

Yarriambiack Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 – update Quarter 1, 2023-24

Indicator	Measure	Status – Quarter 1, Year 3 2023-24
Council Plan 2021-2025: Strategic Objective One: A Vibrant and Diversified Economy		
Pursue opportunity to enter partnerships to enhance tourism outcomes across the Shire and region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful transition to a Visitor Economy Partnership, securing additional funding to support Tourism across our Shire and Region. • Clearly developed and defined expectations of the VEP outcomes is to be adopted and articulated to Councillors and the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor Economy Partnership Progressing and envisaged the establishment of the VEP will occur in early 2024. • A Council report will be presented before the end of the year, outlining progress, and seeking endorsement from Councillors to progress forward with the VEP.
Proactively advocate for funding to support economic development and tourism activities to support regional growth and development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy priorities are clearly articulated and communicated to politicians and community. • Council's advocacy delivers measurable results. • Assisting the community to advocate for funding that supports community action plan priorities. • Support the expansion of the silo art trail. • Strategy adopted to support economic development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Economic Development Strategy 2023- 2027 was adopted by Council on 23 August 2023. • Council and the CEO have been advocating for additional funding to establish the Visitor Economy Partnership. • The Council has developed key advocacy documents that articulate key priority projects such as ANZAC Park, Murtoa Recreation Reserve, Beulah Supermarket, All Roads Lead to Yarriambiack, Housing. • Council has committed \$15,000 in the 23-24 budget towards the Rupanyup Silo Art. • Grant writing workshops and Grant Finder has been embedded into our Website to assist the community to find funding opportunities to support their priorities.
Enhance our tourism assets across the Shire, providing an economic benefit to the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy adopted to support tourism activities across Shire. • Successful funding and project delivery of key tourism assets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tourism Strategy has been drafted and is awaiting the formal outcome of the establishment of the VEP. • Council has applied for funding under the Commonwealth Governments Regions and Precincts Funding stream for the Hopetoun Former School Site project, to ensure it is shovel ready to apply for future infrastructure funding. This project includes accommodation / tourism element.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is supporting Progress Associations (or equivalent) to be ready for the impending release of the Tiny Towns, State Government Funding. It is envisaged that this funding will be available to support tourism and activation.
<p>Support mineral sand mining and renewable energy projects that have a sustainability and environment focus, with the aim of diversifying our economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive engagement and support provided, with regular meetings and working group participation that supports sustainable economic development of mining and renewable energy projects across the Shire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings are occurring with Donald Mineral Sands, with the CEO, Council Officers and the Councillors being regularly briefed on progress. • Council Officers and Councillors are being regularly updated on the progress of the wind farm renewable energy projects across the Shire. • A key focus of Councillors is ensuring the community benefit scheme provides an overarching, long term benefit to the community where mining and wind farms are established.
<p>Advocate for utilities infrastructure investments across our Shire to support the development of housing opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sites across the Shire where lack of utilities is a barrier to future housing development, using this as a platform for advocacy and exploring future funding opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Housing Strategy advocacy document has been developed. The Councillors and CEO have presented to Members of Parliament, and feedback has been provided to Rural Councils Victoria on the urgent assistance required to support the expansion of connecting infrastructure across our Shire. Connecting infrastructure is important to support future housing developments, particularly in the southern end of our Shire where mining is on the cusp of being realised.
<p>Advocate, partner and seek funding for increased housing across our Shire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully secure funding for housing across the Shire. If funding received, partner organisation, specialising in housing to build housing stock. • Advocate and partner to seek out further opportunities to develop Council owned land parcels across the Shire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council provided an update to the community on 27 September 2023 on the Housing Advocacy and initiatives being explored. A Housing Strategy has also been developed and is available on our Website.
<p>Support the expansion of arts and culture facilities and programs across the Shire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of arts and culture programs into Council's library program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is exploring partnerships with Neighbourhood House and other regional providers to enhance programs across our Library Services.
<p>Advocate for equitable access to NBN and mobile connectivity to address black spots across our Shire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of funding submissions and advocacy for NBN enhancements and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is working with Telstra on developing a localised connectivity plan to help overcome some of the challenges experienced across the Shire.

