



Running For Council

Thinking of running for Council?
Here are a few things you should know:

Acknowledgement to Country

We acknowledge that the activities of Yarriambiack Shire Council 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.

Overview of Yarriambiack Shire Council

Yarriambiack Shire Council covers an area of 7,158 square kilometres with an approximate population of 6,556 people (2021 ABS Census).

The Shire stretches from the Wimmera River just north of the Grampians in the south to the centre of the Mallee in the north. Warracknabeal is the main service centre and is complemented by Hopetoun in the north and Minyip, Murtoa and Rupanyup in the south, with another 13 small towns spread throughout the Municipality.

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.

Council provides an abundance of services to the community such as:

- Customer Service (including VicRoads Agencies)
- Animal Management and Local Laws
- Environmental Health
- Community and Economic Development
- Sport and Recreation
- Kindergartens
- Maternal Child Health Services (immunisation programs)
- Building and Planning
- Library Services
- Emergency Management
- Roads and Footpaths
- Livestock Exchange
- Waste Management

Refer to Council's website for further details:

www.yarriambiack.vic.gov.au

Our Partners

We partner with Grampians, Wimmera, Mallee Tourism (Visitor Economy Partnership) to deliver Tourism initiatives across the Shire, and Wimmera Southern Mallee Development for regional economic development initiatives.

Our entire Shire footprint sits within the Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC) Native Title area. BGLC represents Traditional Owners from the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk peoples, who were recognised in a 2005 Native Title Consent Determination, the first in south-eastern Australia. [HOME](#) | [BGLC](#)



7,158 square kilometres



Population of 6,556 people



Running For Council



Role of a Councillor

As a Councillor you can make a significant difference for your community and can create great outcomes for our Shire.

If you embody community spirit and understand the importance of teamwork you would be perfect for the role.

To be a successful and effective Councillor you must communicate well and be open and responsive to local residents.

In addition, Councillors need to understand how to manage internal and external relationships, particularly with the CEO, community, the media and other organisations including State agencies and politicians.

Above all else, you need to work well with other people. As a Councillor you are just one person. As part of a Council, you'll be relying on the support of your colleagues – and they on you – to enable strategic ideas to turn into reality.

With that in mind, it is important to note that as a Councillor you represent all the people of Yarriambiack. While you may be elected by and within a particular Ward, once you sit at the Council table you have the responsibility to govern for all the Yarriambiack Shire (Municipal District).

Under the *Local Government Act 2020* each Councillor has a responsibility to:

- Participate in the decision making of the Council.
- Represent the interests of the community in that decision making.
- Contribute to the strategic direction of the Council through the development and review of key strategic documents, including the Council Plan.

Ward Structure

In October 2024 we will move to a new electoral structure; Three wards, Hopetoun, Warracknabeal and Dunmunkle.

Two councillors per ward, with a total of six Councillors.

The main change to the structure, is the boundary changes (refer to Map) and the requirement to move to even number of Councillors per ward, therefore Warracknabeal will be represented by two Councillors only (previously 3, and total of 7 Councillors).



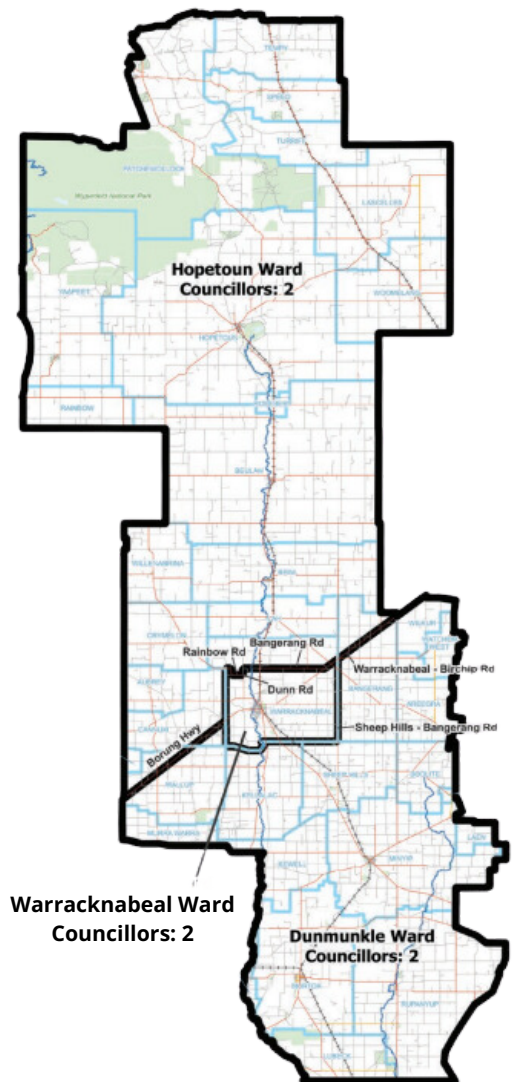
**Hopetoun Ward
2 Councillors**



**Warracknabeal Ward
2 Councillors**



**Dunmunkle Ward
2 Councillors**



Local Government

With three tiers of government in Australia, Local Government is the tier closest to the people.

