



Yarriambiack
SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Council

13 DECEMBER 2023

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

34 Lyle Street, Warracknabeal

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.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY VIEW THE MEETING VIRTUALLY VIA THE LIVESTREAM

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OUR VISION

A connected rural community who values its land and wellbeing.

We will achieve this vision through:

- ✓ Supporting agriculture
- ✓ Strengthening business and tourism
- ✓ Staying connected through infrastructure
- ✓ Being a supportive Council
- ✓ Looking after our communities
- ✓ Being environmentally friendly

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

We drive continuous and sustainable improvement in service provision, operational efficiency, and stakeholder relations to create a leading organisation.

LIVE STREAMING

Council meetings will now be live streamed to allow those interested in viewing proceedings greater access to Council decisions and debate without attending the meeting in person.

1 WELCOME

2 STREAMING PREAMBLE

As the meeting Chair, I give my consent for this Open Council Meeting to be streamed live, recorded and published online.

Anyone who is invited to read out a question as part of item 13 – Public Questions will be recorded and their voice, image and comments will form part of the livestream and recording.

Anyone who submits a question as part of item 13 – Public Questions will have their name stated and recorded as part of the livestreaming and recording.

The Chair and/or the Chief Executive Officer have the discretion and authority at any time to direct the termination or interruption of livestreaming. Such direction will only be given in exceptional circumstances, where deemed relevant. Circumstances may include instances where the content of debate is considered misleading, defamatory, or potentially inappropriate to be published.

The stream will stop prior to the closed section of the meeting.

The public can view this livestream via Council's YouTube Channel, with the link available via Council's website. The recording of Council Meetings will be available for viewing until the next scheduled Council Meeting.

Should technical issues prevent the continuation of the stream, the meeting will be adjourned until the issue is resolved or the meeting will be postponed to another time and date in accordance with Council's meeting procedures and Governance Rules.

Confirmation that Councillors in the Chambers can see and hear Councillor Kirk and that Councillor Kirk can see and hear Councillors in the Chambers.

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND PRAYER

Mayor to open the meeting at 9:30am by acknowledging the Indigenous Community and offering the opening prayer.

3.1 ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

'We acknowledge that the activities of Yarriambiack Shire Council are held under the traditional skies and in the waterways and lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk people, and we pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging'.

3.2 PRAYER

Almighty God, without whom no Council can stand, nor anything prosper we ask that you be present and guide us in our deliberations today. We pray that we will be fair in our judgements and wise in our actions and that decisions will be made with goodwill and a clear conscience for the betterment and welfare of the people of Yarriambiack Shire.

Amen

4 PRESENT

Councillor	Kylie Zanker	Warracknabeal Ward	In person
Councillor	Andrew McLean	Hopetoun Ward	In person
Councillor	Tom Hamilton	Dunmunkle Ward	In person
Councillor	Graeme Massey	Warracknabeal Ward	In person
Councillor	Chris Lehmann	Hopetoun Ward	In person
Councillor	Corinne Heintze	Dunmunkle Ward	In person

Council Officer	Tammy Smith	Chief Executive Officer	In person
Council Officer	Tony Caccaviello	Chief Operating Officer	In person
Council Officer	Belinda Penny	Governance Officer	In person
Council Officer	Rebecca Botheras	Sport and Recreation Coordinator	In person
Council Officer	Sarah Collins	Manager Community Strengthening and Engagement	In person

5 APOLOGIES OR REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Name / Role	Description of Leave / Absence
Cr Karly Kirk	Absence due to illness

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES 22 NOVEMBER 2023 - STATUTORY MEETING

Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of Council held on 22 November 2023 to be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Recommended Motion:

That the minutes of the Statutory Meeting of Council held on 22 November 2023, as circulated be taken as read and confirmed.

Resolution:

Moved Cr T Hamilton Seconded Cr C Heintze

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

6.2 MINUTES 22 NOVEMBER 2023 – ORDINARY MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 22 November 2023 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Recommended Motion:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 22 November 2023, as circulated be taken as read and confirmed.

Resolution:

Moved Cr G Massey Seconded Cr C Lehmann

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

6.3 MINUTES 22 NOVEMBER 2023 – CLOSED (CONFIDENTIAL) MEETING

Minutes of the Closed (Confidential) Meeting of Council held on 22 November 2023 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Recommended Motion:

That the minutes of the Closed (Confidential) Council Meeting of Council held on 22 November 2023, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed.

Resolution:

Moved Cr T Hamilton Seconded Cr C Heintze

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

7 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Pursuant to Division 2 – Conflict of Interest, of the *Local Government Act 2020* general and material conflict of interest must be declared prior to debate on specific items within the agenda; or in writing to the Chief Executive Officer before the meeting.

A Councillor who has declared a conflict of interest in respect of a matter must:

- a) Disclose the conflict of interest in the manner required by the Yarriambiack Shire Council Governance Rules.
- b) Exclude themselves from the decision-making process in relation to that matter, including any discussion or votes on the matter at any Council meeting or delegated committee, and any action in relation to the matter.

General conflict of interest is if a relevant person has an interest in a matter if an impartial, fair-minded person would consider that the person's private interests could result in that person acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty

- a) *Private interests* mean any direct or indirect interest of a relevant person that does not derive from their public duty and does not include an interest that is only a matter of personal opinion or belief.
- b) *Public duty* means the responsibilities and obligations that a relevant person has to members of the public in their role as a relevant person.

Material conflict of interest is if a relevant person has an interest in respect of a matter if an affected person would gain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the matter

- a) The benefit or loss incurred may be directly or indirectly

OR

- b) In a pecuniary or non-pecuniary form.

Councillors are also encouraged to declare circumstances where there may be a perceived conflict of interest.

7.1 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED

Conflict Declared by	Agenda Item	Reason - Explanation

8 BUSINESS ARISING

8.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

As per ongoing and pending actions list, item 8.2.

8.2 ONGOING AND PENDING ACTION LIST

Council Meeting	Recommendation Action	Action Taken
28 September 2022	Council to undertake a recycling collection service survey in October 2023	Task added to the Council Meeting and Forum Agenda Planner 2023. This survey is delayed and will form part of the Master Environment Strategy development and community engagement process. The Strategy is currently out for tender via the State Government procurement panel.
23 November 2022 Item 15.2	Request to install wombat crossing in Scott Street, Warracknabeal.	Council to commence applying for funding opportunities to pay for the installation of the crossing. Revisit proposal in 12 months' time (November 2023) if Council has been unsuccessful in securing funding. Council currently has a TAC application submitted for wombat crossing funding. We are awaiting outcome. An update will be provided in December 2023, awaiting funding outcome.
25 October 2023 Item 15.4	Stage two of the Community Engagement process that identifies specific hierarchy changes to roads and streets based on updated categories from the Stage 1 consultation process to be conducted in January 2024.	
22 November 2023 Items 15.1	Warracknabeal Aero Club Lease endorsed. Leases to be enacted.	
22 November 2023 Item 15.2	Dunmunkle Lodge Lease endorsed. Leases to be enacted.	
22 November 2023 Item 15.4	Lascelles Caravan Park endorsed. Lease to be enacted.	
22 November 2023 Item 15.5	Murtoa Caravan Park endorsed that Council Officers can apply to DEECA to sub-lease to Murtoa Progress Association.	

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 CORRESPONDENCE

Outgoing		
Date	Recipient	Details

Incoming		
Date	Sender	Details
03/12/23	Southern Wimmera Renewables Research Association	Campbells Bridge RWE Wind Farm Facility proposal.

11 SPECIAL COMMITTEES

11.1 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Schedule

The proposed scheduled meeting program is as follows for the next 12 months for the Audit and Risk Committee:

Date	Description
Monday 19 February 2024	Ordinary Meeting
Monday 15 April 2024	Ordinary Meeting
Monday 15 July 2024	Ordinary Meeting
September 2024 TBC	Special Meeting

12 ACTIVITY REPORTS

12.1 MAYOR ACTIVITY REPORT – NOVEMBER 2023

Mayor Kylie Zanker – Warracknabeal Ward		
Date	Activity	Location
24/11/23	CEO / Mayor weekly catch up	Warracknabeal
28/11/23	Woodbine Annual General Meeting	Warracknabeal
30/11/23	West Wimmera Health Service Annual General Meeting	Online
01/12/23	CEO / Mayor weekly catch up	Warracknabeal
01/12/23	Attended Creative Hive artist in residence opening for Ron Penrose	Warracknabeal
05/12/23	Regional assessment service discussion	Online
06/12/23	Moyne Clean Energy briefing	Online
08/12/23	Attended and undertook welcome at Yarriambiack Shire Council Staff Christmas Party	Warracknabeal
09/12/23	CEO / Mayor weekly catch up	Warracknabeal
11/12/23	Warracknabeal Secondary College Presentation	Warracknabeal
12/12/23	Rural Northwest Health Annual General Meeting	Warracknabeal

12.2 COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS – NOVEMBER 2023

Cr Andrew McLean – Hopetoun Ward		
Date	Activity	Location
06/12/23	Moyne Clean Energy briefing	Online
14/12/23	Hopetoun P12 Awards evening	Hopetoun

Cr Tom Hamilton – Dunmunkle Ward		
Date	Activity	Location
06/12/23	Moyne Clean Energy briefing	Online

Cr Graeme Massey – Warracknabeal Ward		
Date	Activity	Location
05/12/23	Wimmera Mallee Tourism	Warracknabeal
06/12/23	Moyne Clean Energy briefing	Online
13/12/23	Glass crushing demonstration	Warracknabeal

Cr Chris Lehmann – Hopetoun Ward		
Date	Activity	Location
06/12/23	Moyne Clean Energy briefing	Online

Cr Corinne Heintze – Dunmunkle Ward		
Date	Activity	Location
30/11/23	West Wimmera Health Services AGM	Online
06/12/23	Moyne Clean Energy briefing	Online
06/12/23	Minyip Progress Association Meeting	Minyip
08/12/23	Vic Grind REZ discussion	Online