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	implementation and mobile towers in black spot areas across the Shire.	
Advocate and partner to enhance early years services across the Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secured funding for the development of the Dunmunkle Early Years Centre. Work with Dept Education to ensure plans and building meet Community expectations and requirements. Advocate to government, with solutions to address the early years worker shortage across the Shire (and broader Victoria and Australia). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Officers are actively involved as part of the Project Control Group for the planning and development of the Dunmunkle Early Years Centre, due to open in early 2025. The CEO is attending the Strengthening Early Childhood Education and Care for Rural Children Round Table, with a focus on national and state sector updates, findings from the Sustainable Childcare for Rural Children’s Project Proposed Practical solutions for strengthening ECEC in rural communities. Commitment to planning collaboratively for rural children to thrive. This round table is aimed at being solutions focused.
Council Plan 2021-2025: Strategic Objective Two: A Healthy and Inclusive Community		
Advocate and partner for the delivery of social, affordable and aged care housing across our Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore funding opportunities to develop Council owned land to support the build of aged care, social and affordable housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Council’s Housing Strategy and advocacy.
Undertake master planning of sport and recreation assets and areas to support the community with future planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop master plans to support future community grant applications. Successful community and/or Council grant applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council has completed master planning for ANZAC Park, Murtoa Recreation Reserve and is in the process of undertaking and or finalising the master plans for Brim, Beulah, Rupanyup, Hopetoun and Minyip. The Council has submitted a funding application for the precinct planning for ANZAC Park.
Support and expand library services to be community engagement hubs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded and enhanced service provision. Increase active patronage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A self-service library model has been introduced to the Warracknabeal Library on Saturday’s. This trial will run until end of Jan 2024. Through the introduction of the Warracknabeal self-service model, and an increased program schedule of activities, active patronage has increased.
Transition out of the Commonwealth Home Support Program and Regional Assessment Service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful transition out with appointment of localised delivery operators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council successfully transitioned out of the CHSP as at 30 June 2023. Council’s focus now is to advocate to the government on the importance of maintain the Regional Assessment Service within rural communities, providing a Face-to-Face

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful advocacy for a localised presence for Regional Assessment Service. 	Service. This issue has been raised with the Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster.
Support the enhancement of early childhood, family and youth outcomes across the Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of the Municipal Early Years Strategy. • Develop a partnership to procure enhanced maternal child health services. • Revision of the Youth Strategy. • Explore opportunities to advocate and support the expansion of childcare services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Early Years Plan has been revised and is being presented to Council on 25 October 2023 for adoption. • Tender specifications will be released shortly to procure enhanced maternal child health services to support our maternal child health delivery. • Council will revise the Youth Strategy in the last quarter of 2023-24. • The CEO and Manager Family, Youth and Children are members of several working groups and committees exploring childcare options for rural communities.
Partner with Community to either identify or deliver programs and projects that are inclusive and support a connected and health community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Progress Associations to develop Community Action Plans. • Support Community groups to apply for funding opportunities based on Community Action Plan's and Master Plans. • Partner with key stakeholders, such as Neighbourhood Houses to deliver programs and projects within the shire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is currently working closely with Progress Associations to develop and/or revise their community action plans. The Community Action plans can be located on Council's Website - Community Action Plans - Yarriambiack Shire Council • Council has undertaken Grant Workshop training and Grant Finder is now available on Council's Website. GrantUS Grant Writing Workshops - Yarriambiack Shire Council • The Community Strengthening and Engagement team is collaborating with the Neighbourhood Houses to deliver digital literacy programs for seniors across our Shire.
Council Plan 2021-2025: Strategic Objective Three: A Robust and Thriving Environment		
Design integrated water management systems for selected townships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore funding opportunities to address emergency preparedness risks in Rupanyup, Beulah, Warracknabeal and Yaapeet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has applied for funding to address drainage systems in Warracknabeal, Yaapeet and Rupanyup. The Yaapeet submission was unsuccessful.
Identify key strategic priorities to address climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a Climate Change, Environment and Waste Recovery Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is currently going out to Tender via the State Government procurement panel for a Master Environment Strategy that will incorporate an Action Plan and

