to the financial report ending 30 June 2017

These notes are a very important and informative section of the Annual Report. The Australian Accounting Standards are not largely prescriptive in relation to fine detail, therefore to enable the reader to understand the basis on which the values are shown in the financial statements, it is necessary to provide some explanation of Council's accounting policies. These notes also give details about many of the summary figures contained in the financial statements. The note numbers are shown beside the relevant items in the financial statements.



Fishing off Beulah pontoon (Weir Pool)



Yarriambiack
SHIRE COUNCIL

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
30 JUNE 2017

annual financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

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Comprehensive Income Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	NOTE	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Income			
Rates and charges	3	11,645	11,348
Statutory fees and fines	4	147	123
User fees	5	1,025	1,021
Grants - Operating	6	12,316	7,784
Grants - Capital	6	1,024	475
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	7	(139)	(403)
Share of net profits/(losses) of associates	16	(48)	(1)
Other income	8	524	428
Total Income		26,494	20,775
Expenses			
Employee costs	9a	(7,992)	(7,607)
Materials and services	10	(5,586)	(5,105)
Bad and doubtful debts	11	(27)	(17)
Contributions & donations	12	(842)	(767)
Depreciation	13	(6,960)	(6,453)
Finance costs	14	(51)	(53)
Other expenses	15	(1,472)	(1,289)
Total Expenses		(22,931)	(21,291)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		3,563	(516)
Other Comprehensive Income			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods</i>			
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	28(b)	4,499	2,096
Share of other comprehensive income of associates	16	24	(13)
Total Comprehensive Result		8,086	1,567

THE ABOVE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES.

Balance Sheet

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017.

	NOTE	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Assets			
<i>Current assets</i>			
Cash and cash equivalents	17	6,495	1,152
Trade and other receivables	19	1,964	1,959
Other financial assets	18	683	686
Inventories	20	829	370
Non current assets classified as held for sale	21	30	42
Other assets	22	198	297
Total Current assets		10,199	4,506
<i>Non-current assets</i>			
Trade and other receivables	19	3	39
Investments in associates	16	494	469
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	23	161,297	157,547
Total Non-current assets		161,794	158,055
Total assets		171,993	162,561
Liabilities			
<i>Current liabilities</i>			
Trade and other payables	24	2,781	1,534
Trust funds and deposits	25	19	157
Provisions	26	3,366	3,268
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	27	240	105
Total Current liabilities		6,406	5,063
<i>Non-current liabilities</i>			
Provisions	26	467	474
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	27	121	110
Total Non-current liabilities		588	584
Total liabilities		6,994	5,649
Net Assets		164,999	156,912
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		63,442	59,855
Reserves	28	101,557	97,058
Total Equity		164,999	156,912

THE ABOVE BALANCE SHEET SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES.

Statement of Changes in Equity

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017.

2017

	NOTE	Total 2017 \$'000	Accumulated Surplus 2017 \$'000	Revaluation Reserve 2017 \$'000	Other Reserves 2017 \$'000
Balance at beginning of the financial year		156,913	59,855	97,043	15
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		3,563	3,563	-	-
Share of other comprehensive income of associates		24	24	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	28(a)	4,499	-	4,499	-
Balance at end of the financial year		164,999	63,442	101,542	15

2016

		Total 2016 \$'000	Accumulated Surplus 2016 \$'000	Revaluation Reserve 2016 \$'000	Other Reserves 2016 \$'000
Balance at beginning of the financial year		155,346	60,384	94,947	15
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(516)	(516)	-	-
Share of other comprehensive income of associates		(13)	(13)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	28(a)	2,096	-	2,096	-
Balance at end of the financial year		156,912	59,855	97,043	15

THE ABOVE STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY SHOULD BE READ WITH THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES.

Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017.

		2017 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000	2016 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000
	NOTE		
Cash flows from operating activities			
Rates and charges		11,460	11,181
Statutory fees and fines		147	123
User fees		1,025	1,021
Grants - Operating		12,316	6,995
Grant - Capital		1,024	475
Interest received		122	128
Trust funds and deposits taken		266	325
Other receipts		401	309
Net GST refund/payment		1,105	1,023
Employee costs		(7,993)	(7,607)
Materials and services		(5,586)	(5,105)
Trust funds and deposits repaid		(402)	(200)
Other payments		(2,314)	(2,056)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	29	11,571	6,611
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(6,750)	(8,603)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	7	427	349
Payments for investments		-	(686)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(6,323)	(8,940)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Finance costs		(51)	53
Proceeds from borrowing		330	-
Repayment of borrowings		(184)	(137)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		95	(190)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		5,343	(2,518)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		1,152	3,670
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		6,495	1,152
Financing arrangements	30		
Restrictions on cash assets	17		

THE ABOVE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS SHOULD BE READ WITH THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES.

Statement of Capital Works

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017.

	NOTE	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Property			
Buildings		207	579
Heritage buildings		7	3
Total Buildings		214	582
Total Property		214	582
Plant and Equipment			
Plant, Machinery and Equipment		1,653	1,266
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		20	7
Computers and Telecommunications		83	79
Total Plant and Equipment		1,756	1,352
Infrastructure			
Roads		4,000	5,357
Bridges		90	12
Footpaths, kerb and channel		327	478
Drainage		24	-
Recreational, leisure and community facilities		92	369
Waste Management		20	8
Parks, open space and streetscapes		78	-
Aerodromes		149	445
Total Infrastructure		4,780	6,669
Total Capital Works Expenditure		6,750	8,603
Represented by:			
New asset expenditure		173	306
Asset renewal expenditure		6,180	6,446
Asset upgrade expenditure		397	1,851
Total Capital Works Expenditure		6,750	8,603

THE ABOVE STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS SHOULD BE READ WITH THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES.

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Introduction

The Yarriambiack Shire Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 19th January 1995 and is a body corporate.

The Council's main office is located at 34 Lyle Street, Warracknabeal.

Statement of compliance

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

Note 1 Significant accounting policies

(a) BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

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

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

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

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 1 (l))
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 1 (m))
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 1 (r))
- the determination of landfill and gravel pit provision (refer to Note 1 (s))

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

(b) CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

There have been no changes in accounting policies from the previous period.

(c) COMMITTEES OF MANAGEMENT

All entities controlled by Council that have material revenues, expenses, assets or liabilities, such as committees of management, have been included in this financial report. Any transactions between these entities and Council have been eliminated in full.

(d) ACCOUNTING FOR INVESTMENTS IN ASSOCIATES AND JOINT ARRANGEMENTS

Associates

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

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 1 Significant accounting policies (cont)

(e) REVENUE RECOGNITION

Income is recognised when the Council obtains control of the contribution or the right to receive the contribution, it is probable that the economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to the Council and the amount of the contribution can be measured reliably.

Rates and Charges

Annual rates and charges are recognised as revenues when Council issues annual rates notices. Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.

Statutory fees and fines

Statutory fees and fines are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever first occurs.

User fees

User fees are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided or the payment is received, whichever first occurs.

