



PERFORMANCE STATEMENT





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Certification of the **PERFORMANCE STATEMENT**

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

ANITA J MCFARLANE

Principal Accounting Officer

Date: ?? 2026

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the Yarriambiack Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2026 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

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

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

We have been authorised by the council and by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to certify this performance statement in its final form.

KYLIE ZANKER

Councillor

Date: ?? 2026

KARLY KIRK

Councillor

Date: ?? 2026

TAMMY SMITH

Chief Executive Officer

Date: ?? 2026

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SECTION ONE: Description of the municipality

For the year ended 30 June 2026

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

Yarriambiack Shire has an estimated residential population of 6,658 people. Warracknabeal is the main service centre of the area, with a catchment pattern that extends from the northern Wimmera to the Southern Mallee. It is complemented by Hopetoun in the north and Minyip, Murtoa and Rupanyup in the south, with 13 small towns spread throughout the Municipality.

The Shire is the heartland of grain production and handling in the Wimmera and Mallee. The dry-land farming area produces one quarter of Victoria's total production of wheat and barley and is noted for the production of lambs and wool.

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

SECTION TWO: Service Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Service / Indicator / measure		2023	2024	2025	2026	2026	Material Variations
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
AQUATIC FACILITIES							
Utilisation		0.63	0.57	0.61	N/A	0.54	The Hopetoun Swimming Pool recorded 515 fewer patrons than the previous period, leading to a reduction in facility utilisation.
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT							
Health and safety		100%	100%	100%	N/A	100%	Council recorded two successful animal prosecution cases during the 2025/26 financial year.
FOOD SAFETY							
Health and safety		0%	0%	0%	N/A	0%	No non-compliance notifications issued in 2025/26.
GOVERNANCE							
Satisfaction		58	58	57	61	60	Based on the annual Community Satisfaction Survey completed in the 2025/26 financial year.
LIBRARIES							
Participation		N/A	16.36%	16.5%	N/A	16.11%	Council's ageing population and a reduction in 'reading culture' in younger generations is creating a notable decline in library memberships with Yarriambiack Libraries. This, partnered with the Region's 'One Card' service, members from other libraries are able to access our library service that does not get reflected in our membership numbers.

* N/A: No target set in the corresponding Budget

SECTION TWO: Service Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Service / Indicator / measure		2023	2024	2025	2026	2026	Material Variations
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
ROADS							
Condition		87.62%	97.38%	97.79%	99%	88.56	Based on the annual Community Satisfaction Survey completed in the 2025/26 financial year.
Sealed local roads below the intervention level							
Percentage of sealed local roads that are below the renewal intervention level set by Council and not requiring renewal							
STATUTORY PLANNING							
Service standard		97.96%	71.70%	79.59%	98%	67.50%	Simple applications and applications with high quality plans have contributed to some applications being able to be processed quickly and without delays.
Planning applications decided within the relevant required time							
Percentage of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time							
WASTE MANAGEMENT							
Waste diversion		16.71%	17.13%	16.85%	17%	17.11%	With the advent of the container deposit scheme, the material that was once included in the mixed recycling and glass bins is no longer included in our kerbside collection figures. Glass recycling alone has dropped by 60% and mixed recycling by 10% over the last three years. The absence of these volumes in the calculation makes it difficult to achieve a higher result.
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill							
Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins x 100							