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		Masterplans for our three main transfer stations. This piece of work is estimated to be completed by 30 June 2024.
Develop innovative solutions to address the State Governments circular economy initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful roll out of the glass bin system. • Support the implementation of the Container Deposit Scheme. • Engage with the community and roll out community recycling and hard waste collection hubs in our smaller townships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The glass bin system has been rolled out and will be revised as part of the Master Environment Strategy development. • Container deposit scheme locations have been identified across the Shire and are to be implemented by 01 November 2023. • The Beulah Community Recycling Hub is currently in development phase. Plans for the site have been developed. This initiative will inform the Master Environment Strategy.
Implement streetscape works targeted at reducing the heat impacts, and beautifying townships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plantation of trees across townships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees have been planted in Beulah and streetscape plans have been developed for Yaapeet and Rupanyup.
Promote the functions of building, planning and local laws activities with the aim of educating the community on legislative compliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement activities that promote the functions and legislative requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has commenced communication activities to promote building compliance information. This will be a continuing project, dispelling myths regarding building and planning requirements.
Ensure Council’s Local Law reflects community sediments and expectations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake review and revision of the Local Law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has engaged a consultant to commence the review of our Local Law.
Council Plan 2021-2025: Strategic Objective Four: A Council Who Services Its Community		
Implement information, communication and technology that supports the enhancement of good governance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of key priorities identified in Council’s ICT and Business Transformation Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rural Councils Transformation Project, round 2 is currently being implemented, with the project to be completed by 30 June 2024. Council is implementing a new phone system via Teams calling and has recently implemented a new customer request management system.
Promotion of continuous improvement and professional development to enhance good governance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor and staff training programs that support maintain legislative compliance and supports enhanced governance practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Development forms part of the 23-24 Budget. Councillors completed a six-month refresher in 22-23 financial year on legislative, compliance and governance practices. Staff and Councillors have been supported to complete the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course, the LGPro Executive

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget to support professional development initiatives that provides an overarching benefit to the municipal district. 	<p>Leadership Program, Wimmera Leadership Program and other compliance and legislative training, applicable to roles and responsibilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chief Executive Officer is currently undertaking the Institute of Public Professionals Australia, Senior Executive Integrity and Ethical Leadership Training program.
<p>Embed sound risk management practices into Council activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of strategic and operational risk register and framework. Appointment of experienced Audit and Risk Committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council has recently undertaken a Risk Management Internal Audit to identify continuous improvement activities for implementation to enhance risk management practices. Audit and Risk Committee independent members have extensive experience working with Local Government. Their skills and expertise will be utilised to continuously improve and enhance Councils governance and reporting practices.
<p>Engage with community on a regular basis to build a strong relationship between Council and Community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor, Councillors and CEO attendance at Community group meetings providing updates on Council activities. Community engagement activities to increase knowledge of Council activities. Customer Request Management System that enhances communication between Community and Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mayor and CEO completed a Road Show of community engagement activities presenting on the Council Plan and Budget for 23-24. Both regularly attend community group meetings, and updates are provided in the Mayor and CEO activity reports that are presented each month to Council. A new Customer Request Management system has been implemented, with training/videos to be developed to inform the community on how this system operates.
<p>Implement systems to support sound financial and strategic decision making for now and into the future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management Modelling for each Asset Classes to inform decision making. Service Level Plans and business cases that inform budget process that address financial sustainability, social, environmental and economic impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the RCTP Round 2, Council is in the process of implementing Asset Management Modelling software, that will inform the Capital Works program and maintenance program for the 24-25 budget year. Implementation is still ongoing and training is still to occur for specified staff. The extended leadership team participated in Service Level Planning training, with the key focus on ensuring service level plan's inform the budget going forward.