

2025

2029

# Council Plan



**Yarriambiack  
Shire Council**

Beulah  
Brim  
Hopetoun  
Lascelles  
Lubeck  
Minyip  
Murtoa  
Rupanyup  
Speed  
Tempy  
Turriff  
Warracknabeal  
Woomelang  
Yaapeet



*Lake Lascelles - Hopetoun*







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- An Innovative and Diversified Economy	
- A Healthy and Inclusive Community	
- A Resilient and Sustainable Natural Environment	
- A Council that serves its community	



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

'We acknowledge that the activities of this Council and Community Plan are being held under the traditional skies and in the waterways and lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk people, and Council pays respects to their Elders past, present and emerging as the custodians of the environment'

## RESPECT AND RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Yarriambiack Shire Council declares its commitment to Aboriginal reconciliation, Yarriambiack Shire Council respects and acknowledges the First Nations People, the Wotjoboluk as traditional owners of the land, waterways, and skies on which Yarriambiack Shire Council carries out its functions. We acknowledge the traditional people and the cultural significance and history of the land. Yarriambiack Shire Council is aware of the impact of alienation and other forms of injustice against Aboriginal people and through acknowledgment and understanding of these injustices. Council is committed to redressing them and moving forward together. With respect and collaboration, Yarriambiack Shire Council embraces inclusiveness for our First People and aims to achieve this by working in a respectful and meaningful way.





# Contact Council

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please phone Yarriambiack Shire Council on (03) 5398 0100 or email [info@yarriambiack.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@yarriambiack.vic.gov.au). This document is also available on Council's website [www.yarriambiack.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarriambiack.vic.gov.au).

## **Our Offices**

### *Municipal Office*

34 Lyle Street Warracknabeal Vic 3393

Telephone: (03) 5398 0100

Facsimile: (03) 5398 2502

## **Service Centre**

### *Hopetoun Neighbourhood House*

75 Lascelles Street Hopetoun Vic 3396

Telephone: (03) 5083 3001

Facsimile: (03) 5083 3309

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

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

Postal Address: PO Box 243 Warracknabeal Vic 339





# MAYOR'S FOREWORD

*Cr Kylie Zanker*



On behalf of Council, I present the 2025 - 2029 Council Plan to the community. We have updated our presentation to reflect our long-term vision and devised four strategic objectives to assist Council with its decision-making to achieve this vision. The Local Government Act 2020 requires that these objectives be clearly expressed and measurable and reflect the outcomes of our deliberative community consultation process.

We engaged our communities by conducting meetings across our townships, offering "Coffee with a Councillor" drop-in sessions, distributing survey forms, and advertising the draft Council Plan for feedback.

The information and ideas expressed by residents have been collated and formatted to align with new strategic goals. Community engagement ensures that Council decisions are well informed.

Additionally, the Council leverages the information contained within our township's Community Action Plans. These essential documents provide guidance to the Council regarding key aspects of advocacy and infrastructure development.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 requires that Council undertake extensive planning to develop a health and wellbeing policy that reflects the needs of our communities. Our health and wellbeing priorities have been incorporated within the four strategic objectives.

The vision for the next two decades is that Yarriambiack Shire is "A strong and connected community prioritising sustainable and innovative approaches to support the wellbeing of our people, economy and environment".

Four strategic objectives will drive this vision. Each objective reflects community sentiment, and is accompanied by priorities, indicators, measures, major projects and or initiatives, and year one actions.

The strategic objectives are as follows:

- An Innovative and Diversified Economy
- A Healthy and Inclusive Community
- A Resilient and Sustainable Natural Environment
- A Council that Serves its Community

Council aims to build on our strengths to ensure that Yarriambiack Shire is a desirable place to live, play, and invest.

Cr Kylie Zanker



A black and white photograph of four people standing outdoors. From left to right: a man in a cap and sunglasses holding a certificate for Judge Kerrins; a man in a cap and sunglasses holding a certificate for Bruce Mulgley; a woman holding a certificate for Bruce Mulgley; and a man with glasses holding a certificate for Wayne Jackson. The text 'COMMUNITY' is in large white capital letters, and 'Vision' is in a large, elegant script font, both overlaid on the top half of the image.

# COMMUNITY Vision

The Act requires that the Council uses deliberative engagement in the development of a Community Vision.

The Yarriambiack Community Vision will identify and set out the community priorities for the next 20 years and will guide the decision making of Council.

*"A strong and connected community prioritising sustainable and innovative approaches to support the wellbeing of our people, economy and environment"*

We will achieve this shared vision by:



Looking after our communities, with an aim of enhancing social connection through better infrastructure, safety, wellbeing, advocacy, health and education services.



