



Yarriambiack
SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Council

26 November 2025

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

34 Lyle Street, Warracknabeal

MEETING OF COUNCIL TO COMMENCE AT 9.30AM

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

We will achieve this shared vision by:

- ✓ Looking after our communities, with an aim of enhancing social connection through better infrastructure, safety, wellbeing, advocacy, health and education services.
- ✓ Supporting the diversification of our economy by focusing on tourism and agriculture.
- ✓ Committing to environmental responsibility by making decisions that consider the impact on our community ecosystem.

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 are now 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

The Chief Executive Officer reads this section as part of the Meeting Governance process.

This Open Council Meeting is to be streamed live, recorded and published online.

I give notice to anyone who is in the gallery, that they may be recorded, and their image may be published online.

Anyone who submits a question as part of item 13 – Public Questions (of this Agenda) will have their name stated and recorded as part of the livestreaming and recording, which is published online.

The Mayor 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, and that will conclude the Meeting of Council, open to the public.

The public can view this livestream or recording 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 livestream, the meeting may continue provided the gallery remains open to the public in accordance with Council's meeting procedures and Governance Rules, clause 2.42.3 (g).

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND PRAYER

Mayor to open the meeting at **9.30am** by acknowledging the Traditional Owners 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 within Wotjobaluk Country and Council pays respects to their Elders past, and present.'

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

Mayor	Andrew McLean	Hopetoun Ward	In Person
Deputy Mayor	Corinne Heintze	Dunmunkle Ward	In Person
Councillor	Melinda Keel	Dunmunkle Ward	In Person
Councillor	Kylie Zanker	Warracknabeal Ward	In Person
Councillor	Karly Kirk	Warracknabeal Ward	Online
Councillor	Chris Lehmann	Hopetoun Ward	

Council Officer	Tammy Smith	Chief Executive Officer	In Person
Council Officer	Tim Rose	Chief Operating Officer	In Person
Council Officer	Anita McFarlane	Chief Financial Officer	In Person
Council Officer	Monique Metlika	Governance Support Officer	In Person

5 APOLOGIES

Name / Role	Description of Leave / Absence

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES 29 OCTOBER 2025 – ORDINARY MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Council held on 29 October 2025 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Resolution:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 29 October 2025, as circulated be taken as read and confirmed.

Moved Cr Zanker

Seconded Cr Heintze

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

6.2 MINUTES 29 OCTOBER 2025 – CLOSED (CONFIDENTIAL) MEETING

Minutes of the Closed (Confidential) meeting of Council held on 29 October 2025 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Resolution:

That the minutes of the Closed (Confidential) Meeting of Council held on 29 October 2025, as circulated be taken as read and confirmed.

Moved Cr Heintze

Seconded Cr Keel

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

6.3 MINUTES 12 NOVEMBER 2025 – STATUTORY MEETING

Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of Council held on 12 November 2025 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Resolution:

That the minutes of the Statutory Meeting of Council held on 12 November 2025, as circulated be taken as read and confirmed.

Moved Cr Keel

Seconded Cr Zanker

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

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 (Chapter 5- Disclosure of Conflict of Interest at Council Meetings).
- 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 ACTIONS

Council Meeting	Recommendation Action	Action Taken
28 August 2024 Item 15.13	Resheet a section of Mellis Road, from Stawell Warracknabeal Road to a property 4.3km to the East.	This job has been delayed at the request of the resident funding the project. Will be deferred until 25/26 financial year.
26 February 2025 Item 15.1	Name the unnamed laneway 04 in Council's Road Register, as "Isbel Lane".	Advertising in Government Gazette has now commenced.
30 June 2025 Item 15.5	Enter into an agreement with the Rupanyup Recreation Reserve outlining that the funds received from the NBN Tower rental must be utilised towards infrastructure upgrades and/or ground and building maintenance at the Rupanyup Recreation Reserve.	Not yet commenced.
29 October 2025 Item 15.5	Enact the first two-year option in accordance with Schedule 1 of the MGM Group (Rupanyup) Pty Ltd, trading as Hurleys Home Hardware Lease from 01 November 2025 to 31 October 2027.	The first two-year option has been enacted. This action is Closed.
29 October 2025 Item 15.8	Provide a report back to Council in 12 months' time, outlining the progress of sourcing alternative grants and/or revenue streams to fund the Automated Weather Station maintenance. Report due by 29 October 2026.	
29 October 2025 Item 15.10	Enact the Lease between Yarriambiack Shire Council and Woomelang Bowling Club Inc for the buildings and land known as Woomelang Bowling Club, 18-20 Gloucester Avenue, Woomelang.	This lease has been enacted. This action is Closed.