Cr Karly Kirk – Warracknabeal Ward		
Date	Activity	Location

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTIVITY REPORT

Tammy Smith		
Date	Activity	Location
23/11/23	Meeting with Rural Council's Victoria Chairperson	Online
23/11/23	Meeting with members of the IPAA Senior Executive Integrity and Ethical Leadership Program	Online
24/11/23	Committee Meeting Rural Council's Victoria	Melbourne
24/11/23	Meeting with Mayor	Online
27/11/23	Meeting with Rural Council's Victoria Chairperson	Online
27/11/23	Meeting Arts Council Warracknabeal	Warracknabeal
29/11/23	IPAA Senior Executive Integrity and Ethical Leadership Program – Wave III Day 1	Melbourne
30/11/23	IPAA Senior Executive Integrity and Ethical Leadership Program – Wave III Day 2	Melbourne
30/11/23	Meeting with Minister Gayle Tierney as Rural Council's Victoria representative	Parliament House Melbourne
01/12/23	Meeting with Mayor	Online
04/12/23	Meeting Arts Council Warracknabeal and Horsham Art Gallery	Warracknabeal
05/12/23	Ararat Rural City Council – Technology Lab Official Opening	Ararat
06/12/23	Briefing with Councillors Clean Energy	Online
06/12/23	RDV Grampians Meeting	Online
07/12/23	Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership Quarterly Briefing	Horsham
07/12/23	Public Libraries Victoria	Minyip
07/12/23	VEC Check In ahead of Local Government Elections 2024	Online
11/12/23	SC4RC Steering Committee Meeting	Online
12/12/23	Round Table – Infrastructure Planning Forum	Melbourne

13 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Division 8 – Public Question Time (Yarriambiack Shire Council Governance Rules)

Community Members (excluding Councillors) may submit a question to Council.

Questions must be submitted in writing, stating the name and address of the person submitting the question, on an approved or permitted form by Council. [Public Questions for Council – Yarriambiack Shire Council](#).

Questions must be submitted 24 hours prior to a Council Meeting.

The questions will be answered at a Council meeting by the Chief Executive Officer or a nominated Officer.

If questions are submitted less than 24 hours before the Council meeting, they will be answered at the meeting where possible, and if no answer can be given, then a written answer will be given to the person as soon as possible after the Council meeting.

No person can submit more than two questions at any Council meeting (unless permitted by the Chair – Mayor).

The question will not be allowed if:

- i. relates to a matter outside the duties, functions and powers of Council;
- ii. is defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable in language or substance;
- iii. deals with a subject matter already answered;
- iv. is aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or an Officer;
- v. relates to a personnel matter; or
- vi. contains or refers or relates to Confidential Information.

Questions and answers must be as brief as possible, and no discussion is allowed other than for the purpose of clarification.

The Name of Person and Question will be read out by either the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer, and the nominated Officer is to respond.

13.1 QUESTIONS SUBMITTED

Name: Nil	Town:
Question:	
Respondent:	
Response:	

14 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

This section of the Agenda includes the Mayor's Advocacy Report, Funding Updates and Notice of Motions.

14.1 MAYORS REPORT

We have been busy exploring and preparing for funding opportunities to enable us to address the lack of housing and accommodation across our Shire.

Commonwealth Government - Regional Precincts and Partnership Program – Precinct Development and Planning Stage

In October 2023, we submitted two applications as part of the Regional Precincts and Partnership Program – Stream One: Precinct Development and Planning.

On 06 October 2023, we applied for \$783,360 to complete the design and planning works for the entire Hopetoun Old School site precinct. This would include the architectural and service designs, planning and building approvals, tender documentation and quantity surveyor cost estimates for the accommodation / multipurpose facility venue located on the site, along with the designs and planning approvals for the housing development section.

In addition, we applied for a similar funding amount for the same grant for the precinct design and planning for ANZAC Park in Warracknabeal.

Our aim is to ensure both projects can be shovel ready and fully costed to inform future infrastructure funding submissions. Without adequate planning, Council is exposed to the risk of project overspends which could compromise Council's financial position. Robust and thorough planning is imperative to achieving positive outcomes for our community.

State Government Regional Worker Accommodation Fund

We are excited by the announcement of the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund that opened on 01 December 2023. We will work with Regional Development Victoria to identify the most appropriate sites that we currently have marked for this funding. Currently we have shovel ready and available the remaining land on the site known as 16 Cromie Street Murtoa, and we will explore if the Hopetoun Old School site would also meet the funding criteria.

Commonwealth Government - Aged Care Capital Assistance Program

We are currently exploring a partnership with Dunmunkle Lodge to partner in an application for the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program to develop 34 Anderson Street Warracknabeal. This grant is open and will close on 12 January 2024. The funding is available for infrastructure projects focused on maintaining or improving access to quality aged care services in small rural towns, remote and very remote communities, including:

- staff accommodation
- upgrades, expansions or new builds
- specialised homeless services
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care (NATSIFAC) minor projects and equipment.

We will also be able to consider this fund for future development of the Hopetoun Old School site, as up to \$602.9million has been made available until 30 June 2027, and from 2027-28 at least \$156million per year will be made available on an ongoing basis.

14.2 NOTICE OF MOTION: RECREATIONAL WATER

Presented by: Mayor, Kylie Zanker

SUMMARY

The Wimmera Mallee Pipeline (WMP) was one of the largest water infrastructure projects in Australia, replacing 17,500 kilometres of inefficient open channels, with 9,159 kilometres of rural pipeline¹. The aim of the pipeline was to drought proof the region and provide water security across an area that provides a third of Victoria's grain crops, a fifth of its sheep, lambs, wool and pigs and almost 10 per cent of its eggs.

Construction commenced in 2006, with the last pipe being laid in April 2010. The business case for the WMP included a commitment that recreational water would have the same high-level security as domestic and stock supply in the region. However, this promise did not come to fruition when the Wimmera Glenelg Bulk Entitlements were issued in 2010.

This paper outlines the commitment that was made with the endorsement and funding of the WMP business case, the benefits to our Shire and residents having access to recreational water via weir pools and lakes; and outlines our commitment to advocate to ensure recreational water is legislated to have the same security as that of domestic and stock supply.

Recommended Motion:

That Council:

Write to The Hon. Minister Shing, Minister for Water, the Hon. Minister Dimopoulos, Minister for Environment, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events and Minister for Outdoor Recreation, and The Hon. Minister Tierney, Minister for Regional Development advocating for changes to the Wimmera Glenelg Bulk Entitlement, that would provide assurance to our community that recreational water will receive the same high security supply to that of domestic and stock.

Resolution:

Moved Cr T Hamilton Seconded Cr A McLean

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment: Consolidated Bulk Entitlement Wimmera and Glenelg Rivers Conversion Order 2010](#)

[Website: Pipeline supplied recreation lakes and weir pools - GWMWater](#)

DISCUSSION

The WMP replaced domestic and stock supply dams with tanks, and the open channel distribution system with pipelines to improve water efficiency. A portion of the water savings from the WMP was converted to an environmental entitlement to improve the conditions of the flow stressed rivers, creeks and wetlands within the region².

¹ GWMWater Website, Constructing the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline - [Constructing the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline - GWMWater](#)

² Victorian Environmental Water Holder - [VEWH - Wimmera-Mallee wetlands](#)

In addition, an allocation was promised via the WMP business case to recreational water, where lakes and weir pools are well understood to be fundamental to community wellbeing and creating positive social health and wellbeing outcomes.

In 2010, GWMWater was appointed as the Storage Manager in respect of the Bulk Entitlements and Environmental Entitlements granted for the Wimmera-Mallee System Headworks.³ As part of this role, GWMWater is required to allocate water in accordance with the bulk entitlements and environmental entitlements granted under the *Water Act 1989*.

As demonstrated in the table below, recreation water allocation is provided for as a separate line item within the Bulk Entitlement (Wimmera and Glenelg Rivers – GWMWater) Order 2010. Whilst, domestic and stock supply is rolled up and included in the Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline product allocation.

Table 1: Bulk Entitlements and Environmental Entitlements Granted under the Water Act 1989

Bulk Entitlement (Wimmera and Glenelg Rivers – GWMWater) Order 2010 - Consolidated Version as at 29 December 2021 Page 17

SCHEDULE 1. PRIMARY ENTITLEMENTS

The primary entitlements relevant to this bulk entitlement are:

Entitlement	Volume (ML)
Bulk Entitlement (Wimmera and Glenelg Rivers – GWMWater) Order 2010	
System operating water:	
- Pipeline and balancing storage losses	2,960
Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder	28,000
Glenelg compensation flow	3,300
Recreation	3,090
Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline product	44,720
Bulk Entitlement (Wimmera and Glenelg Rivers – Coliban Water) Order 2010	
Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline product	300
Bulk Entitlement (Wimmera and Glenelg Rivers – Wannon Water) Order 2010	
Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline product	2,120
Wimmera and Glenelg Rivers Environmental Entitlement 2010	
Wetlands	1,000
Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline product	40,560
Total	126,050

Reliability of Recreation Water

The reliability profile of the recreation entitlement is lower than other Wimmera Mallee Pipeline products (refer to Table 2 below). The impact on allocations of this reliability profile difference is exacerbated by the series of dry years experienced since 2011 (barring 2016, 2022). This has created the circumstance where GWMWater has had to transfer consumptive water into the Recreation Water entitlement in nine of the last eleven years since 2012-13 (not including 2016-17 and 2022-23). Without this transfer

³ Wimmera -Glenelg System Storage Manager Operating Plan for the Wimmera Mallee System Headworks Water Year 2023-2024.

by GWMWater the recreation lakes on the WMP would be dry and unusable in most years in the last decade⁴.

GWMWater has repeatedly indicated that they should not be the sole entitlement holder that is meeting the recreation water commitment made to the Wimmera Mallee community in the WMP Business Case. GWMWater would like a long-term solution that all entitlement holders should contribute to increasing the recreation water reliability profile to match the other Wimmera Mallee Pipeline products⁵.