Supporting the diversification of our economy by focusing on tourism and agriculture.



Committing to environmental responsibility by making decisions that consider the impact on our community's ecosystem.





# About

## Yarriambiack



# Yarriambiack

## Shire Council

### The Council

Yarriambiack Shire Council was elected on 28 October 2024 for a four-year term.

Yarriambiack Shire Council is made up of three wards, with two Councillors representing each ward. The six Councillors were elected for a four-year term and they elect a Mayor annually.



**Cr Kylie Zanker**  
Warracknabeal Ward



**Cr Corinne Heintze**  
Dunmunkle Ward



**Cr Andrew McLean**  
Hopetoun Ward



**Cr Karly Kirk**  
Warracknabeal Ward



**Cr Melinda Keel**  
Dunmunkle Ward

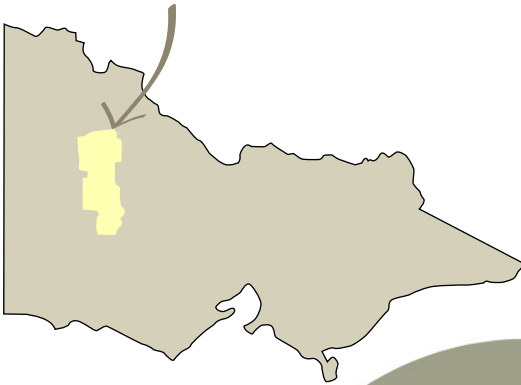


**Cr Chris Lehmann**  
Hopetoun Ward



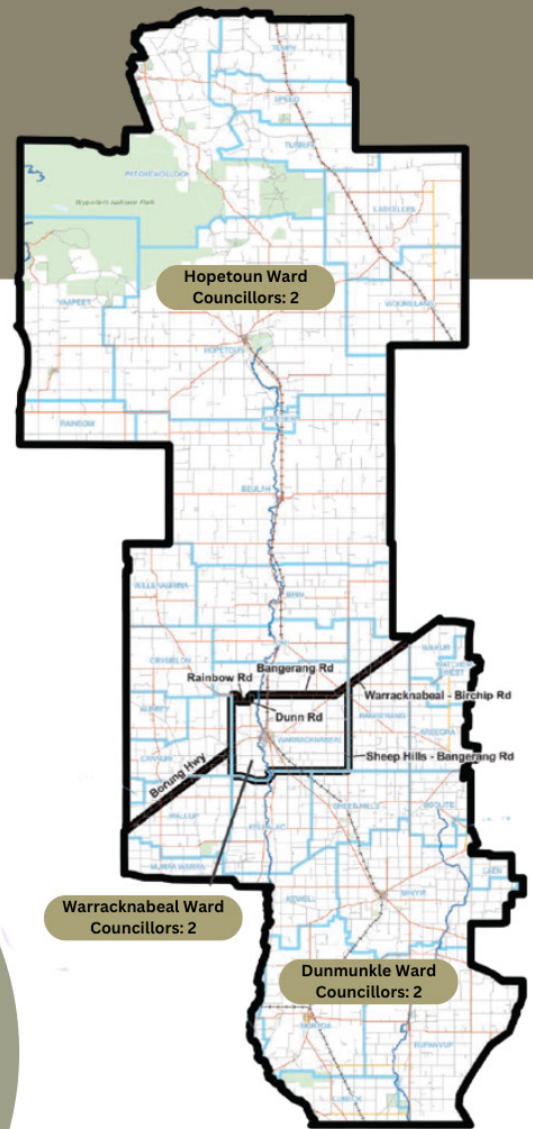
# Who is Yarriambiack?

Find us here...



## LOCATION

Yarriambiack Shire Council is situated in north-western Victoria, in the heart of the State's wheat belt. The population is concentrated in a number of small towns which service the surrounding broad hectare farming properties.



## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Yarriambiack Shire Council includes the townships of **Warracknabeal**, **Murtoa**, and **Hopetoun**.

There are many smaller communities which include Minyip, Rupanyup, Beulah, Woomelang, Lascelles, Lubeck, Patchewollock, Speed, Tempy, Brim, Yaapeat, Sheep Hills, Rosebery, Lah and Turriff.





# Yarriambiack Community

## Households

### Our Population

Our population is approximately 6,556 people.

Demographic shifts are presenting both opportunities and challenges for Council. Yarriambiack has an ageing population with 38.3% aged over 60 years.

Our future planning will consider the best way to meet the needs of our changing community.