Grants

Grant income is recognised when Council obtains control of the contribution. This is normally obtained upon their receipt (or acquittal) or upon earlier notification that a grant has been secured, and are valued at their fair value at the date of transfer.

Where grants or contributions recognised as revenues during the financial year were obtained on condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period and those conditions were undischarged at balance date, the unused grant or contribution is disclosed in Note 6. The note also discloses the amount of unused grant or contribution from prior years that was expended on Council's operations during the current year.

Contributions

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

Sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

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

Interest

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

Other Income

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

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 1 Significant accounting policies (cont)

(f) FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT

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

AASB 13 defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value under AASB 13 is an exit price regardless of whether that price is directly observable or estimated using another valuation technique.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(g) CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

(h) TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount as amortised cost using the effective interest rate method would not impact the carrying value. A provision for doubtful debts is recognised when there is objective evidence that an impairment has occurred. Long term receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

(i) OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS

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

(j) INVENTORIES

Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost, adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential.

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(k) NON-CURRENT ASSETS CLASSIFIED AS HELD FOR SALE

A non-current asset classified as held for sale (including disposal groups) is measured at the lower of its carrying amount and fair value less costs of disposal and are not subject to depreciation. Non-current assets, disposal groups and related liabilities and assets are treated as current and classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. This condition is regarded as met only when the sale is highly probable and the asset's sale (or disposal group sale) is expected to be completed within 12 months from the date of classification.

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 1 Significant accounting policies (cont)

(I) RECOGNITION AND MEASUREMENT OF PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AND INTANGIBLES

Acquisition

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits detailed in Note 1 (m) have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use of an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. Further details regarding the fair value hierarchy are disclosed at Note 23 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment.

In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 1 to 3 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced Council Officers or independent experts.

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

Land under roads

Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value.

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 1 Significant accounting policies (cont)

(m) DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION OF PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AND INTANGIBLES

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis, with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Road earthworks are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed below and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

PROPERTY	PERIOD	THRESHOLD LIMIT \$
<i>Property</i>		
Land	-	1,000
Land under roads	-	1,000
<i>Buildings</i>		
Buildings	30 - 75 years	5,000
Heritage buildings	50 years	5,000
<i>Plant & Equipment</i>		
Plant and equipment	5 - 25 years	1,000
Motor vehicles	1 - 15 years	1,000
Fixtures, fittings & furniture	3 - 15 years	1,000
Computers & telecommunications	1 - 15 years	1,000
<i>Infrastructure</i>		
Earthworks all	-	5,000
Gravel road pavements / resheets	10 - 14 years	2,000
Sealed road pavements	60 years	5,000
Sealed road final seal	12 years	2,000
Bridges	80 years	5,000
Footpaths, kerb & channel	25 years	2,000
Drainage	25 - 80 years	5,000
Aerodromes	12 years	5,000
Recreation & leisure	30 - 75 years	5,000
Parks and open space	30 - 75 years	5,000
Waste management	4 - 30 years	5,000
Other infrastructure	4 - 30 years	5,000

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 1 Significant accounting policies (Cont)

(n) REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Routine maintenance, repair costs and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold, the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

(o) IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

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

(p) TRUST FUNDS AND DEPOSITS

Amounts received as deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as trust funds until they are returned, transferred in accordance with the purpose of the receipt, or forfeited (refer to Note 25).

(q) BORROWINGS

Borrowings are initially measured at fair value, being the cost of the interest bearing liabilities, net of transaction costs. The measurement basis subsequent to initial recognition depends on whether the Council has categorised its interest-bearing liabilities as either financial liabilities designated at fair value through the profit and loss, or financial liabilities at amortised cost. Any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value is recognised in net result over the period of the borrowing using the effective interest method.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the interest bearing liabilities. The Council determines the classification of its interest bearing liabilities at initial recognition.

Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred, except where they are capitalised as part of a qualifying asset constructed by Council. Except where specific borrowings are obtained for the purpose of specific asset acquisition, the weighted average interest rate applicable to borrowings at balance date, excluding borrowings associated with superannuation, is used to determine the borrowing costs to be capitalised.

Borrowing costs include interest on bank overdrafts, interest on borrowings and finance lease charges.

(r) EMPLOYEE COSTS AND BENEFITS

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

Wages and salaries and annual leave

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

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

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 1 Significant accounting policies (Cont)

(r) EMPLOYEE COSTS AND BENEFITS (CONT)

Long service leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits.

Current liability - unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability even when the Council does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have the unconditional right to defer settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months.

The components of this current liability are measured at :

- present value - component that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months
- nominal value - component that is expected to be wholly settled within 12 months.

Classification of employee costs

Non-current liability - conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non-current liability. There is an unconditional right to defer settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

This non-current LSL liability is measured at present value.

(s) LANDFILL REHABILITATION PROVISION

Council is obligated to restore landfill sites and gravel pits to a particular standard. The forecast life of the site is based on current estimates of remaining capacity and the forecast rate of infill. The provision for landfill restoration has been calculated based on the present value of the expected cost of works to be undertaken. The expected cost of works has been estimated based on current understanding of work required to reinstate the site to a suitable standard. Accordingly, the estimation of the provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs.

(t) LEASES

Finance leases

Leases of assets where substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the asset are transferred to the Council are classified as finance leases. Finance leases are capitalised, recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the fair value of the asset and the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual value. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the interest expense. Leased assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives to the Council where it is likely that the Council will obtain ownership of the asset or over the term of the lease, whichever is the shorter. Leased assets are currently being amortised over a 1 to 5 year period.

Operating leases

Lease payments for operating leases are required by the accounting standard to be recognised on a straight line basis, rather than expensed in the years in which they are incurred.

(u) GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 1 Significant accounting policies (Cont)

(v) FINANCIAL GUARANTEES

Financial guarantee contracts are not recognised as a liability in the Balance Sheet unless the lender has exercised their right to call on the guarantee or Council has other reasons to believe that it is probable that the right will be exercised. Details of guarantees that Council has provided, that are not recognised in the balance sheet, are disclosed at Note 34 contingent liabilities and contingent assets.

(w) CONTINGENT ASSETS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND COMMITMENTS

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

Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value by way of note and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

(x) PENDING ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

The following new AAS's have been issued that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2017 reporting period. Council has assessed these pending standards and has identified the following potential impacts will flow from the application of these standards in future reporting periods.

Revenue from contracts with customers (AASB 15) (applies 2019/20)

The standard shifts the focus from the transaction-level to a contract-based approach. Recognition is determined based on what the customer expects to be entitled to (rights and obligations), while measurement encompasses estimation by the entity of the amount expected to be entitled for performing under the contract. The full impact of this standard is not known however it is most likely to impact where contracts extend over time, where there are rights and obligations that may vary the timing or amount of the consideration, or where there are multiple performance elements. This has the potential to impact on the recognition of certain grant income.