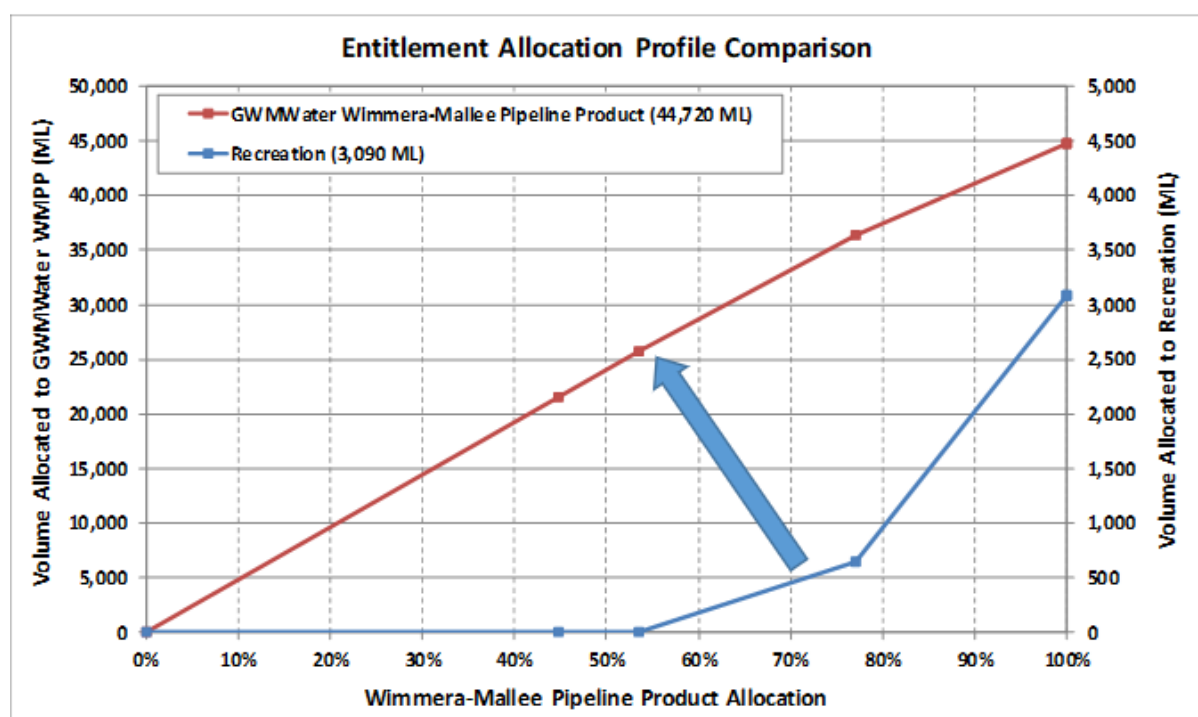
GWMWater has undertaken extensive modelling of options to address this issue and the impact on average water allocations to all entitlement holders is less than 1%.

Current situation:

- Advice from the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action to GWMWater is this issue will be dealt with as part of Western Sustainable Water Strategy. There is no timeline for when this strategy review will occur.
- Once mineral sands mines start taking water, the water which is currently being transferred for Recreational Lake use is unlikely to be there.

The table below explains what GWMWater need to achieve, which is consistent with the WMP Business Case:

Table 2:



Up until 2022, GWMWater Consumptive Entitlements have supplied 74% of the supply to the Recreation Lakes since 2012-13, with only 26% coming from Recreational Entitlement allocation.

⁴ GWMWater, Recreational Water and Environmental Water Clarification, Coordinator Water Resources and Recreation Strategy 24 November 2023

⁵ GWMWater, Recreational Water and Environmental Water Clarification, Coordinator Water Resources and Recreation Strategy 24 November 2023

GWMWater has proposed that all entitlement holders (Victorian Environmental Water Holders, GWMWater, Wannon Water and Coliban Water) contribute to rectifying this issue. The impact would be minimal on all entitlement holders.

Recreational Water Background, Location and Charge:

During the development of the WMP Business Case, eleven workshops were held throughout the region, with more than 900 people attending. The regional community made it clear that the proposed dewatering of farm dams and earthen irrigation channel systems, plus the potential decommissioning of several recreational lakes needed special consideration.⁶

The community strongly articulated that it was imperative that at least 12 strategically located recreational lakes across the region be allocated with at least 3000-4000 megalitres of high security water supply, like that of domestic and stock water. This was clearly advocated when a special deputation to the Federal Government in Canberra was made, to secure funding for the WMP, which included 24,000 signatures. At the time, both the Federal and State Governments endorsed the allocation of recreational water being delivered as a high security supply⁷.

However, when the Bulk Entitlements came to fruition in 2010, the high-level water security as promised through the business case endorsement was not realised.

There is 3090ML of recreational water entitlements held specifically by GWMWater to supply 14 recreational lakes and weir pools.

Twelve of the recreational water bodies are supplied from the WMP, with the remaining two, Ouyen Lake and Green Lake (near Sea Lake) being supplied from the Murray River allocation.

Six of the recreational Lakes and weir pools are located in Yarriambiack Shire at the following locations; Beulah Weir Pool, Brim Weir Pool, Lake Lascelles, Lake Marma, Warracknabeal Weir Pool and Yaapect "Turkey Bottom" Lake.

As part of the introduction of recreational water, every GWMWater customer pays a contribution charge to contribute towards the cost of being provided with recreational water across the region. However, contrary to the general customer belief, this charge does not secure recreational water supply for the region.

Social Health and Wellbeing Benefits to Recreational Water

The business case for the WMP emphasises the significant community benefits derived from recreational lakes, enhancing social health, economic prosperity, and overall community well-being. In the scorching summers of the Wimmera-Mallee region, access to water bodies becomes crucial for residents and visitors seeking relief from the heat.

The Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (formerly WDA) has consistently measured the substantial socioeconomic value associated with the 12 recreational lakes. The identified value, amounting to millions of dollars, is generated by local, regional, and visiting recreational users. Since 2016/17 when Street Ryan consulting commenced the study of social and economic value of recreational water, the average total regional economic contribution of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline supplied lakes is around \$9million.

This financial impact also includes the indirect contribution of recreational fishing, a sector recognised for generating over \$57 billion dollars to the Victorian economy.

⁶ Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body Letter to the Hon. Harriet Shing MLC dated 13 October 2023.

⁷ Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body Letter to the Hon. Harriet Shing MLC dated 13 October 2023.

Annually, the 12 recreational lakes receive 197,000 stocked native and other fish species, benefiting residents and visiting recreational fishers who contribute through license fees. The development of boating and fishing infrastructure, as well as pipelines delivering water to these lakes, has been co-funded by these license fees.

Both local and state governments have invested millions of dollars in new facilities, such as toilets, road repairs, infrastructure, and camping amenities. These investments aim to provide regional communities and their families and friends with the necessary infrastructure to enjoy various recreational activities, including fishing, skiing, swimming, sailing, and boating. The failure to secure water supply for our recreational lakes would jeopardise the impact of this significant infrastructure investment.


Advocacy

The current situation, wherein our regional communities and recreational water users find themselves, is utterly unacceptable. A recent meeting of the GWMWater Recreational Water Group highlighted a significant disparity: the Headworks Storages hold over 423,000ML of water, yet the recreational water allocation for 2023-24 stands at a mere 20%. This is a stark contrast to the proposed high-security recreational water supply, which was initially set at 3090 ML annually. The 2023-24 allocation is low, and luckily there is significant carryover from last year (2,447ML) due to the wet year and lakes and weirs receiving inflows from their respective natural catchments.

Table 3: GWMWater presentation data

Recreational allocation for 2023-24 season

- 20% allocation as at September 2023.
- 2,447 ML available as carryover from 2022-23 season.
- Sufficient water available to meet 2023-24 supply plan

 StorageManager <small>WIMMERA-GLENELG SYSTEM</small>			
Seasonal Allocation for September 2023			
	Entitlement (Megalitres)	Announced Allocation	Volume Available (Megalitres)
Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water			
Commonwealth Environmental Water Office	28,000	0.0%	21,725
Glenelg Compensation Flow	3,300	25.0%	4,395
Recreation	3,090	20.0%	3,065
Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Product	44,720	81.0%	118,856
Coliban Water			
Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Product	300	81.0%	583
Wannon Water			
Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Product	2,120	81.0%	8,716
Victorian Environmental Water Holder			
Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Product	40,560	81.0%	80,567
Wetlands	1,000	25.0%	1,261

It is evident that the Yarriambiack Shire Council's recreational waterways are not receiving the assured high-security recreational water supply, as originally promised, and prominently advocated as one of the key benefits of channel decommissioning and pipeline construction.

RELEVANT LAW

Water Act 1989

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021-2025: Strategic Objective 1: A Vibrant and Diversified Economy

Council Plan 2021-2025: Strategic Objective 3: A Robust and Thriving Environment

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable

OPTIONS

- a) The council could opt to not advocate and leave this matter to GWMWater and the recreational water bodies to advocate on behalf of the community.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Water security of recreational lakes and weir pools is vital for Yarriambiack Shire as water bodies promote tourism and visitation to our Shire, stimulating the local economy.

Social: Lakes and weir pools are identified as facilitating positive social health and wellbeing outcomes through enabling fishing, water recreation activities such as canoeing, boating, skiing, and swimming.

Environmental: Water flows in weir pools and lakes enhance water quality for fish, aquatic plants, and systems. Also provides a habitat for fish populations.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

During the development of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Business case, significant community consultation was undertaken. This was facilitated by GWMWater.

Refer to: [Constructing the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline - GWMWater](#)

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not applicable for this report.

RISK

Utilising the Risk Management Framework the following assessment has been made:

<i>Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level</i>	<i>Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk</i>	<i>Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level</i>
Strategy Execution and Change Management Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Advocacy is paramount to ensuring Council can enact: Council Plan 2021-2025. Economic Development Strategy; and Tourism Strategy Strategic Priorities.	Maintains Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

- Western Region Sustainable Water Strategy
- Wimmera Mallee Tourism Strategy

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

14.3 NOTICE OF MOTION: PATCHEWOLLOCK SEA-LAKE ROAD

Presented by Mayor Kylie Zanker

SUMMARY

On 23 November 2023 a tragic accident occurred on the Patchewollock Sea-Lake Road where two people lost their lives, and a man was airlifted to hospital after a truck and motorhome collided.