The residents of Yarriambiack come from a wide range of cultures.



51%

Male



3,395

Households



3.7%

Residents born overseas



49%

Female



71.2%

Internet accessed from dwelling



27.5%

Living with a disability

## Population

### Our Community

The residents of Yarriambiack Shire Council come from a wide range of households and ages. As at the 2021 Census there were 3,395 households in the Shire, with 61.7% the most common type being family households.



Population

6,556



52.9

Median Age



2.9%

Speak language other than English at home



# Yarriambiack Community

## PROSPERITY

### Our community enjoys relative prosperity

Yarriambiack Shire is the heartland of grain production and handling in the Wimmera and Mallee. The region loaded with National parks, deserts, creeks, lakes, wetlands.

Tourism is ever growing throughout our Shire. Our main attraction The Silo Art Trail has become Australia's largest outdoor gallery. The trail stretches over 200 kilometres, linking Brim with neighbouring towns Lascelles, Murtoa, Patchewollock, Rosebery, Rupanyup and Sheep Hills.

Technology is driving rapid change across the economy and this will create many new opportunities.

Maintaining the liveability of our municipality for our ageing population presents challenges and requires council to rethink the services we deliver.



**\$607.4m**

Gross value of  
agricultural production

**26**



parks & playgrounds



**2,745**

Employed persons



**7,055**

rateable properties



Unemployment  
rate **2.9%**



**574**

Agriculture businesses



1/4 of  
Victoria's  
wheat & barley  
is produced in  
our shire



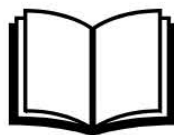
**565**

tonnes of  
recycling  
collected per year



**944**

Registered  
Businesses



**15,002**

Library catalogue items



**110**

Children enrolled in a preschool  
or preschool program (2025)



**4,004kms**  
of gravel and natural  
roads

**817kms**

of sealed roads

**112,000**

Visitors to  
Yarriambiack  
(2024)







# Health & Wellbeing



# Health & Wellbeing

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN THE YARRIAMBIACK SHIRE

*The Public Health & Wellbeing Act 2008* requires Yarriambiack Shire Council to undertake comprehensive health and wellbeing planning to design contemporary policies that meet both current and future needs of our communities and environment.

As stated in the Act, Council is committed to “protecting, improving, and promoting public health and wellbeing within the municipal district.”

### COMMUNITY HEALTH PRIORITIES AND INTEGRATION WITH THE COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029

The Council views health and wellbeing as a crucial factor in determining the overall liability of our region. Recognising the importance of broader community health is of such significance, that key health and wellbeing goals are incorporated within Council’s highest strategic document, the Council Plan 2025-2029. This integration ensures a sustained emphasis on health and wellbeing across all organisational services, ultimately fostering positive outcomes.

The health and wellbeing priorities and actions outlined in the Council Plan have been formulated through the evaluation of various population health data sources, extensive community and stakeholder engagement, and consideration of local, State, and National public health policies.

### WHY COUNCIL FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLBEING?

Local Government does not have a direct role in the provision of medical care services to the public. However, Council does have the ability to influence the broader living and working conditions of our local populations.

*Why is this important for health and wellbeing?*

Research indicates that the quality of social conditions experienced by communities is the most critical factor in determining their overall health outcomes.

### SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH & WELLBEING

A healthy body is more than just being free of disease. Being healthy allows individuals to live a happy, fulfilling and meaningful life.

Social determinants have been defined as the non-medical influences that may determine health outcomes. Social determinants include:

- Physical health
- Mental health
- Social connection
- Feeling safe
- Resilience



Council aims to enhance the social determinants for all residents of Yarriambiack Shire through identifiable and measurable health and wellbeing priorities.

## PRIORITY AREAS

Extensive research has long concluded that community health and wellbeing is largely influenced by a number of social determinants. Consultation and alignment with State Government policy, community organisations and our local community has enabled Council to identify these determinants and develop key priority areas that will offer the greatest benefit to our residents. Selection of key priorities has been determined by what our communities told us was important and also alignment with the Public Health & Wellbeing Act 2008. Council's key priority areas are:

1. Preventing all forms of violence
2. Improve wellbeing
3. Promote active living
4. Tackling climate change and its impacts on health.

## *Liveability Indicators!*

51.9% of locals feel valued by their community, surpassing the State average.

32% of residents within Yarriambiack Shire report some of the highest levels of life satisfaction in Victoria.

Yarriambiack Shire residents experience less instances of food insecurity when compared to the State average.

Housing is more affordable, with the median house price being only 28% of the Victorian average.