Leases (AASB 16) (applies 2019/20)

The classification of leases as either finance leases or operating leases is eliminated for lessees. Leases will be recognised in the Balance Sheet by capitalising the present value of the minimum lease payments and showing a 'right-of-use' asset, while future lease payments will be recognised as a financial liability. The nature of the expense recognised in the profit or loss will change. Rather than being shown as rent, or as leasing costs, it will be recognised as depreciation on the 'right-of-use' asset and an interest charge on the lease liability. The interest charge will be calculated using the effective interest method, which will result in a gradual reduction of interest expense over the lease term.

(y) ROUNDING

Unless otherwise stated, amounts in the financial report have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. Figures in the financial statement may not equate due to rounding.

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 2 Budget comparison

The budget comparison notes compare Council's Financial Plan, expressed through its Annual Budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of more than 10% and \$100,000 where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

The budget figures detailed below are those adopted by Council on 28 June 2016. The Budget was based on assumptions that were relevant at the time of adoption of the Budget. Council sets guidelines and parameters for income and expense targets in this budget in order to meet Council's planning and financial performance targets for both the short and long-term. The budget did not reflect any changes to equity resulting from asset revaluations, as their impacts were not considered predictable.

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

	Budget 2017 \$'000	Actual 2017 \$'000	Variance 2017 \$'000	Ref
a) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE				
<i>Income</i>				
Rates and charges	11,619	11,645	26	
Statutory fees and fines	118	147	29	
User fees	796	1,025	229	1
Grants - Operating	6,766	12,316	5,550	2
Grants - Capital	3,625	1,024	(2,601)	3
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	(29)	(139)	(110)	4
Share of net profits/(losses) of associates and joint ventures	-	(48)	(48)	
Other income	680	524	(156)	5
Total Income	23,575	26,494	2,919	
<i>Expenses</i>				
Employee costs	(8,056)	(7,992)	(63)	
Materials and services	(4,702)	(5,586)	884	6
Bad and doubtful debts	-	(27)	27	
Contributions and donations	(994)	(842)	(152)	7
Depreciation	(6,632)	(6,960)	(328)	
Finance costs	(127)	(51)	(76)	
Other expenses	(1,325)	(1,472)	147	8
Total Expenses	(21,836)	(22,931)	1,095	
Surplus/(deficit) for the Year	1,739	3,563	1,824	

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 2 Budget comparison (cont)

Explanation of Material Variations

<i>Ref</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
1	User fees	Caravan Park fees are \$52,000 above budget due to an increase in the number of tourists in the Shire as a result of the Silo Art Trail. HACC brokerage fees are \$27,000 higher than budget and contribution from Buloke Shire Council of \$113,984 for works on Donald Laen Road.
2	Grants - operating	\$2.482Million of the 2017/18 Victorian Grants Commission Grant was paid to Council prior to the 30 June 2017. It was announced that Council would receive \$1.5Million for drought assistance from the Commonwealth Government. This grant is for community projects and Council has claimed \$504,000. Council has 3 years to spend this money. As part of the Water Resilience Grant program Council received monies for the Rupanyup Bowling Club synthetic green and the Portable Water for Anzac Park. Roads to Recovery Grant (\$3.061Million) was classified as a capital grant in the budget.
3	Grants - capital	In 2015/16 the Commonwealth Government announced that the Roads to Recovery Grant for Council would be \$3.061Million and that this extra money had to be spent in the two month period. Just after the Council budget was adopted, we were advised that we could spend the money over a two year period. Due to the lack of resources ie staff and contractors, Council elected to spend the money over the two years therefore causing a budget variance.
4	Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	The variance is due to the write back of infrastructure assets which were upgraded during the 2016/17 year.
5	Other income	Increase in community contributions towards community projects that Council manage (\$122,000). Legal costs recovered is \$59,000 above budget due to the increase use of debt collectors in the recovery of outstanding rates.
6	Materials and services	Increase in funding for community and road projects has led to an increased in the use of contractors and in the purchase of materials to complete these projects.
7	Contributions and donations	The Woomelang precinct project (\$115,000) was budgeted as a contributions and donation expense, but actual expenditure was allocated to materials and services.
8	Other expenses	Lease expenses have contributed to this variance due to the unexpected hire of a street sweeper after the Council owned vehicle was written off as a result of an accident.

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 2 Budget comparison (cont)

(b) CAPITAL WORKS

Property

Land improvements

Total Land

Buildings

Heritage buildings

Total Buildings

Total Property

Plant and Equipment

Plant, machinery and equipment

Fixtures, Fittings & Furniture

Computers and Telecommunications

Total Plant and Equipment

Infrastructure

Roads

Bridges

Footpaths, Kerb and channel

Drainage

Recreational, leisure and community facilities

Waste management

Parks, open space and streetscapes

Aerodromes

Total Infrastructure

Total Capital Works Expenditure

Represented by:

New asset expenditure

Asset renewal expenditure

Asset upgrade expenditure

Total Capital Works Expenditure

	Budget 2017 \$'000	Actual 2017 \$'000	Variance 2017 \$'000	Ref
Land improvements	28	-	(28)	
Total Land	28	-	(28)	
Buildings	385	207	(178)	1
Heritage buildings	70	7	(63)	2
Total Buildings	455	214	(241)	
Total Property	483	214	(269)	
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,180	1,653	473	3
Fixtures, Fittings & Furniture	11	20	9	
Computers and Telecommunications	40	83	43	4
Total Plant and Equipment	1,231	1,756	525	
Roads	4,963	4,000	(963)	5
Bridges	115	90	(25)	6
Footpaths, Kerb and channel	336	327	(9)	
Drainage	71	24	(47)	7
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	34	92	58	8
Waste management	20	20	-	
Parks, open space and streetscapes	15	78	63	9
Aerodromes	120	149	29	10
Total Infrastructure	5,674	4,780	(894)	
Total Capital Works Expenditure	7,388	6,750	(638)	
New asset expenditure	403	173	(230)	
Asset renewal expenditure	5,817	6,180	363	
Asset upgrade expenditure	1,168	397	(771)	
Total Capital Works Expenditure	7,388	6,750	(638)	

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 2 Budget comparison (cont)

Explanation of Material Variations

<i>Ref</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
1	Buildings	The Warracknabeal Library project was budgeted to be completed in 2016/17, but due to unforeseen delays only part of the project was completed.
2	Heritage buildings	Works had been budgeted for the Warracknabeal Town Hall but Council has yet to obtain a grant to assist with the project.
3	Plant, machinery and equipment	Council had to purchase a new street sweeper due to the write off of the old one. as the result of an accident.
4	Computers and telecommunications	After savings were found in the operating budget it was decided to purchase the hardware for the upgrade of a new computer server system which will be installed in the 2017/18 year.
5	Roads	Council had been advised in the 2015/16 year that the Roads to Recovery allocation would be doubled and would need to be spent in the 2016/17 year. After the budget was adopted, Council was advised that the allocation could be spent across two financial years which Council elected to do, hence the underspend.
6	Bridges	The contract for the Banyena Pimpinio Road is slightly less than what was budgeted.
7	Drainage	The Lloyd/Munro Streets in Murtoa was not completed in 2016/17 and is to be carried forward to 2017/18.
8	Recreational, leisure and community facilities	Grant monies were received for projects at the Brim Bowling Club (\$37,960) and Tempy Recreation Reserve (\$44,700) which were not budgeted.
9	Parks, open space and streetscapes	Grant money was received for the development of a playground at the Hopetoun Tennis Club (\$63,000) which was not budgeted.
10	Aerodromes	Weather stations for Hopetoun and Warracknabeal aerodromes were installed in 2016/17. They were originally budgeted to be installed at the end of 2015/16.