This paper aims to highlight the communities concerns and address their request for advocacy to draw the Department of Transport and Planning's attention to this stretch of road.

Recommended Motion:

That Council:

- a) Continue its advocacy to the Department of Transport and Planning in relation to the condition of the Patchewollock - Sea Lake Road, drawing attention to the width, current speed limit, condition and vegetation growth surrounding the road.
- b) Write to the Hon. Minister Horne, Minister Roads and Road Safety regarding the Patchewollock - Sea Lake Road, highlighting community concerns.
- c) Advocate to both the Minister and Department Transport and Planning to develop a media campaign highlighting the risks associated with driving on rural roads, especially during periods of cropping and harvest, which will see more trucks and large machinery on the road.
- d) Develop a one-page advocacy document to highlight the community's safety concerns in relation to the Patchewollock - Sea Lake Road.

Resolution:

Moved Cr A McLean Seconded Cr C Lehmann

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

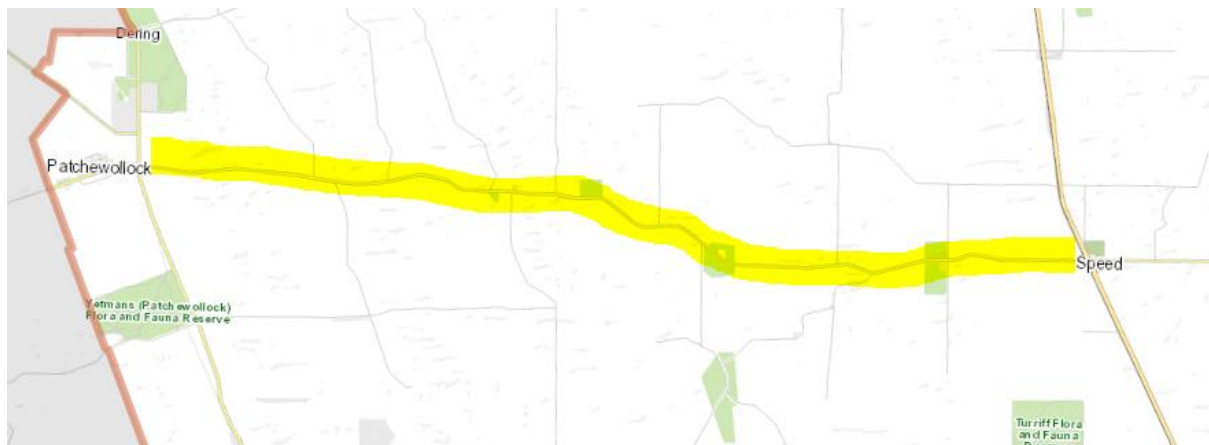
ATTACHMENTS

Nil

DISCUSSION

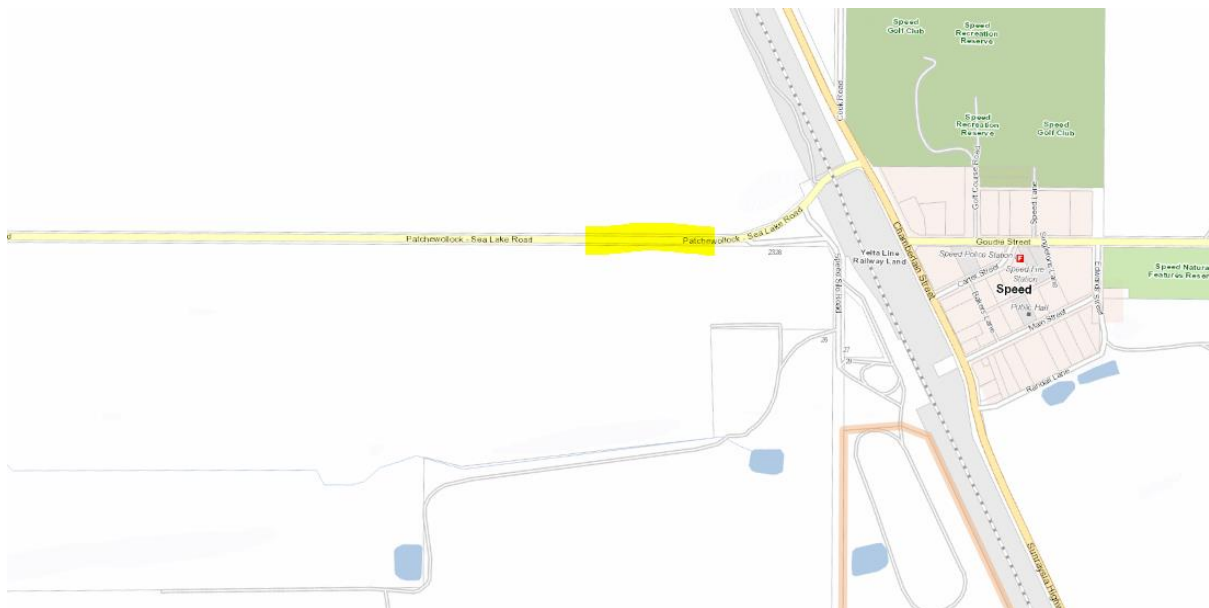
On 23 November 2023 a tragic accident occurred on the Patchewollock Sea – Lake Road, where two people lost their lives, and another person was seriously injured. This road is a Department of Transport and Planning, Vic Roads, C Class Road.

The section of road (identified below) between Patchewollock and Speed has raised significant community concern, in relation to its condition, width, speed limit and vegetation overhang.



Yarriambiack Shire Council has identified this road as a Priority C Class Road for Maintenance and was included in our "All Roads Lead to Yarriambiack" Advocacy document, that was utilised during the past Federal and State Election periods.

Council has also been strongly advocating for the repair to the Patchewollock - Sea Lake Road after the significant rain event in October 2022, which has caused a section of the road to lift, creating a safety hazard. Whilst this section of road is not where the fatality occurred, it demonstrates the condition of the road between Speed and Patchewollock. At a recent meeting with the Department of Transport and Planning, it was confirmed this section of the road would be repaired soon.



On the 27 November 2023, our CEO contacted the DoTP and highlighted community concerns regarding the section of the road where the fatality occurred and their general fears regarding the condition of the road. This contact was prompted by Cr McLean who had received a call from a concerned resident.

This accident has caused unrest (and elements of outrage) in our community, with points being raised regarding the speed limit (due to the condition – recommend reducing), the trees (overhang – impacting view), the width of the road and lack of lines.

The community is also concerned that as Patchewollock is part of the Silo Art trail, it encourages tourists with Caravans to visit our region. Whilst our community welcomes visitors and tourists alike, they are not conditioned to our roads, and have little awareness of how to deal with trucks and machinery during harvest and cropping seasons.

The Department of Transport and Planning have confirmed they are currently undertaking a review of the circumstances that surrounded the fatality and are liaising directly with Victoria Police. Once the review is complete, they will commence conversations with Council regarding the treatment required.

As a Council we understand that after the October 2022 Floods and Significant Rain Event, much of the Victorian Road network is distressed and requires some type of maintenance and repairs. We also acknowledge this takes time, resources, and money, and in an environment of significant skills and labour shortage it may take some time for inspections and works to be undertaken. However, this will not be a deterrent to continue raising the issues with Ministers, and Officers within the Department of Transport and Planning.

We will also continue to advocate for a media campaign to raise awareness of driving throughout rural Victoria in times of harvest and cropping when many trucks and machinery are on the road.

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020

Road Management Act 2004

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

- All Roads Lead to Yarriambiack Advocacy document
- Council Plan 2021-2025: Strategic Objective 1: A Vibrant and Diversified Economy

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Nil

OPTIONS

Councillors could choose not to support this motion, leaving the advocacy to remain an internal activity.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: The road network is vital to ensuring economic prosperity for our region. Agriculture is our largest industry, contributing 37% of total output and also our largest employing industry with 28% of total jobs. Yarriambiack produces 11% of Victoria's gross farm value of wheat, 16% of barley, 19% of chickpeas, 45% of lentils, and 11% of other pulses.

Social: The road network connects our Silo Art Trail which promotes tourism and social connection and inclusion activities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Community has been encouraged to report their concerns through to Vic Roads, via their online report an issue portal.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not Applicable.

RISK

Utilising the Risk Management Framework the following assessment has been made:

<i>Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level</i>	<i>Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk</i>	<i>Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level</i>
Strategy Execution and Change Management Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Council's role is to advocate for improvements to the road network to promote safety, address hazards and assist with facilitating economic prosperity.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Failing to act on community concerns and raise their matters with State Government bodies and appropriate Ministers could lead to the community feeling disillusioned with Council, and could generate unrest, which could lead to the reputational damage of Council.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Political Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Council needs to ensure that it advocates for realistic solutions and does not transfer or insight blame. The current economic environment and the constraints need to be considered in the broader context of decision making and advocacy.	Maintains Residual Risk Level

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

15 REPORTS FOR DECISION

15.1 Hopetoun Recreation Reserve Masterplan

Prepared by Rebecca Botheras, Sport and Recreation Co-Ordinator

SUMMARY

The Yarriambiack Shire Council sought funding and allocated their own funds to develop a Masterplan for the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve. The Yarriambiack Shire Council are the landowner of the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve.

Within the Recreation Reserve, several facilities are nearing the end of their lifecycle, are non-compliant with current facility standards, and/or no longer meeting the need and demands of the community. As such, the Recreation Reserve will require strategic decision making and investment over the coming years.

This report intends to present the final Hopetoun Recreation Reserve Masterplan to Council for consideration and endorsement.

Recommended Motion:

That Council:

- e) Adopt the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve Masterplan; and
- f) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to seek funding opportunities for the implementation of the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve Masterplan.

Resolution:

Moved Cr C Lehmann Seconded Cr A McLean

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment: Hopetoun Recreation Reserve Masterplan](#)

DISCUSSION

In June 2022, Yarriambiack Shire Council received funding through the Victorian Government's 2021-22 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund – Planning Stream to develop a Masterplan for the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve.

