



2025 YEAR 1 ACTIONS

Yarriambiack Shire Council

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029



1. An Innovative and Diversified Economy

INDICATORS AND MEASURES - What you will expect from Council over the next four years:

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

Year 1 Actions:

ACTION	DUE DATE	RESULT	COMMENTARY
Apply for funding to develop the Hopetoun Former School Site to support Tourism.	30 June 2026	Ongoing	<p>Council engaged a consultant who has completed the designs for the accommodation component of the Hopetoun Former School site. The designs can inform a future funding application. Council is mindful that any funding application will require a co-contribution, and at this time, Council has limited funds to contribute towards such activities.</p> <p>Council Officers are also exploring opportunities for partnerships to develop the site.</p>
Apply for Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program funding to widen Councils strategic sealed road network.	30 June 2026	Ongoing	Council continues to apply for each round that is open. Targeting council strategic freight routes. Several applications are currently submitted.
Deliver the construction of the widening of the Glenorchy Road, the Banyena-Pimpinio Road and long-term Heavy Vehicle parking bays across the shire funded via the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program.	30 June 2026	Complete	The Banyena-Pimpinio Road upgrade has been funded through the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program and was delivered in the 2025/26 financial year. The Glenorchy Road project, funded under the same program, is planned for delivery in 2026/27. In addition, the construction of heavy vehicle parking bays is programmed for completion in May 2025/26.

ACTION	DUE DATE	RESULT	COMMENTARY
Identify projects for construction under the TAC Safe Local Roads and Streets Program.	30 June 2026	In Progress	Projects have been identified, taken to Council and funded. 2 million dollars' worth of safety improvements to be delivered to school zones in Hopetoun, Beulah, Warracknabeal, Murtoa and Rupanyup in the 2026/27 financial year. Detailed design work is currently underway.
Provide funding to Melbourne University to support a research student to complete a Social Benefit Cost Analysis (SBCA) on the impact of mining within our Shire.	30 June 2027	Closed	Melbourne University has confirmed that they will fund the SBCA. Council's contribution is no longer required.
Road Management Plan revision to meet the requirements of the <i>Road Management Act 2004</i> .	31 October 2025	Closed	The Road Management Plan has been revised and was endorsed by Council on 29 October 2025.
Revision of the Asset Management Plan and development of the Asset Class plans.	31 December 2025	Closed	<p>The Asset Management Strategy (AMS) 2025 – 2035 was endorsed by Council on 29 October 2025.</p> <p>Asset Class plans were adopted by the CEO and attached to the AMS in February 2026.</p> <p>The AMS was presented to Councillors for noting on 25 February 2026 to outline the revision of the renewal gap figures and the addition of the Asset Class Plans.</p>

ACTION	DUE DATE	RESULT	COMMENTARY
<p>Complete township structure plans for Hopetoun, Warracknabeal and Murtoa.</p> <p>Secure further funding to complete township structure plans for Rupanyup, Minyip, Brim, Beulah and Woomelang.</p>	30 June 2026	In Progress	<p>The Structure Plans for Murtoa, Warracknabeal and Hopetoun have been drafted with feedback from the Department of Transport and Planning and Council officers being prepared.</p> <p>Discussions have commenced with the Regional Planning Partnerships on how to progress with the smaller towns and/or the remaining areas of the Shire. A joint study may be considered with adjoining Councils. .</p>
<p>Complete planning scheme amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C31 Yari Correction Amendment • C32 Yari Agricultural Museum Amendment • C30 Yari Showgrounds Amendment • C24 Yari Warracknabeal, Brim and Dunmunkle Creek Flood Amendment 	30 June 2026	In Progress	<p>Consultants have been engaged to progress each amendment. New regional contacts at the Department of Transport and Planning have been allocated after a restructure which will assist in reviewing our documents to ensure compliance with Ministerial Guidelines for amendments.</p> <p>The DTP have been revising how flood amendments are lead and processed. Additional work with the WCMA will be required to further progress C24yari.</p>
<p>Apply for the Regional Precincts and Partnership Program (RPPP) – Stream 2, to support the construction of the Beulah Supermarket.</p> <p>Develop a contingency plan, considering other funding opportunities.</p>	30 October 2025	In Progress	<p>The application for the RPPP Stream 2 for the Reimagining Beulah was submitted in October 2025. Council is awaiting the outcome.</p>

2. A Healthy and Inclusive Community

INDICATORS AND MEASURES - What you will expect from Council over the next four years:

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

Year 1 Actions:

ACTION	DUE DATE	RESULT	COMMENTARY
Advocate for the Victorian State Government to fund building insurance for state-owned assets managed by volunteer community groups.	30 June 2026	Ongoing	Council will keep urging the Government to address increasing insurance costs for community groups covering state assets.
Partner with the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation and our Local Secondary Colleges to deliver a successful Youth Leadership Program.	30 June 2028	In Progress	This program has commenced in 2025 and will run through to 2028, funded by the State Government Engage Funding.
Increase knowledge of the Wimmera Southern Mallee (WSM) By Five program across the Shire, and advocate to secure ongoing funding now and into the future.	30 June 2026	In Progress	<p>Council has been strong advocates for the WSM By Five initiative, including raising awareness regarding funding. Council will continue to advocate regarding the importance of retaining the service within our community.</p> <p>Council resolved on 28 January 2026 to provide a one-time financial contribution of \$33,000, contingent upon equivalent contributions being made by the other Wimmera Southern Mallee Councils. No additional WSM Council has committed to provide one-off funding at this time.</p>
Support Emerge Early Years Service to become the champion early years, not for profit provider across the Wimmera Southern Mallee By Five footprint, increasing the quality of education, care and access across our Shire.	30 June 2026	Ongoing	Emerge has taken over the management of Yarriambiack Shire Council operated services as of 01 January 2026. Emerge now operates early years services in Hindmarsh, Yarriambiack, Horsham and parts of Northern Grampians Shire.

ACTION	DUE DATE	RESULT	COMMENTARY
Seek funding opportunities for recreation reserve improvements where co-contributions are provided by the respective clubs/groups.	30 June 2026	Ongoing	<p>Council has actively pursued funding opportunities for recreation reserve improvements where co-contributions are provided by local clubs/groups. Funding has been secured for the Minyip Recreation Reserve Sports Lighting Upgrade, which is scheduled to commence in coming months.</p> <p>Council is also progressing a retrospective funding application for ANZAC Park, Warracknabeal, relating to funding allocated in the Victorian State Budget 2025–26. Council will continue to seek further external funding opportunities to support priority projects with co-contributions.</p>
Subdivided land in Cromie Street Murtoa, gifting to the Murtoa Housing Innovation Pty. Ltd to provide diverse housing options to our community.	31 December 2025	In Progress	The land is now subdivided, with Council gifting the land to the Murtoa Housing Innovation Pty. Ltd. The land transfer is expected to be completed by 30 June 2026.
Complete the construction of the Hopetoun, Warracknabeal and Rupanyup affordable houses.	31 December 2025	In Progress	The Warracknabeal and Rupanyup houses are complete and have been handed over to Dunmunkle Lodge to manage. The Hopetoun house has commenced construction with it expected to be completed by 30 June 2026.
Apply and/or partner with other providers and/or developments on funding opportunities to develop the Hopetoun Former School Site to support the diversification and expansion of housing across the Shire.	30 June 2026	Ongoing	Council is currently subdividing the Hopetoun Former School Site land, with a further housing subdivision to occur. Council will continue to explore funding opportunities to support the development of housing options on the site.

ACTION	DUE DATE	RESULT	COMMENTARY
Apply for the Living Libraries Infrastructure Grant for the redevelopment of the Hopetoun Neighbourhood House Building, Lascelles Street to support the enhancement of Library services across our Shire.	30 June 2026	In Progress	Council submitted a funding application for the Living Libraries Infrastructure Grant for the Hopetoun Neighbourhood House building renovations to support expansion of the library facilities. This application was unsuccessful. Council will review the funding application and resubmit in the next round.
If successful with funding application, deliver the Minyip Emma's Café Library expansion project.	30 June 2026	Ongoing	Council was unsuccessful with the Living Libraries funding application. Council will continue to explore funding opportunities.

3. A Resilient and Sustainable Natural Environment

INDICATORS AND MEASURES - What you will expect from Council over the next four years:

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

Indicator	Measure / Trend
Advocate for sustainable community benefits from State Government mandated renewable energy and transmission projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased funding for legacy sustainable infrastructure that benefits the Yarriambiack community.

Year 1 Actions:

ACTION	DUE DATE	RESULT	COMMENTARY
Complete a full review of our Waste and Recycling practices, developing a business case for presentation to Council with an aim of stabilising costs and offering services that meet the diverse needs of our municipal district.	30 December 2025	Closed	The waste and recycling business case has been completed. Community consultation was undertaken and a recommendation was presented to Councillors on 25 March 2026. The recommended actions will commence implementation from 01 July 2026.
Develop tree planting strategy and plan.	31 December 2025	In Progress	The Yarriambiack Street and Reserves Tree Strategy and Tree Management Policy are being presented to Council for endorsement on 22 April 2026.
Deliver the Murtoa Netball and Tennis Court Project.	30 June 2026	In Progress	The Project has been substantially completed, with the Minyip–Murtoa Football Netball Club holding its first training session on the new courts on 09 April 2026. Minor outstanding works remain, including the installation of safety bollards and asphalt works in the car park area, which will be finalised in due course. An official opening event is being planned for May 2026.
Deliver the Hopetoun Netball Lighting Project.	30 June 2026	In Progress	The Project has been completed, with the upgraded lighting now in use by the Southern Mallee Thunder Netball Club. An official opening event will be held on Thursday 16 April 2026. Additional site re-establishment landscaping works to the disturbed areas adjacent to the courts are currently being undertaken and are scheduled for completion in May 2026.