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Note 3 Rates and charges		
Council uses Capital Improved Value (CIV) as the basis of valuation of all properties within the Municipal district. The Capital Improved Value of a property is its net market value after deducting selling costs.		
The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2016/17 was \$1.877 million (2015/16 \$1.640 million).		
Residential	1,998	2,217
Commercial	321	389
Farm/Rural	7,912	7,398
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments	23	(15)
Municipal charge	350	343
Garbage / recycling charge	1,041	1,016
Total Rates and charges	11,645	11,348

The date of the latest general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the Municipal district was 1 January 2016, and the valuation was first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2016.

Note 4 Statutory fees and fines		
Animal control fees & fines	31	29
Town planning & building fees	105	94
Other	11	-
Total Statutory fees and fines	147	123

Note 5 User fees		
Aged and health services	214	241
Aged and health services brokerage fees	160	135
Leisure centre and recreation	23	20
Caravan park fees	162	127
Waste management services	77	75
Rents	61	70
Saleyards fees & charges	82	88
VicRoads charges	9	8
Road works	124	171
Private works	35	23
Other fees and charges	78	63
Total User fees	1,025	1,021

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Note 6 Grants		
Grants were received in respect of the following :		
<i>Summary of grants</i>		
Commonwealth funded grants	10,529	5,031
State funded grants	2,812	3,228
Total grants received	13,341	8,259
 OPERATING GRANTS		
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Roads to Recovery	2,094	2,671
Victoria Grants Commission - Unallocated	4,430	1,432
Victoria Grants Commission - Local Roads	2,848	928
Home and Community Care and Assessment	454	-
Meals on wheels	55	-
Senior citizens	38	-
Total recurrent - Commonwealth Government	9,919	5,031
 <i>Recurrent - State Government</i>		
Home and Community Care and Assessment	231	679
Meals on wheels	6	73
Valuation	63	-
Maternal & child Health	192	179
Recycling	17	13
Sustainability	80	133
Community transport and youth	131	128
Environmental health	-	20
Preschools	549	662
Senior citizens	16	46
Other	42	31
Total recurrent - State Government	1,327	1,964
Total recurrent Operating grants	11,246	6,995
 <i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Drought	504	-
Total non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government	504	-

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Note 6 Grants (cont)		
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Environmental Health	26	-
Public Safety	-	23
Drought Relief	-	127
Halls	-	4
Silo Art	100	-
Youth	42	54
Streetscape	43	200
Natural Disaster	-	122
Recreation	355	259
Total non-recurrent - State Government	566	789
Total non-recurrent Operating grants	1,070	789
Total Operating grants	12,316	7,784
 CAPITAL GRANTS		
<i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Drought	63	-
Auslinks - Bridges	44	-
Total non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government	107	-
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Fire Hydrants	168	60
Aerodromes	489	17
Roads to Market	228	-
Recreation	30	203
Halls	-	3
Library	-	185
Other	2	7
Total non-recurrent - State Government	917	475
Total non-recurrent Capital grants	1,024	475
Total Capital grants	1,024	475
 <i>Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner</i>		
Balance at start of year	(422)	(538)
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	801	647
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(422)	(531)
Balance at year end	(801)	(422)

Note 7 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Proceeds of sale	427	349
Write down value of assets disposed	(566)	(752)
Total Net Gain/(Loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	(139)	(403)

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 8 Other Income	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Interest	62	66
Interest on rates	60	62
Workcover reimbursements	10	4
Private use vehicle reimbursements	-	35
Legal costs recovered	70	-
Income protection	79	118
Community facilities	200	85
Other	43	58
Total Other Income	524	428

Note 9 Employee costs

(a) EMPLOYEE COSTS

Wages and salaries	5,753	5,312
WorkCover	148	239
Councillor Allowance	177	175
Annual leave and long service leave	868	937
Superannuation	683	663
Fringe benefits tax	84	53
Other	279	228
Total Employee costs	7,992	7,607

(b) SUPERANNUATION

Council made contributions to the following funds:

Defined benefit fund

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	110	118
	110	118

Employer contributions payable at report date.

Accumulation funds

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	504	500
Employer contributions - Other Funds	69	45
Employer contributions payable at report date.	573	545

Refer to note 33 for further information relating to Council's superannuation obligations.

Note 10 Materials and service

Materials and services	989	852
Contract payments	3,233	2,650
Building & ground maintenance	204	204
Supply of meals	160	212
Utilities	280	284
External Plant Hire	61	84
Information technology & equipment	64	65
Consultants	430	615
Other	165	319
Total Materials and services	5,586	5,105

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Note 11 Bad and doubtful debts		
Rates debtors	18	13
Other debtors	9	4
Total Bad and doubtful debts	27	17
Note 12 Contributions and donations		
Regional Library	164	165
Sporting Reserves	226	151
Swimming Pools	202	198
Economic Development	96	113
Community Halls	34	22
State Emergency Services	33	65
Preschools	22	12
Other	65	41
Total Contributions and donations	842	767
Note 13 Depreciation		
Buildings	461	389
Plant and equipment	1,068	1,080
Infrastructure	5,431	4,984
Total Depreciation	6,960	6,453
Note 14 Finance costs		
Interest - Borrowings	8	15
Bank overdraft charges	43	38
Total Finance costs	51	53
Note 15 Other expenses		
Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	29	30
Auditor's remuneration - Internal	30	18
Insurance	421	375
Operating lease rentals	402	312
Printing & Stationery	83	68
Advertising	80	61
Postage	27	22
Legal costs	87	91
Subscriptions	87	87
Water	103	126
Bank fees & charges	40	33
Other	83	66
Total Other expenses	1,470	1,289

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 16 Investment in Associates

2017
\$'000

2016
\$'000

Investments in associates accounted for by the equity method are:

- Wimmera Regional Library Corporation	411	407
- Wimmera Development Association	83	62
Total Investment in Associates	494	469

WIMMERA REGIONAL LIBRARY CORPORATION

Background

Yarriambiack Shire Council in conjunction with Horsham Rural City Council, Buloke Shire Council, Hindmarsh Shire Council, Northern Grampians Shire Council and West Wimmera Shire Council have an interest in the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation. The library services much of the population in western Victoria and Yarriambiack Shire Council currently has a 14.00% equity interest, (13.03% in 2015/16).

Fair value of Council's investment in Wimmera Regional Library Corporation is \$411,000.

Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)

Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at start of year	183	188
Reported surplus/(deficit) for year	(27)	-
Transfers (to)/from reserves	9	4
Distributions for the year	4	(9)
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at end of year	169	183

Council's share of reserves

Council's share of reserves at start of year	223	232
Transfers (to)/from reserves	18	(9)
Council's share of reserves at end of year	241	223

Movement in carrying value of specific investment

Carrying value of investment at start of year	407	420
Share of surplus/(deficit) for year	4	(13)
Carrying value of investment at end of year	411	407

Council's share of expenditure commitments

Operating commitments	345	292
Total operating commitments	345	292

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 16 Investment in Associates (cont)

2017
\$'000

2016
\$'000

WIMMERA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Background

Yarriambiack Shire Council in conjunction with Horsham Rural City Council, Hindmarsh Shire Council, Northern Grampians Shire Council and West Wimmera Shire Council have an interest in the Wimmera Development Association. Wimmera Development Association (WDA) is the peak economic development organisation for the Wimmera Southern-Mallee region supporting existing local businesses and promoting economic development opportunities to investors. Yarriambiack Shire Council currently has a 13.58% equity interest. (13.58% in 2015/16).

Fair value of Council's investment in Wimmera Development Association is \$83,000.

Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)

Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at start of year	62	61
Reported surplus/(deficit) for year	(21)	(1)
Transfers (to)/from reserves	10	11
Distributions for the year	2	(9)
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at end of year	53	62

Council's share of reserves

Council's share of reserves at start of year	20	18
Transfers (to)/from reserves	10	2
Council's share of reserves at end of year	30	20

Movement in carrying value of specific investment

Carrying value of investment at start of year	62	61
Share of surplus/(deficit) for year	21	1
Carrying value of investment at end of year	83	62

Council's share of expenditure commitments

Operating commitments	142	119
Total operating commitments	142	119

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 17 Cash and Cash Equivalents	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Cash on hand	1	1
Cash at bank	6,493	1,150
Money market call account	1	1
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	6,495	1,152
Council's cash and cash equivalents are subject to external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary use. These include:		
Trust funds and deposits (Note 25)	19	157
Unspent grants	801	647
Total restricted funds	820	804
Total unrestricted cash and cash equivalents	5,675	348

Note 18 Other financial assets		
Term deposits	683	686
Total Other Financial Assets	683	686

Note 19 Trade and other receivables		
<i>Current</i>		
Rates debtors	1,574	1,573
Provision for doubtful debts - rate debtors	(185)	(167)
<i>Non statutory receivables</i>		
Loans and advances to community organisations	3	23
Other debtors	638	587
Provision for doubtful debts - other debtors	(66)	(57)
	1,964	1,959
<i>Non-current</i>		
Loans and advances to community organisations	3	39
Total non-current trade and other receivables	3	39
Total Trade and Other Receivables	1,967	1,998

(a) AGEING OF TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

At balance date other debtors representing financial assets were past due but not impaired. The ageing of the Council's Trade & Other Receivables (excluding statutory receivables) was:

Current (not yet due)	278	422
Past due by up to 30 days	271	38
Past due between 31 and 180 days	19	41
Past due between 181 and 365 days	14	20
Past due by more than 1 year	63	129
Total Trade & Other Receivables	645	650

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Note 19 Trade and other receivables (cont)		
(b) MOVEMENT IN PROVISION FOR DOUBTFUL DEBTS		
Balance at the beginning of the year	224	208
New Provisions recognised during the year	230	39
Amounts already provided for and written off as uncollectable	27	17
Amounts provided for but recovered during the year	(231)	(40)
Balance at End of Year	250	224

(c) AGEING OF INDIVIDUALLY IMPAIRED TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$250,000 (2016: \$224,000) were impaired. The amount of the provision raised against these debtors was \$250,000 (2016: \$224,000). The individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

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

Past due by more than 1 year	250	224
Total Trade & Other Receivables	250	224

Note 20 Inventories

Inventories held for distribution	829	370
Total Inventories	829	370

Note 21 Non current assets classified as held for sale

Cost of Land acquisition	30	31
Capitalised development costs (eg roads, drainage)	-	11
Total Non current classified as held for sale	30	42

Note 22 Other Assets

Prepayments	134	153
Accrued income	64	144
Total Other Assets	198	297

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 23 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	At Fair Value 30 June 2016	Acquisitions	Revaluation	Depreciation	Disposal	Transfers	At Fair Value 30 June 2017
Land	1,360	-	77	-	-	-	1,437
Buildings	15,310	214	(482)	(461)	(20)	19	14,581
Plant and Equipment	4,951	1,757	-	(1,068)	(1,103)	919	5,456
Infrastructure	135,926	4,780	4,908	(5,431)	(2,266)	1,904	139,822
Work in progress	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	157,547	6,751	4,504	(6,959)	(3,389)	2,841	161,295

Summary of Work in Progress

	Opening WIP	Additions	Write Offs	Closing WIP
Buildings	-	-	-	-
Plant and Equipment	-	-	-	-
Infrastructure	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 June 2017

Note 23 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont)

<i>Land and Buildings</i>	Note	Land - specialised \$'000	Land - non specialised \$'000	Total Land \$'000	Heritage Buildings \$'000	Buildings - specialised \$'000	Buildings - non specialised \$'000	Total Buildings \$'000	Total Property \$'000
At fair value 1 July 2016		1,315	45	1,360	2,271	12,656	1,201	16,127	17,487
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2016		-	-	-	(225)	(554)	(39)	(817)	(817)
		1,315	45	1,360	2,046	12,102	1,162	15,310	16,670
Movements in fair value									
Acquisition of assets at fair value		-	-	-	7	201	6	214	214
Revaluation increments/decrements		69	8	77	38	(639)	119	(482)	(405)
Fair value of assets disposed		-	-	-	-	(20)	-	(20)	(20)
		69	8	77	45	(457)	125	(287)	(210)
Movements in accumulated depreciation									
Depreciation		-	-	-	(141)	(299)	(21)	(461)	(461)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals		-	-	-	-	19	-	19	19
Revaluation increments/decrements		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	(141)	(280)	(21)	(442)	(442)
At fair value 30 June 2017		1,384	53	1,437	2,316	12,199	1,326	15,840	17,277
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2017		-	-	-	(366)	(834)	(60)	(1,259)	(1,259)
		1,384	53	1,437	1,950	11,365	1,266	14,581	16,018

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 June 2017

Note 23 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont)

Plant and Equipment

	Note	Plant machinery and equipment \$'000	Fixtures, fittings and furniture \$'000	Computers and Telecoms \$'000	Total plant and equipment \$'000
At fair value 1 July 2016		10,452	271	881	11,604
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2016		(5,859)	(230)	(564)	(6,653)
		4,593	41	317	4,951
Movements in fair value					
Acquisition of assets at fair value		1,653	21	83	1,757
Fair value of assets disposed		(1,095)	(4)	(4)	(1,103)
		558	17	79	654
Movements in accumulated depreciation					
Depreciation		(976)	(12)	(80)	(1,068)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals		912	2	5	919
		(64)	(10)	(75)	(149)
At fair value 30 June 2017		11,010	288	960	12,258
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2017		(5,923)	(240)	(639)	(6,802)
		5,087	48	321	5,456