32% of locals participate in volunteer work, almost triple Victoria's average, creating a greater sense of community.

58% of residents own their home, compared to the State average of 29%

## *Barriers/Challenges!*

The incident rate of family violence in Yarriambiack Shire is 47% higher than the average rate in Victoria.

Family violence reports in Yarriambiack have increased over the past three years, making it one of the highest in Victoria.

Percentage of adults in Yarriambiack who did not see a GP when needed due to transport and/or distance is four times higher than the State average.

The proportion of adults at an increased risk of alcohol related harm is 32%, compared to State average of 19.6%.

38% of residents are obese, compared to the State average of 23%.

The number of adults that do not participate in any physical activity is over 20% higher than the Victorian average.

Extreme weather conditions are predicted to become more frequent and severe in the future.

The CSIRO projected daily maximum temperatures will continue to increase.



Through our identified health and wellbeing priorities, Council aims to improve the social determinants for all residents living in the Yarriambiack Shire.

While there are several determinants that can influence population health and wellbeing, consultation with various stakeholders revealed the following priority areas are of the most significance to our communities:

#### **PREVENTING ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE:**

Improve the standards of gender equity and not just equality, while also focusing on strategies to support the decreased incidence of family violence in our communities.

#### **IMPROVE WELLBEING:**





Improve and enhance public infrastructure and services to support social connection, that enhances our communities overall social health and wellbeing outcomes.

#### **PROMOTE ACTIVE LIVING:**

Facilitate the execution of Council's Sport and Recreation Strategy, Recreation Master Plans, and footpath hierarchy to encourage higher levels of physical activity and social interaction. Where funding permits, ensure the availability of accessible public amenities, footpaths, and walking tracks to remove barriers to participation.

#### **TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS ON HEALTH:**

Provide residents with a healthy and sustainable environment that responds to the impacts of climate change.

-  Preventing all forms of violence
-  Improve wellbeing
-  Promote active living
-  Tackling climate change and its impacts on health

The key priority areas outlined in the Council Plan are represented using a colour-coded dot system. This method aligns each indicator with our Health and Wellbeing objectives.

For further information on specific health and wellbeing data at a State, regional and local government level, please visit the Victorian Government's Population Health Survey website.





# Council

## Plan



# The Council Plan

## About the Council Plan

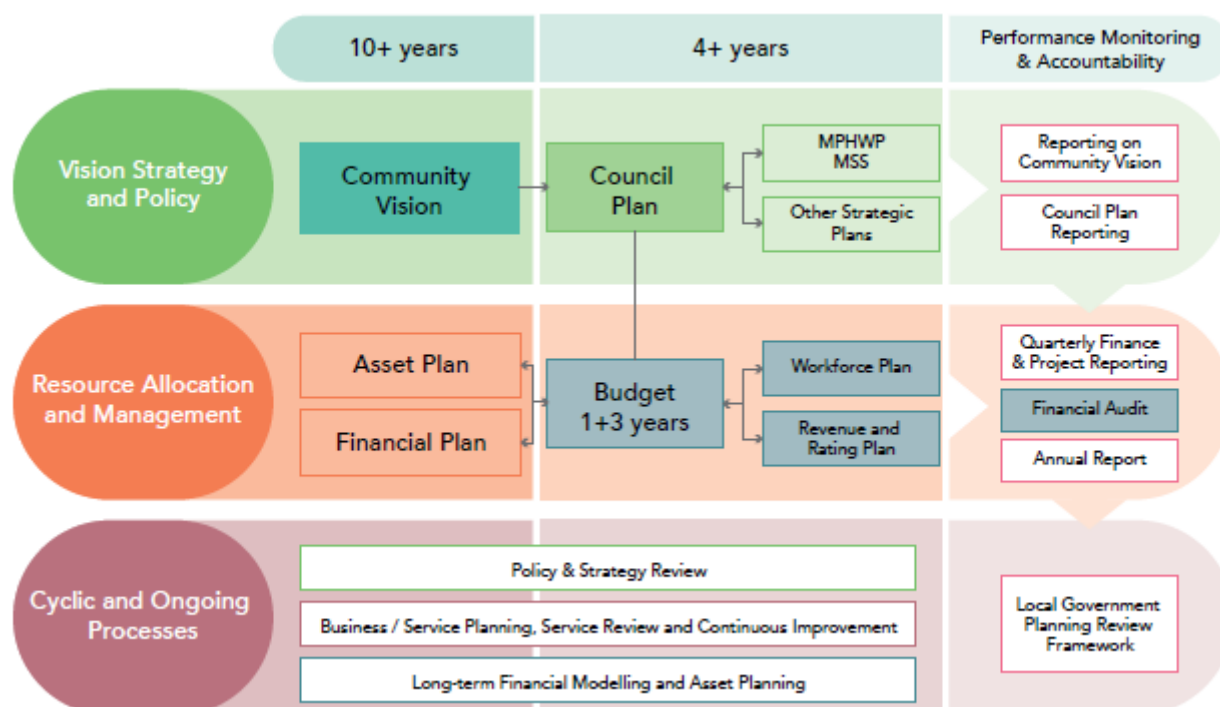
A Council must prepare and adopt a Council Plan for a period of at least the next 4 financial years after a general election in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices (Local Government Act 2020).