The role that councils play in the community has expanded over the years to reflect the changing needs of residents.

Victorian councils provide a wide variety of services to their communities, as well as maintaining important community assets, delivering projects and advocating for the needs of the community to state and federal government.



Running For Council

Strategic versus Operations

The Councillors role is to set the strategic direction for the Council, focusing on the “What” not the “How”.

The role of Councillors is to:

- Participate in decision making of Council (via Council Meeting resolutions).
- Represent the interests of the municipal community in decision making.
- Contribute to strategic direction of Council.



Duties of Councillors when performing the role are:

- Consideration of diversity of interests of a municipal community.
- Acknowledging and supporting the Mayor.
- Acting lawfully, and in accordance with the oath and affirmation of office.
- Acting in accordance with standards of conduct.
- Complying with Councils procedures of good governance.

A Councillors role is not to stray into areas reserved for the CEO, and the day-to-day operations of Council.

The CEO is responsible for the effective and efficient management of the day-to-day operations of the Council.

In the first three months of becoming a Councillor, the successful candidates will undertake training to assist with developing their knowledge in relation to their role and responsibilities.

Meetings – Council Forums and Meetings

Currently, Council Meetings are held monthly on the fourth Wednesday of every month commencing at 9.30am.

- Council Forum
- Council Meeting

Council Forums (briefing sessions) are held twice per month on the second Wednesday of every month commencing at 9.30am, and the fourth Wednesday of every month, immediately after a Council meeting.

The days and times to hold Council meetings are negotiated and can be determined by the Councillors at the first Statutory Meeting of Council.

Post October 2024, the successful Councillors may wish to review the day and time of Council Meetings and Forums. They may consider hybrid / online briefing sessions, the frequency of sessions and if the Council Meetings are to be held during the day or of an evening.

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The schedule for meetings and forums should aim to be as inclusive as possible, to ensure diversity is achieved to best represent the municipal district.

Running For Council

What do I need to know to become a Candidate?

Eligibility

To be a candidate for a local council election, you must:

- Be an Australian citizen be aged 18 years of age and over.
- Be enrolled on the voters' roll for the council in which you wish to stand.
- Have completed the mandatory Local Government candidate training.
- Not be disqualified from being a councillor.

You cannot be a candidate for any of the following reasons:

- You are an undischarged bankrupt.
- You have property that is subject to control under the law relating to bankruptcy.
- You are a member of council staff of the council. You can take leave from this role in order to nominate.
- You have been convicted of any of the criminal offences referred to in section 34(2) of the Act.
- You are a councillor with another council, including interstate councils.
- You are member of an Australian parliament, including the federal Parliament or a member of parliament in any state or territory of the Commonwealth of Australia.
- You are employed by a federal or state member of parliament as a ministerial officer, a parliamentary adviser or an electorate officer. You can take leave from these roles in order to nominate.

Or

You are otherwise incapable of becoming or continuing to be a Councillor.

Candidate Training

Local government candidates are required to complete mandatory training to be eligible to nominate. The course is about building confidence for both candidates and communities. You must complete the course to nominate for council.

The training covers vital information you need to know about being a councillor, including understanding a conflict of interest, the code of conduct, and what support is available to help you do the role. The mandatory course was introduced in the *Local Government Act 2020* to ensure candidates understand the role of councillor and the standards they are expected to uphold if elected.

Election Campaigns Donation Returns

Local government election candidates must provide a record of whether they did or didn't receive any donations, gifts or in-kind support for their election campaign. Under the Act, all candidates in Victorian council elections must submit a return within 40 days of election day.

Forms must be completed and submitted to the CEO of the council for which you are nominating.



Remuneration for Councillors

The Remuneration for Councillors is determined by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal.

Yarriambiack Shire Council is a category 1 Council and as at 18 December 2023 until 17 December 2024, the allowances are as follows per annum:

Mayor	\$81,641
Deputy Mayor	\$40,819
Councillor	\$26,368

SAVE THE DATE

Key Dates



STAND FOR COUNCIL MAV INFORMATION SESSION

14 August 2024



CLOSE OF ROLL

4:00pm Friday 30 August 2024



CLOSE OF NOMINATIONS

12:00 noon Tuesday 24 September
2024



MAILOUT OF BALLOT PACKS

Tuesday 8 October 2024 to Thursday
10 October 2024



CLOSE OF VOTING

6pm Friday 25 October 2024

Information Sessions

The CEO will be holding three information sessions across the Shire:



Warracknabeal Ward
Yarriambiack Shire Office
15 July 2024, 6pm - 7pm



Dunmunkle Ward
Murtoa Neighbourhood
House
16 July 2024, 6pm - 7pm



Hopetoun Ward
Hopetoun
Neighbourhood House
17 July 2024, 6pm - 7pm

Next Steps

Determine your eligibility to run: Almost anyone who is entitled to vote at council elections in Victoria is also eligible to stand for election as a Councillor. Before setting off to become a Councillor, ensure you are on the voter roll for Yarriambiack and be clear that you're not disqualified from standing for office.