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 23 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont)

Infrastructure	Note	Footpaths, Kerb & Channel								Total Infrastructure \$'000
		Roads \$'000	Bridges \$'000	Drainage \$'000	Recreation & Leisure \$'000	Waste Management \$'000	Parks & Open space \$'000	Aerodromes \$'000	Other Infrastructure \$'000	
At fair value 1 July 2016		176,985	3,934	16,744	8,154	7,073	958	2,734	890	218,123
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2016		(66,070)	(1,909)	(8,097)	(3,687)	(347)	(22)	(1,675)	(103)	(82,198)
		110,915	2,025	8,647	4,467	6,785	936	1,059	787	135,926
Movements in fair value										
Acquisition of assets at fair value		4,000	90	327	24	92	78	149	-	4,780
Revaluation increments/decrements		5,881	313	207	240	388	175	(108)	-	7,094
Fair value of assets disposed		(2,138)	(39)	(89)	-	-	-	-	-	(2,266)
		7,743	364	445	264	480	253	41	-	9,608
Movements in accumulated depreciation										
Depreciation		(4,518)	(56)	(387)	(115)	(228)	(10)	(56)	(25)	(5,431)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals		1,792	33	79	-	-	-	-	-	1,904
Revaluation increments/decrements		(2,297)	(83)	174	17	-	-	(36)	37	(2,185)
		(5,022)	(106)	(134)	(98)	(34)	(10)	(92)	12	(5,712)
At fair value 30 June 2017		184,728	4,298	17,189	8,418	7,553	1,211	2,775	890	227,732
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2017		(71,092)	(2,015)	(8,231)	(3,785)	(381)	(32)	(1,767)	(91)	(87,910)
		113,635	2,283	8,958	4,633	7,037	1,180	1,008	799	139,822

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 23 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont)

Valuation of land and buildings

Valuation of land and buildings were undertaken by a qualified independent valuer; Preston Rowe Paterson National Property Consultant - Benjamin Sawyer API Reg 63163 and Hayley Crosser AAPI Reg 64291. The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

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

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

The date of the current valuation is detailed in the following table:

Details of the Council's land and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2017 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	DoV
Land - specialised	-	-	1,384	6/2017
Land - non specialised	-	53	-	6/2017
Heritage buildings	-	-	1,950	6/2017
Buildings - specialised	-	-	11,365	6/2017
Buildings - non specialised	-	1,266	-	6/2017
Total	-	1,319	14,699	

Valuation of infrastructure

Valuation of infrastructure assets has been determined in accordance with Council's Director Infrastructure and Planning, James Magee (B.Eng-Civil). The valuation was performed based on the depreciated reproduction cost of the assets. The effective date of the valuation is 30 June 2017.

The valuation is at fair value based on replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at the date of valuation.

Details of the Council's infrastructure and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2017 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Roads	-	-	113,635
Bridges	-	-	2,283
Footpaths, kerb and channel	-	-	8,958
Drainage	-	-	4,633
Recreational, Leisure and Community facilities	-	-	7,037
Waste Management	-	-	291
Parks, Open space and Streetscapes	-	-	1,180
Aerodromes	-	-	1,008
Other infrastructure	-	-	799
Total	-	-	139,824

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 23 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont)

DESCRIPTION OF SIGNIFICANT UNOBSERVABLE INPUTS INTO LEVEL 3 VALUATIONS

Specialised land and land under roads is valued using a market based direct comparison technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the extent and impact of restriction of use and the market cost of land per square metre. The extent and impact of restrictions on use varies and results in a reduction to surrounding land values between 5% and 95%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions.

Specialised buildings are valued using a depreciated replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs are calculated on a square metre basis and range from \$3 to \$2,413 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 30 years to 75 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the depreciated replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 12 years to 80 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
<i>Reconciliation of specialised land</i>		
Other land	1,384	1,315
Total specialised land	1,384	1,315

Note 24 Trade and other Payables

Trade payables	2,478	1,043
Net GST payable	(75)	98
Accrued expenses	378	393
Total Trade and Other Payables	2,781	1,534

Note 25 Trust funds and deposits

Refundable building deposits	16	42
Fire Service Levy	2	4
Other refundable deposits	1	111
Total Trust Funds and Deposits	19	157

Purpose and nature of items

Refundable deposits - Deposits are taken by Council as a form of surety in a number of circumstances, including in relation to building works, tender deposits, contract deposits and the use of civic facilities.

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

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 26 Provisions

	Annual Leave \$'000	Long Service Leave \$'000	Sick Leave \$'000	Landfill & Gravel Pit Restoration \$'000	Total \$'000
2017					
Balance at beginning of the financial year	1,368	1,692	120	562	3,742
Additional provisions	699	(44)	43	(29)	669
Amounts used	(654)	(103)	(11)	(22)	(790)
Increase in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	-	212	-	-	212
Balance at the end of the Financial Year	1,413	1,757	152	511	3,833
2016					
Balance at beginning of the financial year	1,286	1,529	111	447	3,373
Additional provisions	692	16	19	187	914
Amounts used	(610)	(73)	(10)	(72)	(765)
Increase in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	-	220	-	-	220
Balance at the end of the Financial Year	1,368	1,692	120	562	3,742

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
(a) EMPLOYEE PROVISIONS		
<i>Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months</i>		
Annual leave	680	635
Long service leave	107	76
Sick Leave	132	108
	919	819
<i>Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months</i>		
Annual leave	733	734
Long service leave	1,483	1,451
	2,216	2,185
Total current employee provisions	3,135	3,004
<i>Non-current</i>		
Long service leave	167	165
Sick Leave	20	11
Total Non-current provisions	187	176
<i>Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:</i>		
Current	3,135	3,004
Non-current	187	176
Total Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	3,322	3,180

(b) LANDFILL AND GRAVEL PIT RESTORATION

Current	231	264
Non-current	280	298
	511	562

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Note 27 Interest-bearing Loans and Borrowings		
<i>Current</i>		
Borrowings - secured (1)	110	105
Finance leases	130	-
	240	105
<i>Non-current</i>		
Borrowings - secured (1)	-	110
Finance leases	121	-
	121	110
Total	361	215
 (1.) Borrowings are secured by Council's rates		
(a) The maturity profile for Council's borrowings is:		
Not later than one year	110	105
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	110
Later than five years	-	-
	110	215
 (b) The maturity profile for Council's finance lease liabilities is:		
Not later than one year	130	-
Later than one year and not later than five years	121	-
Later than five years	-	-
	251	-
Minimum future lease payments		
Less future finance charges	-	-
Present value of minimum lease payments	251	-

Council has entered into a five (5) year leasing agreement with Porter Plant for the lease of a Street Sweeper. The original cost of the finance lease was \$330,000 with a lump sum of \$60,000 paid in year one, \$100,000 paid in year two and a final payment of \$40,000 to be paid at the conclusion of the lease agreement.