ROSS Planning was awarded Contract C319-2023 following a Public Request for Tender Process that took place between 30 September and 10 November 2022, to develop the Hopetoun Recreation Masterplan.

Hopetoun Recreation Reserve Masterplan:

The Hopetoun Recreation Reserve is a well-used sport and recreation precinct owned by the Council and managed by the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve Committee Inc. It is the home of two sporting clubs providing opportunities in AFL, netball, and cricket. Between them, these clubs are home to more than 200 players with activity undertaken across the year.

In addition to the formal sporting opportunities, the Reserve also includes the community skatepark, and is regularly used for active recreation activities such as walking and/or running.

However, many of the existing assets are beyond their useful lives, and some are surplus to the need of the user groups and broader community, resulting in scope to re-think the existing layout and arrangements within the Reserve. As such, a 10-year

strategic Masterplan has been developed following an extensive community engagement process including user groups, the broader Hopetoun community, Council staff, key stakeholders including Government agencies and State Sporting Associations.

This strategic Masterplan identifies several priorities that the Hopetoun Community believes are of critical importance in ensuring sustainability and the continuation of quality sport and active recreation opportunities, and general community events. The Hopetoun Community will use this strategic Masterplan to guide their decision making in relation to infrastructure developments over the next 10 years to ensure the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve can cater for the existing needs of the community, and the future demands placed upon it.

The indicative costings highlight a summary of the investment that is required to implement the key priorities of the Masterplan. The table below summarises the indicative costings and key priorities:

Description	Total
Short Term Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Recreation Node <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove skatepark and build new pump track. Landscaping, shade structures and water bubbler Ancillary features (such as half-court basketball court, rebound wall) Replacement / upgrade of oval irrigation system 	\$435,000 approx.
Medium Term Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refurbishment of Hopetoun Community Grandstand Upgrade playground Landscaping (including shade) of playground / netball courts area. Extension of pavilion roof to create shaded spectator / viewing area. Treatment of gravel track to allow for use as community off-street walking track. Removal of various infrastructure (sheds, sheep yards, etc) 	\$360,000 approx. (grandstand not costed due to heritage requirements)
Long Term Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of small spectator hill (and associated drainage) Formalise and upgrade existing sealed car park. Develop new parking area off Mitchell Place (if demand is demonstrated) 	\$265,000 approx.

Finally, the overall intention of the Masterplan is to have a 10-year implementation period, while seeking external funding in partnership with the Australian and Victorian Governments and the communities to achieve the outcomes.

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021 – 2025: Strategic Objective 2 – A healthy and inclusive community
 Yarriambiack Shire Council Sport and Recreation Strategy 2016-2025: Planning principles addressing benefits to the community, community need, accessibility, sustainability, multipurpose, and diversity of opportunities.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

29 June 2022 – adoption of 2022/2023 budget which included Council's Contribution for the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve and Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplans

28 June 2023 – adoption of 2023/2024 budget which included a carryover of the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve and Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan funding allocation.

22 November 2023 – adoption of the Minyip Recreation Reserve and Rabi Park, Murtoa Masterplans

OPTIONS

- a) Council could choose to reject the recommendation and request further community consultation be undertaken on the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve Masterplan.
- b) Council could choose to reject the recommendation and request further amendments be made to the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve Masterplan.

It is important to note that the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve Masterplan is jointly funded by the State Government. In line with the Funding Agreement the Council has in place with the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, the Council is required to adopt and submit the final Masterplan to the Department by 15 December 2023.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic – development of the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve Masterplan will provide Council and the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve Committee with strategic direction for the management and development of the facilities into the future. This in turn will assist with infrastructure investment and subsequent economic benefits to the Hopetoun Community.

Social – Infrastructure investment to provide modern sport and recreation facilities encourages and supports participation, social interaction and improved health and wellbeing outcomes.

Environmental - environmental sustainability has been considered when establishing key design principles in the preparation of the Masterplan, with specific focus on water management and renewal energy initiatives.

Financial - fully implementing the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve Masterplan is going to require an indicative financial investment exceeding \$1 million (costs are only indicative and will be determined by the scope of works undertaken and the current market). This would require funding from the State and Federal Government, along with requiring an investment from Council and the Community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Hopetoun Recreation Reserve Masterplan was developed in close consultation with the Hopetoun community. Initially, onsite Community Consultation sessions were held on the 14th & 15th March 2023 with ROSS Planning, followed by an online community survey that was held for a period of 28 days. ROSS Planning also undertook one-on-one phone calls with key stakeholders and made visits to the local schools. In addition, the DRAFT Masterplans were released out onto Public Exhibition from the 11th August – 14th September 2023 for review and comment. ROSS Planning returned on the 15th & 16th August to present the DRAFT Masterplan to the committee and broader community at onsite meetings. The Masterplan has subsequently taken on board the feedback from the community engagement, has been revised and presented as final.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Gender Impact Assessment (GIA)		Status
Does this Council report recommendation		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) Introduce a new policy, program and/or service; or		A GIA has been completed.
b) Is it a review of a policy, program and/or service; that directly and significantly impacts the public?		NO <input type="checkbox"/> A GIA is not required.
Link to Gender Impact Assessment	GIA – Hopetoun Recreation Reserve Masterplan	

RISK

Utilising the Risk Management Framework the following assessment has been made:

Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level	Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk	Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Developing a Masterplan for the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve indicates Council's commitment to working with the Hopetoun Community to identify priority projects, backed by strategic planning to guide future infrastructure investment.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The Hopetoun Recreation Reserve Masterplan has identified that an indicative financial investment exceeding \$1 million is required to implement and deliver the infrastructure investments outlined in the Masterplan.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Program and Project Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The development of the Masterplan identifying different projects as part of one overarching document allows for strategic and coordinated project planning. The structure of the plan into clear deliverable phases provides direction for required funding applications for future infrastructure investment.	Maintains Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Active Victoria 2022-2026

AFL Preferred Community Facility Guidelines 2024

Netball Australia National Facilities Policy

Tennis Australia National Facilities Planning and Development Guide

Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

15.2 Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan

Prepared by Rebecca Botheras, Sport and Recreation Co-Ordinator

SUMMARY

The Yarriambiack Shire Council sought funding and allocated their own funds to develop a Masterplan for the Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct. The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DECCA) owns the Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct, but with the Precinct being managed by Council.

Within the precinct, several facilities are nearing the end of their lifecycle, are non-compliant with current facility standards, and/or no longer meeting the need and demands of the community. As such, the precinct requires strategic decision making and investment over the coming years.

This report intends to present the final Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan to the Council for consideration and endorsement.

Recommended Motion:

That Council:

- a) Adopt the Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan; and
- b) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to seek funding opportunities for the implementation of the Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan.

Resolution:

Moved Cr G Massey Seconded Cr T Hamilton

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment: Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan](#)

DISCUSSION

In June 2022, Yarriambiack Shire Council received funding through the Victorian Government's 2021-22 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund – Planning Stream to develop a Masterplan for the Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct.

ROSS Planning was awarded Contract C319-2023 following a Public Request for Tender Process that took place between 30 September and 10 November 2022, to develop the Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan.

Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan:

The Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct is a well-used sport and active recreation precinct, and a multi-purpose community event and activation space owned by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DECCA), and is managed by the Yarriambiack Shire Council.

The Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct incorporates the Warracknabeal Leisure Centre (including community 24/7 gym), Skatepark, Senior Citizens Building, Library, Council Offices, and the grassed areas surrounding the above-mentioned buildings.

However, many of the existing assets within the Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct are beyond their useful lives, are no longer meeting the needs of the Warracknabeal Community, and/or there are opportunities to reactivate the space and utilise existing infrastructure for multi-purpose users. As such, there are opportunities to re-think the existing layout and arrangements with the Recreation precinct.

Subsequently, a 10-year strategic Masterplan has been developed following an extensive community engagement process including user groups, the broader Warracknabeal Community, council staff, key stakeholders including Government agencies and State Sporting Associations.

This strategic Masterplan identifies several priorities that the Warracknabeal Community believes are of critical importance in ensuring sustainability and the continuation of quality sport and active recreation opportunities, and general community events. Council and the Warracknabeal Community will use this strategic Masterplan to guide their decision making in relation to infrastructure developments over the next 10 years to ensure the Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct can cater for the existing needs of the community, and the future demands placed upon it.

The indicative costings highlight a summary of the investment that is required to implement the key priorities of the Masterplan. The table below summarises the indicative costings and key priorities:

Description	Total
Short Term Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Street style skate plaza in an agreed location • Creation of new community hub • New outdoor break-out area for Council staff and visitors (including shade, seating, and tables) 	\$380,000
Medium Term Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant landscaping of site, including road frontages • Creation of connection between the Senior Citizens Building and the Library • Formalise vehicle access and parking off Jamouneau Street (between Senior Citizens and Technical Services Building) 	\$200,000
Long Term Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible re-purposing of one or both squash courts to better accommodate table tennis • Subject to above, investigate relocation of toilets / change to area currently used by table tennis (due to age of existing toilets / change facilities and gym users having access to whole of Centre) • Formalise vehicle access and on-site parking to the north of Leisure Centre (if demand is demonstrated) 	\$250,000

Finally, the overall intention of the Masterplan is to have a 10-year implementation period, while seeking external funding in partnership the Australian and Victorian Governments and the communities to achieve the outcomes.

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021 – 2025: Strategic Objective 2 – A healthy and inclusive community

Yarriambiack Shire Council Sport and Recreation Strategy 2016-2025: Planning principles addressing benefits to the community, community need, accessibility, sustainability, multipurpose, and diversity of opportunities.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

29 June 2022 – adoption of 2022/2023 budget which included Council's Contribution for the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve and Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplans

28 June 2023 – adoption of 2023/2024 budget which included a carryover of the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve and Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan funding allocation.