This plan will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure accountability and transparency, leading to better outcomes for the community. A focused action plan will be developed every 12 months, in collaboration with our communities, to ensure we achieve our economic, health and wellbeing, environmental and service standards.

Yarriambiack Shire Council's 2025-2029 Council Plan is a strategic document reflecting where Council, and the community, wants to be in 2029 and how it will achieve those outcomes. The Council Plan is the overarching strategy for the organisation that clearly identifies what the Council is planning to achieve in the next 4 years.

This Council Plan also includes the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan that identifies goals and strategies based on evidence for creating a local community in which people can achieve maximum health and wellbeing.

The diagram below depicts the planning and accountability framework that applies to Local Government in Victoria. Each element is critical to the achievement of the Council Plan.





# How we engage on the Council Plan

During February and March 2025, the Councillors conducted "Coffee with a Councillor" sessions throughout the Shire, engaging with the community on matters of importance. Additionally, Council produced a survey available in both hardcopy and online formats for residents to complete, allowing them to provide feedback on services they believed should be prioritised and where Council should allocate their limited funds.

Councillors participated in a strategic planning workshop and developed the draft Council Plan based on community feedback and the current operating environment. The draft Council Plan 2025-2029 was made available to the community in June 2025, inviting feedback on the final document.

## Strengths



- Housing affordability
- Agricultural diversity and opportunities for value adding
- Innovative communities through volunteerism
- Recreational water (Lakes & Weir Pools)
- Silo Art Trail
- Iconic tourist attractions; such as the Stick shed
- Nature based tourism; fishing, bird watching, national parks
- Lifestyle and natural environment
- Community resilience
- Sporting clubs and community services
- Connected communities
- Emergency management preparedness

## Challenges



- Rising costs, lack of funding further compounding financial sustainability pressures
- Divided Communities from proposed renewable energy and mining projects
- State Government Agenda, and the uncertainty it brings with it
- Lack of housing, and diversity of options
- Police presence, and increases in vandalism
- Ageing infrastructure (pools, halls, community centres, sporting facilities)
- Deteriorating roads
- Ageing volunteers who are retiring outside of our Shire
- Attracting younger volunteers to sustain community groups
- Access to child care
- Climate variability
- High cost of recycling and waste management on rural communities
- Rising cost of insurance on Council and community groups, with increased likelihood of under insurance
- Access to transport
- Ageing population
- Digital connectivity and mobile coverage
- Workforce attraction and retention
- Rise in mental health issues

# *Strategic* **Objectives**

**Council has identified Four Strategic Objectives in the Council Plan to help work towards the aims of the community vision.**





# STRATEGIC *Objective*

AN INNOVATIVE AND  
DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY

1.



## Health & Wellbeing Plan

- Preventing all forms of violence
- Improve wellbeing
- Promote active living
- Tackling climate change and its impacts on health



### Our Strategic Priorities

We will:

- Advocate and support agriculture, economic development and investment in our region.
- Proactively communicate and advocate to Government bodies, to deliver positive tourism outcomes for our community, capitalising on opportunities as they arise.
- Advocate for continued and enhanced funding to enable strategic investment in our roads, footpaths, and associated assets to support tourism, economic development and social inclusion and connection across our Shire.
- Understand, support and advocate for services and associated skilled workforces to unlock economic and community development opportunities across our Shire.

