

## Budget 2023-24 Submissions

Below is a summary of the submissions received, along with management's recommendations.

Submission	Recommendation
<p>Township: <i>Hopetoun</i></p> <p>What roads or infrastructure projects do you see as a priority in 2023-24?</p> <p><i>Lascelles/Sea Lake Road, Gama Road, Patchewollock to Speed Road, Hopetoun to Yaapeet Road, Hopetoun to Rainbow Road, Garrard Street (may be Vicroads) Gypsum Mine Access Road.</i></p>	<p><i>Sea Lake – Lascelles Road:</i> Council has a section of this road nominated as a rural rehabilitation construction project in the 2023-24 budget.</p> <p><i>Gama – Sea Lake Road</i> had a large rehabilitation project completed on it 2 years ago and 1.3kms of shoulder work last year. It will continue to see work on it as required.</p> <p><i>Patchewollock-Sea Lake Road:</i> This is a Regional Roads asset.</p> <p><i>Hopetoun – Yaapeet Road:</i> Council has a section of this road nominated as a rural rehabilitation construction project in the 2023-24 budget. Previously completing many kilometres of rehabilitation over the last several years.</p> <p><i>Hopetoun – Rainbow Road:</i> This is a Regional Roads asset.</p> <p><i>Garrard Street:</i> This is a Regional Roads asset.</p> <p><i>Mine Access Road:</i> Moyles Road and Phitzner eys Road, are continually maintained to ensure safe passage of heavy vehicles. Maintenance can be difficult to carry out during the cartage season.</p>
<p>Letter from Mr A Malcolm – Request to address Council.</p> <p><i>Two main issues of concern raised: rates increase rise for farming and decrease in residential and commercial rates.</i></p> <p><i>User fees for sale yards increase and what costs are incurred in the associated running cost of the service.</i></p>	<p>Request to meet with Councillors arranged prior to scheduled Council meeting.</p>

<b>Submission</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<p>Letter from Rupanyup Primary School seeking Project Investment Support</p>	<p>Council has twelve schools within the Shire boundary. Providing financial support to a school for infrastructure investment would establish a precedent.</p> <p>Council should be fair and equitable in decision making. If support is provided to one school, then applications from other schools within the shire would need to be considered equally.</p> <p>Investing in assets that are owned and operated by the State Government direct funds away from Council owned and operated assets, where Council is already experiencing funding constraints to meet required maintenance / renewal / upgrades.</p> <p>The Rupanyup Primary School is a Department of Education asset and financial support should be provided via the State Government. Whilst Council Officers acknowledge the challenges that the Rupanyup Primary School faces, we endeavour to support the Primary School via other means such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wavering transfer station fees for working bees;</li> <li>• Advocacy to State Members of Parliament; and</li> <li>• Collecting dirt from the school site and repurposing it.</li> </ul> <p>It is recommended that Council does not commit to funding a State Government Primary School Project.</p>

## **Sale Yards Fee Increase Feedback Summary**

Upon release of the draft budget for 23-24 year, the feedback provided to the Manager Community Health regarding the newly introduced agent fees was that the current flat rate per sale, per agent would not be suitable. The argument against the flat rate was due to the fact that one of the two companies selling stock through our facility sells higher numbers than the other. Therefore, under a flat rate arrangement, selling agents will be charged the same, regardless of the stock per head sold.

A fairer revenue system would be to add the agent fees on a per head basis, rather than a flat rate.

Using the rational of achieving an approximate cost neutral fee structure, the following rates are proposed based on sale number averages.

### **Amended Fee**

**Agent fee – \$0.40 per head (new)**

**Sale yard Levy - \$1.10 per head (existing)**

Irrespective of the rate proposed above, users of the facility still believed that the agent fees were not appropriate at their proposed rate. The increase was regarded as too significant for a 'first-time fee' introduction, which indicated that a staggered approach may be more suitable. However, facility users considered that the yards were an important and valued service used by many within the community and the recent introduction of a significant agent fee could result in farmers selling at other sale yards.

**Recommendation:** That the Councillors endorse the change of the fees structure as outlined in the amended fee summary above and note that the change has been included in the Budget 2023-24 document, as presented to Council.



Date: Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

To the Yarriambiack Shire Council,

**Re: Seeking Project Investment Support**  
**Project: Shade for Outdoor Inclusive Learning, Sensory & Play Space**

***Introduction and Background.***

Rupanyup Primary School resides in the Wimmera-Mallee region of Northern Victoria, an area known for its dry, hot summers and mild sunny winter days.

Nestled amongst a community that has a rich heritage in Agriculture and Farming, an integral industry that remains to be a huge driver of multi-generational farming families residing in the Rupanyup district today.

Our small school is critical to ensuring there is a liveable future for the township, providing complete educational and extracurricular opportunities.

At Rupanyup Primary School we are committed to developing a caring, accepting, and inclusive community and aim to provide an open-ended approach to learning and progress which stimulate flexibility and adaptability. We aim to meet the expectations of students, families, the community while remaining comparable to our nearby and metro counterparts.