* N/A: No target set in the corresponding Budget

SECTION THREE: Financial Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Dimension / Indicator / measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Material Variations
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	
EFFICIENCY										
Expenditure level	\$4,184.57	\$4,193.43	\$4,950.07	\$4,442.00	\$5,147.32	\$4,598.01	\$4,557.17	\$4,673.17	\$4,749.20	
Expenses per property assessment										
Total expenses / Number of property assessments										
Revenue level	\$1,705.00	\$1,763.79	\$1,794.90	N/A	\$1,852.60	\$2,306.51	\$2,354.56	\$2,406.65	\$2,459.84	
Average rate per property assessment										
Sum of all general rates and municipal charges / Number of property assessments										
LIQUIDITY										
Working capital	193.62%	134.01%	144.69%	102.00%	287.70%	202.73%	217.40%	225.04%	240.22%	The increase in this ratio is mainly due to higher cash and term deposit balances as at 30 June 2026, resulting from pre-paid Victorian Grants Commission grants for 2026/27.
Current assets compared to current liabilities										
Current assets / Current liabilities x 100	123.21%	94.16%	80.75%	N/A	104.69%	130.96%	139.22%	144.14%	156.21%	A combination of higher cash, cash equivalents and investments, with a lower current liability balance as at 30 June 2026, when compared to the 30 June 2025 balances, has resulted in an improved indicator. This is tied back to receiving 80% of the financial assistance grants in advance, as well as lower liability balances for loans and trade payables owed at 30 June 2026.
Unrestricted cash										
Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities										
Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities x 100										

* N/A: No target set in the corresponding Budget

SECTION THREE: Financial Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Dimension / Indicator / measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Material Variations
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	
OBLIGATIONS										
Loans and borrowings	0%	3.24%	2.92%	N/A	2.54%	2.17%	1.85%	1.53%	1.21%	Is within the acceptable range. Loan balances are decreasing in line with repayment obligations.
Loans and borrowings compared to rates										
Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue x 100										
Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates	0.13%	0.14%	0.43%	N/A	0.37%	0.35%	0.38%	0.37%	0.37%	Council continues to repay its borrowings at principal and interest repayments which are managed within resources.
Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue x 100										
Indebtedness	4.92%	10.52%	7.65%	N/A	5.69%	7.41%	7.37%	7.30%	7.21%	The reduction in the 2025/26 ratio is attributable to Council's declining loan portfolio and the reduced number of leased vehicles held by Council.
Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue										
Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x 100										
Asset renewal and upgrade	198.98%	194.82%	65.81%	100%	51.06%	69.47%	58.85%	57.95%	54.23%	Is within the acceptable range. Capital works program is starting to decrease compared to previous years with less grant money available for projects.
Asset renewal and asset upgrade expense / Asset depreciation] x 100										

* N/A: No target set in the corresponding Budget

SECTION THREE: Financial Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Performance Statement

Dimension / Indicator / measure		2023	2024	2025	2026	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Material Variations	
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast		
OPERATING POSITION												
Adjusted underlying result		(5.69%)	(33.72%)	(10.97%)		N/A	(12.39%)	(2.47%)	(10.58%)	(11.14%)	(10.69%)	Is within the acceptable range. Demonstrates the reliance of Council on grants to undertake capital projects. Movement is also a result of 80% of the Federal Assistance Grants being paid in the 2025/26 financial year.
Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)												
Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)/												
Adjusted underlying revenue x100												
STABILITY												
Rates concentration		48.33%	67.46%	47.23%		59%	48.34%	51.40%	57.14%	57.24%	57.33%	
Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue												
Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue x 100												
Rates effort		0.30%	0.26%	0.23%		N/A	0.23%	0.25%	0.24%	0.24%	0.24%	
Rates compared to property values												
Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality x 100												