## Indicators and measures

What you will expect from Council over the next four years:

Indicator	Measure or Trend
Proactively advocate for funding, and support Council practices that enhance economic development activities across our Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjust and/or review the differential rating system to ensure it supports agricultural / farming activities across the Shire.</li> <li>• Apply for all available road and connecting infrastructure funding opportunities to improve our road and associated networks.</li> <li>• Deliver Council's Economic Development Strategy initiatives.</li> </ul>
Support tourism activities and invest in assets across the Shire to support economic growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver Council's Tourism Strategy and Caravan Park Master Plan initiatives.</li> <li>• Commit funding towards the Visitor Economy Partnership.</li> </ul>
Assess the impact of mining on agricultural land use across our Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund a social benefit cost analysis to analyse the impact of mining on societal welfare.</li> </ul>
Advocate for equitable access to internet and mobile connectivity.	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support funding submissions and advocacy to improve and construct mobile towers and install satellite and NBN across our Shire.</li> </ul>
Apply for funding opportunities as they arise to enhance community assets that create connection and enhance accessibility.	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support funding submissions and revenue allocations for the redevelopment and/or upgrade of public and staff amenities.</li> </ul>
Township structure plans developed outlining Council's preferred direction for future growth and development and how it will be managed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure funding and complete township structure plans.</li> </ul>
Update and improve planning schemes, reflecting changes in an area, implementing new policies or addressing specific issues or errors, ensuring the Yarriambiack Planning Scheme remains relevant and effective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete planning scheme amendments.</li> </ul>



## The major projects/initiatives that we will undertake include:

Major Projects/Initiatives	Council's Role
Secure funding to develop the Hopetoun Former School Site for tourism initiatives.	Deliver
Secure funding for the construction of the Beulah Supermarket	Deliver
Apply for and allocate funding to develop and construct connecting footpaths, walkways, and trails to improve accessibility.	Deliver
Secure funding to widen our strategic road network across the Shire.	Deliver
Revision of the Road Management Plan and Road Hierarchy to meet legislative timeline requirements.	Deliver
Revision of the Asset Management Plan, and development of Asset Class Plans to enable and support informed decision making.	Deliver
Replace public toilet amenities across the Shire, with accessible and inclusive infrastructure.	Deliver
Support Progress Associations (or equivalent) to enact their Community Action Plans to deliver positive outcomes for their respective communities.	Partner
Finalise planning scheme amendments to support effective and efficient development and planning across the Shire.	Deliver
Complete town structure plans that inform long-term, strategic guidance for future development and change in a town or area, addressing issues like land use, housing, infrastructure, and community need.	Deliver

### Supporting Council Plans and Strategies:

- > Economic Development Strategy
- > Tourism Strategy
- > Asset Management Plan (and supporting class plans)
- > Road Management Plan & Road Hierarchy
- > Yarriambiack Planning Scheme
- > Footpath Hierarchy
- > Community Action Plans

# STRATEGIC *Objective*

A HEALTHY AND  
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

2.



## Health & Wellbeing Plan

- Preventing all forms of violence
- Improve wellbeing
- Promote active living
- Tackling climate change and its impacts on health

### Our Strategic Priorities

We will:

- Develop and/or maintain strong partnerships to deliver high quality services and sustainable infrastructure to enhance the social health and wellbeing outcomes for all our residents.
- Advocate, prioritise, and invest in infrastructure that supports an accessible, inclusive, and socially connected community to improve liveability.
- Plan for and support diverse housing options to meet community needs now and into the future.
- Advocate and support community safety initiatives, that enhance community safety and the liveability of our communities.
- Promote and support volunteerism throughout our Shire, recognising that collaborative efforts can lead to enhanced outcomes for our communities.



## Indicators and measures

What you will expect from Council over the next four years:

Indicator	Measure or Trend
Advocate and support volunteerism across our Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist community groups in sustaining or growing their volunteer numbers, and in promoting age diversity among volunteers.</li> </ul>
Services and partnerships that inspire greater health, educational and wellbeing outcomes for our Community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved/enhanced Kindergarten service delivery across our Shire.</li> <li>• Increase the number of day care places across our Shire.</li> <li>• Retention of rural health services with a community health focus across our Shire.</li> <li>• Maintained or increased patronage and satisfaction with our library and engagement services.</li> </ul>
Capital works planning and delivery that includes infrastructure that is accessible and inclusive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual capital works program that includes infrastructure delivery that enhances accessibility, social connection and inclusion at our kindergartens, libraries and senior citizens buildings.</li> </ul>
Enhance Council's library service to be an embedded community service that enhances community engagement and social connection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support user groups accessing and utilising our library facilities.</li> <li>• Support Library infrastructure funding applications to enhance services across our Shire.</li> <li>• The community engagement van utilised as a tool to promote Council services.</li> </ul>
Advocate, partner and seek funding for increased housing across our Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where feasible, allocate land to create housing opportunities.</li> <li>• Apply for and secure funding to construct connecting and trunk infrastructure.</li> <li>• Seek out opportunities to develop Council owned land across the Shire.</li> </ul>