Check out Section 34 of the *Local Government Act 2020* to find out who is disqualified from standing for office.

Determine what you are passionate about: As a potential Councillor it is important to have a clear understanding of what issues are important to you. Anyone who votes in the election will want to know what you stand for - so make it known!

Attend a candidate information sessions (Yarriambiack, MAV Stand for Council and Victorian Electoral Commission).

Being elected as a Councillor is an exciting opportunity to serve your community!

It is highly rewarding to see how hard work and shared commitment can achieve great outcomes.

Registering as a Candidate

When you register as a candidate, you will receive further information from the CEO on the Training Schedule for new Councillors, and the Induction Program.

Victorian Electoral Commission Candidate Session

A Victorian Electoral Commission Candidate session will be held in Warracknabeal. Stay tuned for further details.



Stand For Council - Western Region

In following on from the CEO information sessions, a Municipal Association Victoria, Stand for Council Program will be held in Nhill for our Region.



SAVE THE DATE

2024 Community and Candidate Information Sessions

MAV Stand for Council Program

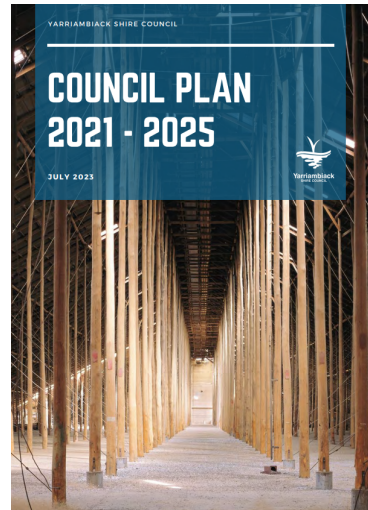
14 August 2024 - 6:30pm - Nhill Memorial Community Centre



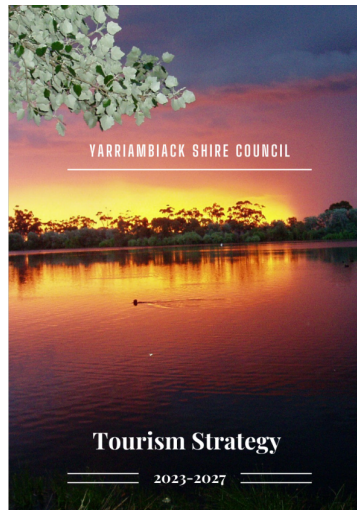
Running For Council

Yarriambiack Strategic Documents

To start learning about Council look through our Council Plan, Tourism Strategy, Economic, Development Strategy, Asset Management Plan, Early Years Strategy and Access and Inclusion Plan. All these documents are located on the Yarriambiack Shire Council website.



Council Plan 2021 - 2025



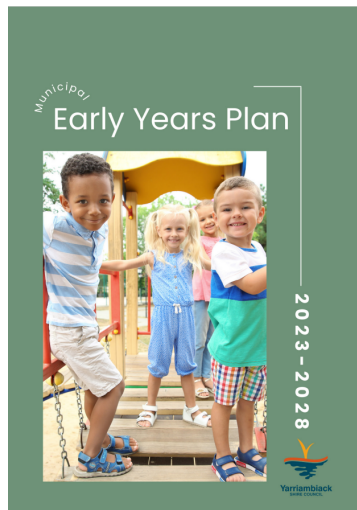
Tourism Strategy 2023 - 2027



Economic Development Strategy 2023 - 2027



Asset Management Plan 2022 - 2032



Early Years Plan 2023 - 2028



Access and Inclusion Plan 2023 - 2028

Other Resources

Yarriambiack Shire Council – Changes to Electoral Structure before the October 2024 General Election

[Electoral structure and ward boundary reviews \(localgovernment.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au)

Victorian Electoral Commission – Local Council Elections

[Local council elections | Victorian Electoral Commission \(vec.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.vec.vic.gov.au)

Become a local Council Candidate - Victorian Electoral Commission

[Become a local council candidate | Victorian Electoral Commission \(vec.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.vec.vic.gov.au)

Yarriambiack Shire Council

[Council Elections - Yarriambiack Shire Council](https://www.yarriambiack.vic.gov.au)