22 November 2023 – adoption of the Minyip Recreation Reserve and Rabi Park, Murtoa Masterplans

OPTIONS

- a) Council could choose to reject the recommendation and request further community consultation be undertaken on the Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan
- b) Council could choose to reject the recommendation and request further amendments be made to the Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan

It is important to note that the Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan is jointly funded by the State Government. In line with the Funding Agreement the Council has in place with the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, the Council is required to adopt and submit the final Masterplan to the Department by 15 December 2023.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic – development of the Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan will provide Council with strategic direction for the management and development of the facilities into the future. This in turn will assist with infrastructure investment and subsequent economic benefits to the Warracknabeal Community.

Social – Infrastructure investment to provide modern sport and recreation facilities encourages and supports participation, social interaction and improved health and wellbeing outcomes.

Environmental - environmental sustainability has been considered when establishing key design principles in the preparation of the Masterplan, with specific focus on water management and renewal energy initiatives.

Financial - fully implementing the Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan is going to require an indicative financial investment exceeding \$1 million (costs are only approx. due to the specific nature of possible works involved and the current market). This would require funding from the State and Federal Government, along with requiring an investment from the Community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan was developed in close consultation with the Warracknabeal Communities. Initially, onsite Community Consultation sessions were held on the 14th & 15th March 2023 with ROSS Planning, followed by an online community survey that was opened for a period of 28 days. ROSS Planning also undertook one-on-one phone calls with key stakeholders and made visits to the local schools. In addition, the DRAFT Masterplans were released out onto Public Exhibition from the 11th August – 14th September 2023 for review and comment. As well as this, ROSS Planning returned on the 15th & 16th August to present the DRAFT Masterplans to the committees and broader communities at onsite meetings. The Masterplan has subsequently taken on board the feedback from the community engagement, has been revised and presented as final.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Gender Impact Assessment (GIA)		Status
Does this Council report recommendation		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Introduce a new policy, program and/or service; or		A GIA has been completed.
d) Is it a review of a policy, program and/or service; that directly and significantly impacts the public?		NO <input type="checkbox"/>
		A GIA is not required.
Link to Gender Impact Assessment	GIA – Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan	

RISK

Utilising the Risk Management Framework the following assessment has been made:

Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level	Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk	Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Developing a Masterplan for the Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct indicates Council's commitment to working with the Warracknabeal Community to identify priority projects, backed by strategic planning to guide future infrastructure investment.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct Masterplan has identified that an indicative financial investment exceeding \$1 million is required to implement and deliver the infrastructure investments outlined in the Masterplan.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Program and Project Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The development of the Masterplan identifying different projects as part of one overarching document allows for strategic and coordinated project planning. The structure of the plan into clear deliverable phases provides direction for required funding applications for future infrastructure investment.	Maintains Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Active Victoria 2022-2026

AFL Preferred Community Facility Guidelines 2024

Netball Australia National Facilities Policy

Tennis Australia National Facilities Planning and Development Guide

Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

15.3 Hopetoun Caravan Park Masterplan

Prepared by Tom Huf, Community and Economic Development Officer

Presented by Sarah Collins, Manager Community Strengthening and Engagement

SUMMARY

The need for a Masterplan for the Hopetoun Caravan Park stemmed from the decision of the Hopetoun Bowling Club to decommission their damaged second green in favour for additional caravan sites to address shortages of powered sites at peak times of visitation. Additionally, a number of issues impacting the operation, amenities and visitor experience at the park needed to be addressed.

14 key directions were identified by the consultants through site visits and consultation with Council staff and key stakeholders. High priority key directions include:

- Upgrading electrical conduit in the southern half of the park to address overloading issues significantly impacting visitors to the park as well as staff during peak usage, particularly during summer,
- Establishing permanent site numbering,
- Providing disabled access in the existing amenities block,
- Diversion of the poorly drained area in front of cabins number 7 and 8,
- Providing wayfinding signage and a map of the park at the entrances as well as centrally at the amenities block,
- The addition of three large, powered van sites at the location of the old bowling green.

Recommended Motion:

That Council:

- a) Adopt the Hopetoun Caravan Park Masterplan 2023.
- b) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to seek funding opportunities for the implementation of the Hopetoun Caravan Park Masterplan.

Resolution:

Moved Cr A McLean Seconded Cr G Massey

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment 1: Hopetoun Caravan Park Master Plan Report](#)

[Attachment 2: Final Master Plan Hopetoun Caravan Park](#)

[Attachment 3: Hopetoun Caravan Park Public Feedback](#)

DISCUSSION

Yarriambiack Shire Council began works to draft the caravan park Masterplan that would include a number of recommendations to expand the footprint of the caravan park, as well as address issues impacting the operation, amenity and visitor experience at the park. Consideration was also given to provisioning for a number of different operational models for the park including outsourcing of park operations. Recommendations were made following key stakeholder consultation, several site visits, expertise, and past experience.

Upgrading electrical conduit in the southern half of the park is required to address overloading issues significantly impacting visitors to the park as well as staff during peak usage, particularly during summer. Eliminating the loss of power to cabins and the amenities block will improve the visitor experience and reduce after hours call outs for Council staff and contractors for the private cabins in the park.

Establishing permanent site numbering, wayfinding signage and maps will allow for a greater visitor experience as well as help with the management of the park and visitors, integrating with Council's new caravan park booking system.

Providing disabled access in the existing amenities block through better utilisation of the current storeroom, as well as accessible paths will address a severe shortage of disabled access amenities in Hopetoun and address a need quite often requested of current and former caravan park staff. The recommended improvements to the current amenity block provide a cost-effective alternative solution to demolishing and replacing the existing building.

Diversion of the poorly drained area in front of cabins number 7 and 8 will lead to better parking in front of the cabins and reduce maintenance and the risk of damage to assets.

The addition of 3 large, powered van sites on the old bowling green was identified not only in the consultation for the Masterplan but was also suggested during consultation regarding the use of the old scout hall.

Creating greater capacity will allow more visitors to stay in town during peak periods, an example being the annual week-long bowls carnival held in town where prospective players are unable to enter due to not having enough available accommodation in town for the week. Van sites would require power heads and fire safety infrastructure such as a fire hose reel.

Other key directions identified include:

- Improving the connectivity between the caravan park and the proposed new powered sites on the old bowling green, allowing for improved amenities and the easier flow of van traffic between the existing park and the new powered sites on the old bowling green.
- Adding flood zone signage in the north-east corner of the park to reduce number of campers parking incorrectly.
- Adding plantings along the informal road to the north of the cabins to slow or restrict traffic flow.
- Adding grey water management in the park to meet regulations.
- Plantings along boundary fencing to improve the amenity of the park.
- Providing new powerheads for existing sites.

Entry to newly proposed sites:

A third exit to the park along Evelyn Street next to the Scout Hall which is currently an unmade extension of Murdoch Street is also proposed to aid exit from the three new sites on the old bowling green. The new exit however is only required if the removal of existing sheds, tanks and shade shelters is not carried out to allow the exit of large vans through the main caravan park site. Further consultation is required to determine if this was possible, though this would considerably cut the costs suggested in the probable costs.

It is also optionally suggested that the 3 new sites be serviced by a 2-unit pod with shower and toilet facility including septic, water, and power connection. Costs and the ability to improve the connection to the main park area and amenities block will dictate the need for pods at the new sites.

Power Upgrades:

The opinion of probable cost indicated expenditure of \$551,100 is inclusive of the required works to upgrade the power at the southern end of the park, and also includes provision for project management of delivery of some of the larger key recommendations. The most considerable cost is the new entrance from Evelyn Street and the paved access road linking the new sites to the existing park. The plantings and pods suggested also add significant cost, but these are lower priority actions and it is conceivable that these could be scaled to make cost savings should it be necessary.

Future Operational Model:

Throughout the formulation of the Masterplan, consideration was given to providing flexibility that would enable a variety of different park management options including the possibility of outsourcing management of the park. The master plan considers the pros and cons of different management models and suggests Council continue to manage the park for a period of 3 years to sure up the facility and usage before exploring other options for its management.

During one of the site visits it was also indicated that assessment of the condition of the Mahogany Gums at the Austin Street entrance may be required. This has been referred internally for assessment.

RELEVANT LAW

- *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*
- Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks and Movable Dwellings Registration and Standards Regulations 2010)
- CFA Caravan Park Fire Safety Guideline 2012

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

- Council Plan 2021-2025
- Community Engagement Policy
- Tree Management Policy

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

N/A

OPTIONS

Council could choose to reject the recommendation and request further community consultation be undertaken on the Hopetoun Caravan Park Masterplan.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental – The Masterplan gives consideration and expert advice to the maintenance and longevity of plantings in the Hopetoun Caravan Park.

Financial – The added capacity for short-term accommodation with power and amenities would boost the economic benefit to the town of Hopetoun, most notably during events like the Hopetoun Bowls Carnival which would be able to accommodate more than the 250 competitors that stay in town for the week-long event every year.

Social – By carrying out the identified action items listed in the Hopetoun Caravan Park Masterplan, the Hopetoun Caravan Park will optimise its ability to meet the social needs of the park in peak and off-peak seasons, contributing positively to the accommodation offerings in Hopetoun, and the wider Yarriambiack Shire.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Two site visits were undertaken by the contractors with Council staff as well as neighbouring community and sporting groups, private cabin owners and past & present park caretakers. Meetings were held individually.

Following the final draft, the master plan was made available on Council's website for public comment for a period of 28 days from 15th September to the 13th October. Groups and individuals with an interest in the park were also notified of the opportunity to provide comment on the master plan.