**The major projects/initiatives that we will undertake include:**

<b>Major Projects/Initiatives</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>
Provide diverse housing options across the Shire, in partnership with private developers and/or the community with priority to be given to the Hopetoun Former School site, Anderson Street Warracknabeal, Gibson Street Rupanyup and Cromie Street Murtoa.	Advocate & Partner
Support funding applications to expand connecting infrastructure in Murtoa to unlock housing opportunities.	Deliver
Utilise the Community Engagement Van to support Coffee with a Councillor, CEO drop-in sessions, and meetings with a Local Laws Officer engagement initiatives.	Deliver
Support community groups to utilise the Warracknabeal and Rupanyup Library buildings to meet the diverse needs of the community, whilst also focusing on the expansion of the Minyip and Hopetoun Library sites.	Deliver
Champion Emerge to be the Wimmera Southern Mallee Early Years Leader to enhance developmental outcomes for our youngest people.	Deliver
Champion West Wimmera Health Service to deliver Maternal Child Health Services in alignment with the Wimmera Southern Mallee By5 Vision	Advocate

**Supporting Council Plans and Strategies:**

- > Municipal Early Years Plan
- > Youth Commitment Statement
- > Community Action Plans
- > Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan (embedded into Council Plan).



# STRATEGIC *Objective*

## A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

# 3.



### Health & Wellbeing Plan

- Preventing all forms of violence
- Improve wellbeing
- Promote active living
- Tackling climate change and its impacts on health

#### Our Strategic Priorities

We will:

- Advocate and strategically position Council to maintain and enhance water security and harvesting.
- Advocate for responsible land use, with consideration for the natural environment.
- Embed climate change action into everything we do with a focus on decreased emissions, heat reduction and emergency management preparedness.
- Provide innovative solutions that meet the specific requirements of our community to enable compliance with the State Government Circular Economy policy.
- Elevate community education and positive engagement experience as a key priority while performing regulatory functions.
- Support community groups to deliver on the Sport and Recreation Strategy and Recreation Reserve Master Plan initiatives, in alignment with Council's policies.

**Indicators and measures**

What you will expect from Council over the next four years:

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measure or Trend</b>
Advocate for recreational water security, to maintain and enhance tourism, liveability and social health and wellbeing outcomes of our residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in the revision of the Western Region Sustainable Water Strategy, advocating for changes to the Wimmera Glenelg Bulk Entitlements and recreational water security.</li> </ul>
Improve access, quality and safety of our recreation and open spaces, including sporting grounds and parklands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased utilisation of public places and infrastructure.</li> <li>• Community satisfaction with recreation and open spaces is maintained or increased.</li> <li>• Deliver on Council's Sport and Recreation Strategy initiatives.</li> <li>• Support Community Groups to deliver on their Recreation Reserve Master Plan initiatives.</li> </ul>
Implementation of priority actions under the Master Environment Strategy and Action Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Tree Strategy.</li> <li>• Plant more trees for public amenity and diversity.</li> <li>• Maintain and develop Council's drainage to mitigate flood impacts.</li> <li>• Implement programs for the collection and recycling of difficult wastes such as tyres, hard rubbish, and electronic waste.</li> </ul>
Implement the circular economy policy initiatives to meet our unique community requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement food and organic waste services that meet the needs of our Community, whilst complying with legislative requirements.</li> <li>• Assess and where required, change the glass collection process to meet the needs of our community.</li> <li>• Reduce the volume of waste directed to landfill.</li> <li>• Improve the operation of transfer stations to maximise efficiency and service value.</li> </ul>
Frequent and factual communication, education and engagement to ensure a resilient and sustainable environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase communication and education sessions across the Shire, educating on pest and weed control, responsible environmental management, waste and recycling.</li> </ul>
Advocate for sustainable community benefits from State Government mandated renewable energy and transmission projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased funding for legacy sustainable infrastructure that benefits the Yarriambiack community.</li> </ul>



## The major projects/initiatives that we will undertake include:

Major Projects/Initiatives	Council's Role
Work in partnership with the community, to advocate and secure funding for the ANZAC Park Warracknabeal redevelopment.	Advocate
Work in partnership with the community to advocate and secure funding for Murtoa Recreation Reserve Community Centre redevelopment.	Advocate Partner
Support Recreation Reserves and Sporting Clubs to enact their Master Plans where co-contributions are provided to apply for funding opportunities.	Partner Deliver
We will advocate for high security recreational water to maintain our weir pools and lakes.	Advocate
Investigate alternatives to transfer station waste and recycling collection, to meet our diverse community needs, that is financially sustainable now and into the future.	Deliver
Urban township tree planting to mitigate heat impacts, address climate change to beautify our Shire.	Deliver