Wellbeing is at the forefront of ensuring our students are supported and nurtured along their learning journey. The importance of including outdoor learning and sensory spaces is vital to a well-rounded educational experience. It is vital that our fundamental facilities provide the safety and protection required. We are proud to be a SunSmart School, given the exposure to extreme UV in Northern Victoria, we incorporate sun protection into the culture and regular routine of the school.

Our school has a small veggie patch and 3 chooks, on different occasions throughout the year students will have the opportunity to learn life skills outdoors including planting seasonal vegetables and collecting the eggs. These open-air opportunities are unnecessarily restricted due to the need for adequate shade to the area to protect the students and the produce from forecast UV ratings.

***Insights into Future;***

Rupanyup Primary School will face some critical challenges over the next 5-10 years with the development of a new education facility in a neighbouring town, only 15km's down the road. This development, whilst exciting for the regions strong demand and need for childcare and preschool education, it unfortunately generates a potential negative outlook for our small rural school on multiple levels. Our goal is to remain at the forefront locally and be comparable to providing our students and our community with the best possible outcome and facilities for their future little learners.

We are asking for a small amount of project support to allow us to complete our shade protection over our newly upgraded outdoor learning and play space. Unfortunately, our efforts to seek shade funding through DET have been unsuccessful, we are often over-looked due to what we believe is the small nature of our school.

***The Project;***

Recently, a very old and tired zone within school grounds undertook some freshly landscaped upgrades which have been professionally designed around nature. The space has two stages and once both are completed, will offer invaluable benefits for child development including helping children understand how their actions affect what's around them, supporting brain development, enhancing memory, complex tasks and problem solving and encouraging imagination.

This vital upgrade was long overdue, and the infrastructure aspects of stage 1 & 2 has been funded through the sheer blood, sweat and tears and determination of parent volunteers, school fundraising, the community, and our Rupanyup Primary School staff. An incredible effort that shows adaptable community resilience and never giving up given the challenges small rural schools like ours are faced with. Rural Schools are often over-looked when it comes to DET financial investment, yet they bring invaluable liveability for rural communities across Regional Victoria.

The Rupanyup Primary School community, current and future, needs help to rebuild, to grow, to foster, to adapt and to show resilience, we thank you for your consideration.



Our developing new outdoor zone must adhere to our SunSmart protection policy, and this is where you can help. Our new zone needs to wear a hat too and that hat comes at a big cost, one that we have been unsuccessful so far in achieving.

We have lobbied and campaigned with State Government, Local Government and Politicians to renew our play space, the outcome for the most part has been unsuccessful. Countless hours have been spent writing letters, campaigning, seeking and asking for help, the outcome at a DET and Government level not satisfactory. Rupanyup Primary School deserves better, our community deserves better, we need your help.

Stage 2 of the Project sees the installation of a new active play zone featuring some very interactive and physical elements similar to that of Ninja Warrior. Fundraising efforts have ensured Stage 2 will commence shortly. The students themselves have played a big role in deciding what would benefit them now and into the future, our student leadership group have provided you their letter of support attached.

Without your support at this stage, our space will be limited, having to remove students from the zone during times where the UV Index is dangerous and in Northern Victoria that can happen at any stage throughout the year. We don't want to restrict our students from opportunities to thrive outdoors.

According to Census Data Records, Rupanyup's population has remained the same for the past 30 years. 30 years ago our overall figure was 30 less than where we sit today. Our total number of families are the same, our demographical make up is the same. For 30 years strong we have maintained our status by population, we intend to create a vibrant outlook for the next 30 years at Rupanyup Primary School, with your help.

### **Project Quotation Information**

Option 1.

Hip & Ridge Structure – \$28,611.00

Quote Includes - Installation, 4 Gal Poles, Shade Cloth, Engineering Drawings, Reg 126, Building Permit & Concrete.

Option 2.

Stand Alone Shade Sail - \$22,550.00

Quote Includes – Installation, 6 Gal Poles, Shade Cloth, Engineering Drawings, Reg 126, Building Permit & Concrete.

Attachments;

Appendix A

Letter of Support from Rupanyup Primary School, Principal

Appendix B

Letter of Support from Rupanyup Primary School, School Captain & Leadership Group

Appendix C

Letter of Support from Rupanyup Primary School, Parents Club President

Appendix D

Rupanyup Primary School Information Booklet 2023

Appendix E

Layout – Landscape Concept Plan

Investment Support can be in any form, we have chosen not to limit or restrict our request as we would gratefully accept your financial support in whatever way is deemed achievable. Any further information can be found by contacting the Rupanyup Primary School during school hours on 53855125. If you would like to provide a response to our request for investment support, please email to [rupanyup.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:rupanyup.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

Warmest Regards

*Rebecca Dunlop*

Parent Volunteer

On behalf of Rupanyup Primary School

*Darcy Taberner*

Principal

Rupanyup Primary School