During this time, a Hopetoun Community meeting was held on Wednesday 4th October, which presented Council with another chance to engage with the Hopetoun Community to seek further feedback on the draft strategy. A total of 3 submissions were received and actions were undertaken to address feedback as per feedback attachment.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Gender Impact Assessment (GIA)		Status
Does this Council report recommendation		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) Introduce a new policy, program and/or service; or		A GIA has been completed.
b) Is it a review of a policy, program and/or service; that directly and significantly impacts the public?		NO <input type="checkbox"/> A GIA is not required.
Link to Gender Impact Assessment	GIA – Hopetoun Caravan Park Master Plan	

RISK

Utilising the Risk Management Framework the following assessment has been made:

Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level	Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk	Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level
Program and Project Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The development of the master plan identifying different projects as part of one overarching document allows for strategic and coordinated project planning.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The development of the master plan identifying different projects as part of one overarching document allows for the coordinated dedication of funding with reduced risk of conflicting projects or developments.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Developing a Masterplan shows Council's commitment to working with the Hopetoun Community to identify Priority Projects and subsequently have a strategic plan in place to guide future infrastructure investment.	Reduces Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Regional Economic Development Strategies – Regional Development Victoria (RDV)

Strategic Direction 2 - Promote growth in the visitor economy, leveraging natural assets and Aboriginal heritage.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

15.4 Tourism Strategy 2023-2027

Prepared by Sarah Collins, Manager Community Strengthening and Engagement

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide endorsement of the proposed Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2023-27 for purposes of community consultation and a public submission process in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Recommended Motion:

That Council

- a) Adopt the Yarriambiack Tourism Strategy 2023-2027; and
- b) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to seek funding opportunities for the implementation of actions.

Resolution:

Moved Cr G Massey Seconded Cr T Hamilton

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment 1: Yarriambiack Tourism Strategy 2023-2027](#)

[Attachment 2: Tourism Strategy Feedback Summary](#)

DISCUSSION

In October 2022, Yarriambiack Shire Council began works to develop a Tourism Strategy and Action Plan addressing future directions and activities in the tourism sector.

Reflecting on a transformational period since the 2015-2019 Economic Development and Tourism Strategy, which has seen Yarriambiack Shire evolve from a 'stop over' location to a genuine tourism destination, Yarriambiack Shire Council are identifying ways to continue to build on the momentum that the Silo Art Trail has created and further establish Yarriambiack Shire in the Visitor Economy. The 2015-2019 strategy in which partnerships and collaborations were key to the achieving an exemplary listing of tourism achievements to date has come to completion and Yarriambiack Shire were presented with the opportunity to develop a Tourism Strategy that was separate to Economic Development initiatives.

Creating a separate strategy aimed solely at the tourism / visitor servicing industry, the document needs to set a clear vision and identify Council's role in achieving the actions stated in the strategy. Continuing to define Yarriambiack's current footprint in this industry allows officers the ability to assess the success of initiatives undertaken in accordance with the strategy.

Tracking visitation data captured at a state level, shows that tourism is continuing to increase since Covid-19 and shows that the popularity of urban getaways is transitioning to rural, untouched, less populated areas that were not able to be explored while in lock down. This places Yarriambiack Shire in a strong position to capitalise on these visitor trends, having an abundance of outdoor, water, and camping offerings across the shire. Noting the already strong market of travellers visiting the Silo Art Trail, the strategy identifies ways that grass-root initiatives, Council projects, and regional promotional efforts can strategically align to increase visitation and spend into townships alongside the Silo Art Trail.

There are several barriers, especially available accommodation to travellers, that will need to be overcome in the short to medium term to achieve these benefits.

The Strategy and Action Plan identifies a number of actionable items and the role that Council will undertake to address these barriers and proposes five key themes and associated actions that indicate Council's role and timeline for delivery to achieve.

1. Evolving Tourist Friendly Towns
2. Enhancing Existing Attractions
3. Exploring the Next Wave of Visitor Attractions
4. A Council who Values Tourism
5. Regional Tourism Collaboration

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

- Council Plan – Objective 1: Our Vibrant and Diverse Economy
- Council Plan – Objective 2: A healthy and inclusive community.
- Council Plan – Objective 3: A robust and thriving environment.
- Council Plan – Objective 4: A Council which serves its community.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council Meeting – 28 October 2015 – 11.6 Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2015-2019

OPTIONS

- a) Council could choose not to endorse the proposed Tourism Strategy and Action Plan and seek further community feedback and alterations.
- b) Council could choose not to endorse the proposed Tourism Strategy and Action Plan and seek further assessment of feedback received.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Social: The strategy and action plan provides clear guidance on future tourism directions and activities with due consideration of data, trends and themes, the plan aims to enhance the social benefits of tourism within Yarriambiack Shire.

Economic: The aim of developing a comprehensive Tourism Strategy and Action Plan is to enhance economic capacity of the visitor servicing industry within the Yarriambiack municipality.

Financial: The Strategy and Action Plan has been prepared with reference to Council's internal staffing resources and budget for the Tourism Service, with commitments and actions being realistic and obtainable to the current resourcing level available.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The formulation for the strategy involved input through workshops or individual feedback with key stakeholders including Councillors and the Yarriambiack Tourism Advisory Committee of Council members and has leveraged relevant existing research and recent engagement undertaken across the Wimmera Mallee Tourism Region.

The Tourism Strategy and Action Plan was made available for community feedback in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy between the dates of 10 November 2023 to 8 December 2023. Survey feedback asked for comments relating to priorities in the strategy document that address the strategy vision, ranking identified challenges community currently face, and further comments on challenges that

communities face regarding population stability. Finally, a question seeking general feedback on the Tourism Strategy was presented.

A total of five submissions were received from members of the community of four different towns. *Attachment 2: Tourism Strategy Feedback Summary* outlines the feedback received, and identifies the work currently occurring across the Shire, and wider Tourism region, that address these comments, and identifies any reasonable actions that can be undertaken by Yarriambiack Shire Council. After assessing the feedback and comments of support relating to the initiatives identified in the Action plan, no further changes were required to be made in the Strategy.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not applicable for this report

RISK

Utilising the Risk Management Framework the following assessment has been made:

<i>Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level</i>	<i>Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk</i>	<i>Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level</i>
Strategy Execution and Change Management Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The Tourism Strategy will provide clear actions that link to the Council Plan and drive the strategic and operational activities of Council for the five-year period 2023-2027	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The Tourism Strategy and Action Plan has been considered with reference to Council's current resourcing. The Strategy outlines realistic and obtainable initiatives to be undertaken and clearly defines Council's role.	Maintains Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Economic Development Strategy - *Strategic Direction 2 - Promote growth in the visitor economy, leveraging natural assets and Aboriginal heritage.*

Wimmera Mallee Tourism strategy documents.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

15.5 Stabilisation Works Contract Extension C274-2021

Prepared by Joel Turner, Manager Infrastructure and Works

Presented by Tony Caccaviello, Chief Operating Officer

SUMMARY

In January 2021, Council released a Request for Tender seeking tenders from qualified contractors to undertake pavement stabilisation works on Council roads; at the date of tender close on 22 February 2021 four submissions were received. Through Council's evaluation process and Council resolution on 28 April 2021 Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd were awarded the contract for a term of three years (with the option for two x one-year extensions). This report seeks to extend the contract by 1 year.

Recommended Motion

That Council:

- a) Endorse that Fulton Hogan Industries be offered the option of a one-year extension on Contract C274-2021 Road Stabilisation Works, with the contract to be extended by one year from 1 May 2024 to 30 April 2025.
- b) Further endorse the Chief Executive Officer have the option of exercising the remaining one further (and final) year extension option available to Council, extending the contract from 1 May 2025 to 30 April 2026 without the need to make a further recommendation to Council when, at which time all extension options under this contract would be exhausted.
- c) Approve the affixing of the Common Seal to the Contract Extension Agreement (if required) between Yarriambiack Shire Council and Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd in accordance with Council's Common Seal and Conduct at Meetings Local Law 2020.

Resolution:

Moved Cr C Heintze Seconded Cr A McLean

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment: Value for Money Evaluation Report - C274 Road Stabilisation Works](#)

DISCUSSION

The initial term of this contract was for the period 01 May 2021 to 30 April 2024, with optional one (1) plus one (1) year extensions at Council's sole discretion.

The pricing component of the contract is a schedule of rates. The Schedule of Rates is subject to the rise and fall in line with the CPI movements each year for the duration of the contract, with the Schedule of Rates being adjusted each year using the Melbourne index for All Groups. The adjustment occurred from year two (2) of the contract commencement anniversary – the indexation date used for calculations is the most recent quarterly data prior to the anniversary date.

Council typically completes \$310,000 worth of stabilisation works annually with slight variations depending on road condition.

This report now seeks approval from Council to exercise the first one-year extension option and extend the contract for one year for the period 1 May 2024 to 30 April 2025.

This report also seeks further approval that the Chief Executive Officer be granted permission by Council to further extend the contract for one further (and final year), without the need to make a further recommendation to Council to extend the contract from 1 May 2025 to 30 April 2026.

Utilising the contract extension option will eliminate the need to retender these works and it is considered a more attractive option for both Council and suppliers to offer longer term contracts when works of this nature are undertaken on an annual basis as it saves time and resources from both a Council perspective (eliminating need to prepare documents, advertise, evaluate submissions) and also from a supplier perspective.

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020 – Division 2 Procurement

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021-2025

Key Objective 1: A Vibrant and Diversified Community Improved Maintenance of Roads

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Minutes of Closed Session held on 28 April 2021 – Contract C274-2021

OPTIONS

Council could elect not to extend the contract with the current supplier and readvertise the Stabilisation Works tender.

If Council was to further extend the contract with Fulton Hogan Industries, this would mean Council would not have to tender the works in the immediate future.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The continuation of this contract will eliminate the need to allocate resources to the readvertising and evaluation of submissions received and taking this into consideration, Council is not likely to achieve greater value for money going out to market.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not applicable for this report

RISK

<i>Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level</i>	<i>Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk</i>	<i>Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level</i>
Program and Project Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Extending the current contract enables the capital works program to be delivered in a timely manner, within planned budget.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Extending contract is envisaged to achieve greater value for money.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Corporate Governance, Compliance and Liability Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	The option to enact a one year extension option via a Council resolution provides for a transparent decision-making process.	Reduces Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

15.6 Tiny Towns Funding Application and Yaapect Bus Shelter Capital Works Endorsement

Prepared by Tom Huf, Community & Economic Development Officer and Sarah Collins, Manager Community Strengthening & Engagement.