### Supporting Council Plans and Strategies:

- > Master Environment Strategy
- > Master Environment Implementation Plan
- > Roadside Weed and Rabbit Control Plan
- > Yarriambiack Sport and Recreation Strategy
- > Recreation Reserve Master Plans



# STRATEGIC *Objective*

**A COUNCIL THAT SERVES  
ITS COMMUNITY**

**4.**

## Health & Wellbeing Plan

- Preventing all forms of violence
- Improve wellbeing
- Promote active living
- Tackling climate change and its impacts on health

### Our Strategic Priorities

We will:

- Undertake robust and transparent planning and risk management to ensure our organisation is sustainable now and into the future.
- Embed good governance practices into all decision making.
- Advocate for our community, on matters that are important to the entire municipal district.
- Build trust through engaging with our community, delivering quality services and outcomes.
- Consider a broad base of evidence before making decisions, ensuring value for money and responsive, innovative services and solutions are provided.
- Promote initiatives ensuring safety, respect, and equal opportunities for all genders, aiming to end family violence.



## Indicators and measures

What you will expect from Council over the next four years:

Indicator	Measure or Trend
Community engagement in Council planning, projects, and decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All engagement activities are in alignment with the Community Engagement Policy and Guidelines.</li> <li>• Maintain or improve community satisfaction with our engagement.</li> <li>• Develop position statements and advocacy documents that reflect the sentiment of the Community.</li> </ul>
Council proactively advocates for community priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy documents are used to promote strategic projects and priorities.</li> <li>• Awareness of our advocacy priorities among stakeholders and the community is enhanced.</li> <li>• Council advocacy achieves results.</li> </ul>
Cost-effective, customer-focused, and responsive services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall community satisfaction measures are maintained or improved.</li> <li>• Customer Request Management system is responsive to community requests.</li> </ul>
Well-informed decision making, and ethical governance which builds trust.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community satisfaction with decisions made by Council in their interests is maintained or improved.</li> <li>• Fully compliant with Public Transparency Policy requirements under the Local Government Act 2020.</li> <li>• No reported findings of unethical practices by integrity agencies.</li> </ul>
Information, communication and technology that supports the enhancement of good governance and legislative compliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of key priorities identified in Council's ICT and Business Transformation Strategy.</li> </ul>
Embed sound risk management practices into Council activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embedded strategic and operational risk register and frameworks.</li> <li>• Appointment of experienced Audit and Risk Committee independent members.</li> </ul>
Sound strategic financial decision making for now and into the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative compliant and best practice asset management systems and practices.</li> <li>• Service level planning and business case development that informs the budget process that addresses financial sustainability, social, environmental and economic impacts.</li> <li>• Long Term Financial Plan that is financially responsible.</li> </ul>
Support the identification and elimination of systemic causes of gender inequality in policy, programs and delivery of services in workplaces and community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use a Gender Lens for Council services and the construction and renewal of assets and infrastructure to ensure equal access for all.</li> </ul>
Supporting Prevention of Family Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Participate and support awareness campaigns or events to reduce and prevent family violence.</li> </ul>

**The major projects/initiatives that we will undertake include:**

<b>Major Projects/Initiatives</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>
Advocacy to Government on key initiatives outlined in Council's Position Statement on Mining, Renewables and Transmission	Advocate
Revision of the Workforce Plan and Gender Equality Action Plan	Deliver
Annual Budget and Long Term Financial Plan revision to meet legislative timeframes.	Deliver
Development of the Annual Report, including Annual Financial Statements and Performance Report to meet legislative time frames.	Deliver
Revision of the ICT and Business Transformation Strategy	Deliver
Annual Councillor training to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.	Partner Deliver
Continued development and revision of Key Priority Project Advocacy documents to support funding submissions and advocacy to Government.	Advocate Deliver
Revision of the Community Engagement Policy and development of Guidelines to reflect community expectations.	Deliver
Advocacy for the increase of the Financial Assistance Grant to meet Council's increasing operational and renewal gap demands.	Advocate
Promote zero-tolerance messaging around family violence through Council's social media platforms, and support / actively participate in events.	Deliver
Apply a Gender Lens or Gender Impact Assessment when developing policies and programs in delivering services that are to be provided to the public or have a direct and significant impact on the public or workplace.	Deliver

**Supporting Council Plans and Strategies:**

- > Workforce and Gender Equality Action Plan
- > Revenue and Rating Plan
- > Annual Report
- > Budget
- > Performance Reporting Framework
- > Community Engagement Policy and Guidelines