ACTION	DUE DATE	RESULT	COMMENTARY
Deliver the Hopetoun Swimming Pool and Changeroom Upgrade Project.	30 June 2026	In Progress	The changeroom component is under construction and will be completed prior to June 30 2026. The Swimming Pool Upgrades component is nearing commencement from 20 April 2026 and is expected to be completed prior to the start of the upcoming pool season. Council is lodging a Funding Agreement Timing Variation from the original date of 12 August 2026 to 31 January 2027 to enable time for an Official Opening and Project Acquittal.
Apply for funding, and if successful deliver the Minyip Recreation Reserve Netball Lighting Project.	30 June 2026	In Progress	Funding has been secured for this project, and a construction contract has been signed and executed. Works will commence in the coming months upon the arrival of the lighting towers. Works are scheduled to be completed by September 2026.

4. A Council that serves its community

INDICATORS AND MEASURES - What you will expect from Council over the next four years:

Indicator	Measure / Trend
Community engagement in Council planning, projects, and decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All engagement activities are in alignment with the Community Engagement Policy and Guidelines. Maintain or improve community satisfaction with our engagement. Develop position statements and advocacy documents that reflect the sentiment of the Community.
Council proactively advocates for community priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy documents are used to promote strategic projects and priorities. Awareness of our advocacy priorities among stakeholders and the community is enhanced. Council advocacy achieves results.
Cost-effective, customer-focused, and responsive services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall community satisfaction measures are maintained or improved. Customer Request Management system is responsive to community requests.
Well-informed decision making, and ethical governance which builds trust.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community satisfaction with decisions made by Council in their interests is maintained or improved. Fully compliant with Public Transparency Policy requirements under the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>. No reported findings of unethical practices by integrity agencies.
Information, communication and technology that supports the enhancement of good governance and legislative compliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of key priorities identified in Council's ICT and Business Transformation Strategy.
Embed sound risk management practices into Council activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedded strategic and operational risk register and frameworks. Appointment of experienced Audit and Risk Committee independent members.

Indicator	Measure / Trend
Sound strategic financial decision making for now and into the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative compliant and best practice asset management systems and practices. Service level planning and business case development that informs the budget process that addresses financial sustainability, social, environmental and economic impacts. Long Term Financial Plan that is financially responsible.
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"> Use a Gender Lens for Council services and the construction and renewal of assets and infrastructure to ensure equal access for all.
Supporting Prevention of Family Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate and support awareness campaigns or events to reduce and prevent family violence.

Year 1 Actions:

ACTION	DUE DATE	RESULT	COMMENTARY
Revised Community Engagement Policy and Guidelines that meets the expectations of the community and sets the standards for engagement.	31 July 2026	Completed	The Community Engagement Policy and Procedure was revised and adopted on the 23 July 2025.
Asset Management Framework and Methodology adopted, and condition data base lines established to support best practice processes.	31 December 2025	Completed	Council has reviewed and updated its Asset Management Policy and Asset Management Strategy, with revised condition data adopted for the 2025/26 financial year. All associated processes have been updated and aligned with current legislative requirements to ensure consistency with best practice asset management principles.

ACTION	DUE DATE	RESULT	COMMENTARY
Revision of the Workforce Plan and Gender Equality Action Plan.	30 September 2025	In Progress	The Workforce Plan was signed off by the Chief Executive Officer on 20 October 2025. Both the Progress Report (assists with the development of the GEAP) and Gender Equality Action Plan were revised, consultation process completed, signed off and submitted for compliance on 30 March 2026.
Revision of the Revenue and Rating Plan.	31 July 2026	Completed	The Revenue and Rating Plan was revised and adopted on the 30 June 2025.
Development and adoption of the Annual Budget and revision of the Long-Term Financial Plan.	30 June 2026	Completed	The Annual Budget was adopted on 30 June 2025. The Long Term Financial Plan was adopted on 29 October 2025.
Development and adoption of the Annual Report, Annual Financial Statements and Performance Report.	30 June 2026	Completed	The Annual Report, Annual Financial Statements and Performance Report were adopted on 29 October 2025.
Annual Councillor Training Program to meet the requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and supporting regulations.	31 December 2025	Completed	Councillors have participated in all required training for the 2025 calendar year.
Adoption of the revised ICT and Business Transformation Strategy.	30 June 2026	In Progress	A consultant has been engaged, and consultation undertaken with the ICT and Business Transformation Strategy in draft for review prior to adoption by Council in 3 rd quarter 25/26.
Actively promote and participate in the 16 Days of Activism and R U OK Day.	30 June 2026	Completed	Council actively promoted R U OK Day internally and across our social media mediums. Council participated in the 16 Days of Activism campaign.

ACTION	DUE DATE	RESULT	COMMENTARY
Advocate to the State Government to cover the cost of Building Insurance on State Government owned land.	30 June 2026	In Progress	The Council currently insures assets where it acts as the Committee of Management on Crown Land. The Council will strongly advocate to seek coverage for these assets through State Government VMIA insurance, rather than requiring the Council and community to bear the associated costs.