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 28 Reserves	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Increment (decrement) \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
(a) ASSET REVALUATION RESERVES			
2017			
Property			
Land	1,649	76	1,725
Buildings	16,754	81	16,835
	18,403	157	18,560
Infrastructure			
Roads	67,580	3,584	71,164
Bridges	1,178	229	1,407
Footpaths and kerb and channel	4,922	380	5,302
Drainage	3,888	256	4,144
Aerodromes	713	(144)	569
Other infrastructure	359	37	396
	78,640	4,342	82,982
Total Asset Revaluation Reserves	97,043	4,499	101,542

2016

Property

Land	1,649	-	1,649
Buildings	16,754	-	16,754
	18,403	-	18,403

Infrastructure

Roads	65,762	1,818	67,580
Bridges	1,358	(180)	1,178
Footpaths and kerb and channel	4,892	30	4,922
Drainage	3,562	326	3,888
Aerodromes	645	68	713
Other infrastructure	324	35	359
	76,543	2,097	78,640
Total Asset Revaluation Reserves	94,946	2,097	97,043

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

(b) OTHER RESERVES

2017

Aerodrome Maintenance	15	-	15
Total Other Reserves	15	-	15

2016

Aerodrome Maintenance	15	-	15
Total Other Reserves	15	-	15

The Aerodrome Maintenance reserve is maintained to account for funds reserved for the specific purpose of assisting Council achieve its objectives of upgrading the Warracknabeal and Hopetoun aerodromes.

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 29 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Surplus /(deficit) for the year	4,281	(517)
Depreciation	6,243	6,454
Profit/(loss) on disposal of property, plant and equipment, infrastructure	(139)	(403)
Share of net profit/(loss) of associates	48	(1)
Bad and Doubtful Debts	27	17
Borrowing Costs	51	53
<i>Change in assets and liabilities:</i>		
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other receivables	31	(406)
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	(3)	11
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other payables	1,252	750
Increase/(decrease) in assets held for sale	(12)	33
(Increase)/decrease in investments in associates	24	12
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(459)	114
Increase/(decrease) in trust funds and deposits	138	126
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	91	369
Net Cash provided by/(used in) Operating Activities	11,572	6,611
Note 30 Financing arrangements		
Bank overdraft	2,500	2,500
Credit card facilities	7	7
Other facilities	300	300
Total Facilities	2,807	2,807
Used facilities	(277)	(298)
Unused facilities	2,530	2,509

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 31 Commitments

The Council has entered into the following commitments:

	Not later than 1 year \$'000	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years \$'000	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
2017				
<i>Operating</i>				
Recycling	274	278	282	834
Garbage collection	310	315	319	944
Cleaning contracts for Council building	50	51	51	152
Meals for delivery	175	-	-	175
Total Commitments	809	644	652	2,105

	Not later than 1 year \$'000	Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
2016			
<i>Operating</i>			
Recycling	272	842	1,114
Garbage collection	306	944	1,250
Meals for delivery	168	168	336
Total Commitments	747	1,954	2,700

Note 32 Operating leases

2017
\$'000

2016
\$'000

OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At the reporting date, the Council had the following obligations under non-cancellable operating leases for the lease of equipment and land and buildings for use within Council's activities (these obligations are not recognised as liabilities):

Not later than one year	270	242
Later than one year and not later than five years	359	472
Total Operating Leases	629	714

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 33 Superannuation

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

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation categories, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2017, this was 9.5% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation).

Defined Benefit

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

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

Funding arrangements

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

As at 30 June 2016, an interim actuarial investigation was held as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer was 102.0%. To determine the VBI, the fund Actuary used the following long-term assumptions:

Net investment returns	7.0% pa
Salary information	4.25% pa
Price inflation (CPI)	2.5% pa

Vision Super has advised that the estimated VBI at 30 June 2017 was 103.1%.

The VBI is to be used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 2016 interim actuarial investigation determined the defined benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2016 interim actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Yarriambiack Shire Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2017, this rate was 9.5% of members' salaries (9.5% in 2015/2016). This rate will increase in line with any increase to the SG contribution rate.

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

Funding calls

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

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 33 Superannuation (cont)

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall. Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up. If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers. In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

2016 Interim actuarial investigation surplus amounts

The Fund's interim actuarial investigation as at 30 June 2016 identified the following in the Defined Benefit category of which Yarriambiack Shire Council is a contributing employer:

A VBI surplus of \$40.3 million; and
A total service liability surplus of \$156 million

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2016. The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses.

Yarriambiack Shire Council was notified of the 30 June 2016 VBI during August 2016.

The 2017 full triennial actuarial investigation surplus amounts

The fund's interim actuarial is being conducted for the fund's position as at 30 June 2017. It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed in December 2017.

Future superannuation contributions

In addition to the disclosed contributions, there were no contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2017. The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2018 are \$0.

Note 34 Contingent liabilities

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme, matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined in Note 33. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists. At this point in time it is not known if additional contributions will be required, their timing or potential amount.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning holds a National Australia Bank Guarantee given by the Shire for the sum of \$298,000 which is being used if a site is damaged after gravel extraction. This continues to be reviewed on a yearly basis.

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 35 Financial Instruments

(a) OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and bank borrowings. Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in Note 1 of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

(b) MARKET RISK

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

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Council's interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes Council to fair value interest rate risk, Council does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the Local Government Act 1989. Council manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

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

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

(c) CREDIT RISK

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss. Council have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet. To help manage this risk:

- council have a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities Council deal with;
- we may require collateral where appropriate; and
- we only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in our investment policy.

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

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

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when Council provide a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in Note 34.

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

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 35 Financial Instruments (cont)

(d) LIQUIDITY RISK

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

To help reduce these risks Council:

- have a liquidity policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- have readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place;
- have a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments;
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- set limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue.

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet and the amounts related to financial guarantees disclosed in Note 34 and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade. Details of the maturity profile for borrowings are disclosed at Note 29.

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

(e) FAIR VALUE

Fair value hierarchy

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

(f) SENSITIVITY DISCLOSURE ANALYSIS

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

- A parallel shift of + 1% and - 2% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 2.5%.

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

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 36 Related Party Disclosures

(i) RELATED PARTIES

Parent entity

Yarriambiack Shire Council is the parent entity.

Associates

Interests in associates are detailed in note 16.