SUMMARY

In September 2023 Council adopted the Yaapect Streetscape Masterplan that centered around addressing feedback relating to landmarks & signage, planting, footpaths & kerbs, and rest stops. The Masterplan also included cost estimates for the proposed works and was ready to support funding applications when they became available to Yarriambiack Shire Council.

The Tiny Towns funding, administered by Regional Development Victoria offers grants to eligible towns up to the value of \$50,000. This funding announcement provides Yarriambiack Shire Council with the ability to seek the full amount of this funding to carry out initiatives identified in the Yaapect Streetscape Masterplan.

Yarriambiack Shire Council have capital works funds available to put towards a co-contribution for the funding and also contribute to the costs of a school bus shelter.

This project will deliver high priority works identified in the master plan including:

- Bus shelter for students catching the school bus every day from Yaapect,
- Town entrance signage at the Northern and Southern end of Yaapect,
- The plantings of native trees along Byrne Street,
- Planting of low maintenance garden beds along Byrne Street,
- Wayfinding signage.

Recommended Motion:

That Council.

- a) Support the Tiny Towns Funding application to deliver on the Yaapect Streetscape Master Plan and Yaapect Community Action Plan objectives as outlined in this report.

Resolution:

Moved Cr C Lehmann Seconded Cr A McLean

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment 1: Tiny Towns Fund Program Guidelines](#)

[Attachment 2: Yaapect Community Action Plan](#)

DISCUSSION

Bus Shelter – Capital Works:

Of note in this Yaapect streetscape project is the school bus shelter for Cowan Street. Around 15 school children catch a bus to school every day from Yaapect, however the current pick-up location is not adequate. A shelter is required to provide protection from the elements for the children and formalise the location of the bus stop on a road reserve whose use can sometimes spill over into private land.

The implementation of a bus shelter was identified in the October 2023 Yaapeet Community Action Plan as the highest priority project for the Yaapeet township. It is essential that this asset be added to deliver safe and adequate facilities for essential services. The current location is preferred by Yaapeet parents and community members as a safe off-street location, rather than the public bus stop in Byrne Street. The project was also identified as part of the Yaapeet Streetscape Masterplan in early 2023 and preliminary costings were provided as part of this plan.

The school bus shelter will be funded and delivered by Council on the road reserve surrounded by Cowan Street and Woods Street, bound to the east by an informal continuation of Mellington's Lane which crosses private property. The project will be delivered by suitably qualified builders in line with the plans that have been prepared by street furniture suppliers. The project will be project managed by Council officers.

Tiny Towns Funding– Yaapeet Streetscape:

The Tiny Towns Fund through Regional Development Victoria has been identified as a funding opportunity for Council to deliver on substantial key moves identified in the Yaapeet Streetscape Masterplan and Community Action Plan. It aims to support local communities to deliver quality tourism and community facility projects, such as splash parks and bike trails, playgrounds, community hall and library upgrades, public art and more.

Towns with a population of up to 5,000 people in the 48 Local Government areas of regional Victoria are eligible to apply, as well as Alpine Resorts and Melbourne's 10 interface outer metropolitan Local Government areas.

Up to \$50,000 is available per application – each application requires at least a 25% co-contribution towards the project cost from the applying Local Government body, or 20% from a community organisation.

The town entrance and wayfinding signage will be produced professionally and will involve community consultation to settle on the final design and inclusions. Depending on the final design, professional graphic design may be required and there is the possibility that signage could be installed by the Northern Works team. Several points were received as part of the public consultation relating to the master plan that will need to be considered as part of the design and delivery of signage.

It is important to note that while improving the amenity of Byrne Street was a key driver for the development of the master plan and resulted in the recommendation for the native tree plantings. This was a polarising action that was supported by some residents but not others. Therefore, consultation with individual homeowners, shop owners and residents will be essential to determine the location and concentration of tree plantings along Byrne Street.

Council will apply for \$50,000 through Tiny Towns to deliver on the key actions for Byrne Street (town entrance signage, plantings, trees, and wayfinding signage that will be scaled to fit the overall project budget); and contribute \$17,444.80 in capital works towards the implementation of the bus shelter in Cowan Street as part of an overall Yaapeet streetscape project, which will act as Council's co-contribution towards the project.

The budget for the project is well founded thanks to the development of the Yaapeet Streetscape Masterplan that was recently adopted by Council, as well as other quotes obtained by Council in line with the Procurement Policy.

The planned funding application to the Tiny Towns Fund meets and addresses all eligibility criteria. The application also meets the fund objectives:

- 'Address gaps in community infrastructure and facilities in Victoria's smallest communities'
- 'Build community pride and enhance living, working, socialising and recreation in small towns'.

- 'Support the increased participation in community life and community inclusion of all residents, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians, people living with disability, LGBTQIA+ communities and people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds and isolated communities'.

The successful delivery of this project would also demonstrate the importance of community consultation and support further work in engaging with communities, especially through increased confidence in the development of Community Action Plans and Masterplans.

The co-contribution to support this funding application will be allocated from the \$50,000 Streetscape Capital Works Budget allocation in the 23-24 budget.

RELEVANT LAW

- Building Regulations 2018
- National Construction Code
- *Local Government Act 2020*

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021-2025

- *Key Objective 2: A Healthy And Inclusive Community*
- *Key Objective 3: A Robust And Thriving Environment*
- *Key Objective 4: A Council Who Serves Its Community*

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

15.1 Yaapect Streetscape Master Plan – Adoption of strategy at September Council Meeting 2023

OPTIONS

Nil

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Environment: In the design and delivery stages of the project, consideration has and will be given to:

- Ensuring the low maintenance and relative hardiness of the plantings suggested including trees,
- The amenity of Byrne and Cowan Streets,
- The needs of individual homeowners and residents, especially those who may be impacted by the planting of trees,
- Council's tree policy regarding the recommended trees for Byrne Street.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This project has considerable backing from the community, supported by the community consultation undertaken as part of the Masterplan, and also through its high prioritisation in the Yaapect Community Action Plan.

Yaapect Community Club have been engaged to develop a working group to represent the views of their community in the design of the signage, and to liaise with homeowners and residents along Byrne Street regarding plantings.

Yaapect Streetscape Masterplan:

In consultation with the Yaapect Community Club, two community consultation sessions were held with consultants and Council staff to develop the Yaapect Streetscape Masterplan. Community consultation sessions were advertised through the Yaapect Community Club, Council's website and social media, newspaper ads and Council's newsletter.

Following the final draft, the Masterplan was made available on Council's website for public comment. A letter drop was used to notify residents, and the timeframe for feedback was also extended beyond 28 days. Minor amendments were made following the one submission received where the submission supported or reinforced views of residents at the community consultation sessions.

Yaapeet Community Action Plan:

The Yaapeet Community identified through their Community Action Plan, that the bus shelter was the highest priority on their project lists to provide a safe and adequate shelter for the large number of students that utilise the bus service.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<i>Gender Impact Assessment (GIA)</i>		<i>Status</i>
Does this Council report recommendation		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Introduce a new policy, program and/or service; or		A GIA has been completed.
d) Is it a review of a policy, program and/or service;		NO <input type="checkbox"/>
that directly and significantly impacts the public?		A GIA is not required.
Link to Gender Impact Assessment		GIA – Yaapeet Streetscape Master Plan

RISK

<i>Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level</i>	<i>Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk</i>	<i>Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level</i>
Program and Project Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Dedicated Project Manager for the procurement and construction of the project will reduce project delivery risks.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Several quotes have been sourced to ensure cost accuracy and value for money would be achieved.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Council can be seen delivering on community priorities, supporting the work done by Council that supports the development of township Community Action Plans.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Strategy Execution and Change Management Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The Yaapeet Bus Shelter is identified as a project in Council's adopted Operational Plan for 2023-24.	Reduces Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

<i>Strategy / Plan</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Outcome / Action</i>
Yaapeet Community Action Plan	School Bus Shelter Streetscape works	Supporting the strategic planning of the Yaapeet township by delivering high priority projects for action
Yaapeet Streetscape Master Plan	School Bus Shelter Key Actions 1-4	Delivering on a key action identified as part of the master plan community consultation

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

16 REPORTS FOR NOTING

No applicable for this Agenda.

17 PERMITS ISSUED NOVEMBER 2023

Recommended Motion:

That Council:

Note the permits issued by Council between 1 November 2023 and 30 November 2023

Resolution:

Moved Cr T Hamilton Seconded Cr C Lehmann

That the recommendation be adopted

Carried

Reference No	Description	Address	Date of Issue
Building Permits			
BLD20230362	Construction of Stratco Pergola	Warracknabeal	01/11/2023
BLD20230363	Relocation of Fire Indicator Panel	Warracknabeal	01/11/2023
BLD20230366	Demolition of dwelling and bungalow	Beulah	17/11/2023
Planning Permits			
VS2023005	Construction of a pergola associated with a retail premises	Rupanyup	13/11/2023
TP24-23	Construction of a bus storage facility	Hopetoun	20/11/2023

Reference No	Description	Name / Location	Date of Issue
Local Laws Permits			
09-23	Keep more than the allowed number of animals	Woomelang	13/11/2023
12-23	Street Activity Permit	WAG Scott Street Warracknabeal shopping precinct	03/11 /2023
01-24	The Royal Children Good Friday Appeal – Door Knock Collection and Intersection Collection – Street Activity Permit	Entire Municipality and designated intersections in Warracknabeal, Murtoa and Woomelang	07/11/2023

18 URGENT BUSINESS

Business cannot be admitted as urgent business, other than by resolution of Council. Council must only admit business as urgent if the business:

- a) Cannot safely be deferred until the next Council meeting; or
- b) Involves a matter of urgency, as determined by the CEO.

Councillors may ensure that an issue is listed on an Agenda by submitting a Notice of Motion in accordance with Governance rules, item 2.13.

If the CEO rejects the Notice of Motion, she must provide a response to the Councillor as outlined in 2.13 (e) of the Governance Rules.

19 CLOSED (CONFIDENTIAL) SESSION

That, in accordance with sections 66(1) and 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the meeting be closed to members of the public for consideration of the following confidential items:

Not Applicable.

20 NEXT MEETING

28 February 2023

21 CLOSED