* N/A: No target set in the corresponding Budget

SECTION FOUR: Sustainable Capacity Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Indicator / measure		2023	2024	2025	2026	Material Variations
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
POPULATION						
Expenses per head of municipal population		\$4,551.98	\$4,594.46	\$5,483.12	\$5,774.49	
Infrastructure per head of municipal population		\$26,370.86	\$32,406.64	\$34,456.26	\$33,185.02	
Value of infrastructure / Municipal population						
Population density per length of road		1.33	1.32	1.31	1.29	
Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads						
OWN-SOURCE REVENUE						
Own-source revenue per head of municipal population		\$2,224.55	\$2,590.55	\$2,689.45	\$2,776.72	
Own-source revenue / Municipal population						
RECURRENT GRANTS						
Recurrent grants per head of municipal population		\$1,937.37	\$687.28	\$2,207.14	\$2,077.95	
Recurrent grants / Municipal population						
DISADVANTAGE						
Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage		2	2	2	2	
Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by decile						
WORKFORCE TURNOVER						
Percentage of staff turnover		14.75%	23%	14.73%	37.34%	The increase in staff turnover is primarily attributable to kindergarten staff transferring to Emerge, which is the licensee of five kindergartens located within the Yarriambiack Shire Council area.
Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year x 100						

SECTION FIVE: Notes to the accounts

For the year ended 30 June 2026

5.1. Basis of preparation

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed, service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district, an explanation of material variations in the results and notes to the accounts. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

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

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and the previous three years, along with the current year's target, if mandated by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Additionally, for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the performance statement includes the target budget for the current year and the results forecast for the period 2026-27 to 2029-30 by the Council's financial plan.

The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

KEY TERM	DEFINITION
Aboriginal children	means a child who is an Aboriginal person
Aboriginal person	has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
adjusted underlying revenue	means total income other than: • non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and • non-monetary asset contributions; and • contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above
adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure
annual report	means an annual report prepared by a council under section 98 of the Act
asset renewal expenditure	means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability
asset upgrade expenditure	means expenditure that— (a) enhances an existing asset to provide a higher level of service; or (b) extends the life of the asset beyond its original life
critical non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health
current assets	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
current liabilities	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
food premises	has the same meaning as in the Food Act 1984
intervention level	means the level set for the condition of a road beyond which a council will not allow the road to deteriorate and will need to intervene
local road	means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the Road Management Act 2004
major non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken
non-current liabilities	means all liabilities other than current liabilities
own-source revenue	means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)
population	means the resident population estimated by council
rate revenue	means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges
relative socio-economic disadvantage	in relation to a municipal district, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipal district is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of SEIFA
restricted cash	means cash, cash equivalents and financial assets, within the meaning of the Australian Accounting Standards, not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year
SEIFA	means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet site
unrestricted cash	means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash

5.3. Other Matters

Overview of 2026

During the 2025/26 financial year, Council made the strategic decision to transition out of Early Years Services in Warracknabeal, Minyip and Rupanyup, with Emerge Early Learning Services (Emerge) assuming operations in January 2026. Emerge also commenced efforts to re-open the Hopetoun childcare service following its closure in April 2024 due to staffing challenges experienced by Uniting Vic Tas. However, a significant water leak at the Hopetoun Early Years building caused extensive damage, resulting in the facility's closure for approximately two years. This has required the kindergarten program to be relocated to the Hopetoun Seniors Building in the short term and has delayed the re-opening of childcare services until a suitable alternative venue and solution are identified.

Council recorded an improvement in community satisfaction results during the year. While balancing financial sustainability with service delivery continues to present challenges, Council remains committed to keeping the community informed, involved in decision-making, and engaged through a range of consultation opportunities.

Rising waste and recycling costs continue to place pressure on service delivery. Council has implemented the glass bin service and is awaiting confirmation on whether the food organics and garden organics (FOGO) service will become mandatory. Any decision regarding the future rollout of FOGO will depend on the outcome of this mandate. Council will also monitor the outcomes of the election and any subsequent decisions relating to the ongoing provision of glass bin services.

Council is experiencing an increase in planning enquiries, which is expected to result in a higher number of planning permit applications. As land use continues to diversify under current State Government initiatives, demand is increasing for associated planning services and the exploration of new housing options.

Entering the 2026/27 financial year, Council will experience a reduction in recurrent operating grants as a result of discontinuing the provision of early years services. The increasing cost of service delivery, without corresponding increases in funding, remains a significant challenge and is expected to continue into the foreseeable future.