(ii) KEY MANAGEMENT STAFF

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

Councillors:

Councillor William Graeme MASSEY (Mayor)

Councillor Helen Anne McCulloch BALLENTINE

Councillor Kylie Louise ZANKER

Councillor Tom HAMILTON

(elected 11/2016)

Councillor Shane ROBERTS

(elected 11/2016)

Councillor Jean Margaret WISE

(elected 11/2016)

Councillor Corinne HEINTZE

(elected 11/2016)

Councillor Raymond John KINGSTON

(retired 11/2016)

Councillor Lisa Maree WOODS

(retired 11/2016)

Councillor Terence Sydney GRANGE

(retired 11/2016)

Councillor Andrew Robert McLEAN

(retired 11/2016)

	2017 No.	2016 No.
Total Number of Councillors	11	8
Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	1	1
Total Key Management personnel	12	9

(iii) REMUNERATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Short-term benefits	410	409
Long-term benefits	18	18
Termination benefits	-	-
Total	428	427

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council and related entities, fall within the following bands:

	2017 No.	2016 No.
\$1 - \$9,999	3	-
\$10,000 - \$19,999	4	5
\$20,000 - \$29,999	3	-
\$30,000 - \$39,999	1	2
\$210,000 - \$219,999	1	1
	12	8

notes to the financial report for the year ended 30 june 2017

Note 36 Related Party Disclosures (cont)

(iv) TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

During the period Council entered into the following transactions with responsible persons or related parties of responsible persons.

ME & NL McLean was engaged by Council to undertake the following works:

Supply labour and materials for repairs at Hopetoun Bowling Club.

Supply materials for the Hopetoun Tennis / Caravan Park Family area.

Phil Zanker Electrical Pty Ltd was engaged by Council to undertake the following works:

Supply labour and materials to install power outlet at the new cricket training nets at the Minyip Recreation Reserve.

Supply labour and materials to fit new floodlights at Warracknabeal saleyards and truckwash.

	2017 No.	2016 No.
	16	-
	2	-
	-	2
	-	2
	18	4

(v) OUTSTANDING BALANCES WITH RELATED PARTIES

The following balances are outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties.

No outstanding balances have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Council during the reporting year (2015/16 Nil).

(vi) LOANS TO/FROM RELATED PARTIES

The aggregate amount of loans in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Council to a related party as follows:

No loans have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Council during the reporting year (2015/16 Nil).

(vii) COMMITMENTS TO/FROM RELATED PARTIES

The aggregate amount of commitments in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Council to a related party as follows:

No commitments have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Council during the reporting year (2015/16 Nil).

Note 37 Senior Officer Remuneration

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

a) has management responsibilities and reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer;

or

b) whose total annual remuneration exceeds \$142,000

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

Income Range	2017 No.	2016 No.
< \$139,999	2	2
\$160,000 - \$169,999	1	1
	3	3
Total Remuneration for Senior Officers included above, amounted to:	422	418

Note 38 Events occurring after balance date

No matters have occurred after balance date that requires disclosure in the financial report.

financial statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Certification of the Financial Report

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



ANITA J MCFARLANE B.COMM (ACC)

Principal Accounting Officer

Date: 27 September 2017

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of Yarriambiack Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2017 and the financial position of the Council as at that date.

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

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



JEAN M WISE

Councillor

Date: 27 September 2017



KYLIE L ZANKER

Councillor

Date: 27 September 2017



RAYMOND J CAMPLING

Chief Executive Officer

Date: 27 September 2017

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Yarriambiack Shire Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of Yarriambiack Shire Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• balance sheet as at 30 June 2017• comprehensive income statement for the year then ended• statement of changes in equity for the year then ended• statement of cash flows for the year then ended• statement of capital works for the year then ended• notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies• certification of the financial report. <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the council as at 30 June 2017 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 6 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the Act are further described in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors' responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Councillors of the council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

financial statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

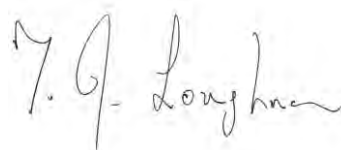
**Auditor's
responsibilities
for the audit
of the financial
report**

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Councillors
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Councillors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Tim Loughnan

as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

MELBOURNE

27 September 2017

silo art trail

The Silo Art Trail celebrates regional Australia in a modern and accessible artistic context.

The silos have been strategically selected for maximum visual impact and to ensure visitors have the opportunity to engage with multiple communities and outback tourism destinations in the Wimmera and Mallee region.

Historically, silos are a place for the farming communities to come together during harvest, exchange news and stories and re-connect with old friends while the grain is unloaded. Of late, changes in the agricultural industry have led to many communities losing active silo sites. The Silo Art Trail has provided an opportunity to reinvigorate decommissioned sites and celebrate local communities and farming history.



Brim

Guido Van Helten captured the imagination of Australia in December 2015 when he undertook a gigantic painting on the Brim Silos. The Brim Silo Art generated inspiration for the Silo Art Trail and Guido's mural will remain an iconic tribute to the farming communities of the Wimmera and Mallee region.



Rupanyup

Russian Artist Julia Volchkova is actively involved in the graffiti and street art movement in the places she travels and has recently completed the huge metal grain storage bins in Rupanyup as part of the Silo Art Trail. Julia's work focuses on portraits and the Rupanyup Silo Art mural is inspired by the Rupanyup Panthers Football & Netball Club.



Patchewollock

Fintan Magee is a Brisbane based street artist who painted the Patchewollock Silos in October 2016. Local farmer 'Noodle Hulland' was chosen for the inspiration of the artwork because he was slim enough to fit the two narrow silos and had "that classic farmer look", embodying the locals' spirit.



Sheep Hills

Adnate is an internationally renowned street artist, famous for his work with Aboriginal communities across Australia and completed the mural in December 2016. The four indigenous faces now watch over the tiny community of Sheep Hills and the starry background of the towering portraits has symbolic significance to the local people.

The Silo Art Trail will continue in 2017 with another mural being created at Rosebery.



Lascelles

Renowned Melbourne Street Artist Rone has depicted the faces of Lascelles couple Geoff and Merrilyn Horman. Geoff and Merrilyn's families have lived and farmed in the area for four generations.

Born in the district, the couple married in Lascelles in 1967 and together with their two sons (and their own families) have continued the family traditions of wheat farming and strong community involvement.

So how did the humble country couple come to be chosen as subjects of a large-scale mural by one of Australia's leading artists? "To really understand the essence of the place, I wanted to find people who had lived here all their lives and get a sense of what the town has been through over the years", explains Rone. "With a population of just 48 people, I've been fortunate to have already met most of the town here in Lascelles", he continues. "After a lot of discussion with the locals, I found my subjects."

Now, Geoff and Merrilyn Horman look over their hometown of Lascelles and the Mallee area.

Image of Geoff Horman looking over the Mallee at Lascelles. Rone completed the Silo artwork in July 2017.
Merrilyn Horman's portrait is situated on the other side of the Silo.

contact us

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Yarriambiack
SHIRE COUNCIL

Check out Yarriambiack Tourism Association & Wimmera Mallee Tourism at
www.yarriambiack.vic.gov.au and www.wimmeramalleetourism.com.au

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPHS:

Patchewollock Sheepdog Trials, Murtoa College Students, Artwork located at Brim Silo's, Busking at Y-Fest Festival Warracknabeal, Artwork at Yaapeet Bus & Information Shelter and Skiing Lake Lascelles in Hopetoun.

Photo credits: Yarriambiack Shire Council, Aerial Digital Technologies and Wimmera Mallee Tourism.



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