9 PETITIONS

No petitions received.

10 MINISTERIAL AND GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCILLORS ONLY

Outgoing		
Date	Recipient	Details
05/11/2025	VicGrid	Western Renewable Energy Zone Councils Submission on the Victorian Access Regime (Northern Grampians, Yarriambiack, Horsham and Buloke Shires)

Incoming		
Date	Sender	Details
03/11/2025	Gaelle Broad MP	Email - Yarriambiack Shire Council - Wishlist Projects
06/11/2025	Emma Kealy MP	Email - Response Received – Warracknabeal Aerodrome Automated Weather Station
12/11/2025	Jaclyn Symes MP Treasurer of Victoria	Letter – Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund

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
10 November 2025	Ordinary Meeting
09 February 2026	Ordinary Meeting
11 May 2026	Ordinary Meeting
10 August 2026	Ordinary Meeting
21 September 2026	Special Financial Statements and Performance Report Meeting

11.2 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING

The Ordinary Audit and Risk Committee Meeting was held on 10 November 2025.

[Attachment: Audit and Risk Committee Minutes – 10 November 2025](#)

Resolution:

The Minutes of the Ordinary Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 10 November 2025 be taken as read and confirmed.

Moved Cr Zanker

Seconded Cr Heintze

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

12 ACTIVITY REPORTS

12.1 MAYOR ACTIVITY REPORT

Mayor Andrew McLean (November)		
Date	Activity	Location
31/10/25	Vic Grid Workshop	Online
06/11/25	CEO Mid-Year Review with Independent Chair and Advisor Christine Mileham	Online
06/11/25	Federation University Presentation - 'Understanding the Impacts of New Developments on Wimmera Southern Mallee'	Horsham
07/11/25	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO Catch Up	Online
07/11/25	Rail Freight Alliance Meeting	Online
12/11/25	Statutory Meeting	Warracknabeal
12/11/25	Team Building Workshop	Warracknabeal
13/11/25	Mayoral Training	Warracknabeal
14/11/25	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO Catch Up	Online
19/11/25	Meeting with Michaela Settle MP	Online
19/11/25	Mayor Notation Discussion and Walk Through with CEO and Governance Support Officer	Warracknabeal
21/11/25	RCV Planning Reform Webinar	Online
21/11/25	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO Catch Up	Online
25/11/25	Citizenship Ceremony Discussion and Walk Through	Warracknabeal
25/11/25	Rural Northwest Health Annual General Meeting	Warracknabeal
25/11/25	Woomelang DDA Meeting	Woomelang

12.2 COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS

Deputy Mayor Corinne Heintze – Dunmunkle Ward (November)		
Date	Activity	Location
31/10/25	Vic Grid - Access and Connections and Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines Workshop	Online
06/11/25	CEO Mid-Year Review with Independent Chair and Advisor Christine Mileham	Online
06/11/25	Federation University Presentation - 'Understanding the Impacts of New Developments on Wimmera Southern Mallee'	Horsham
06/11/25	By Five Presentation	Online
07/11/25	Yarrilinks Annual General Meeting	Minyip
11/11/25	VicGrid - Minyip Solar/Battery Proposals	Online
11/11/25	Remembrance Day Ceremony and Wreath Laying	Minyip
12/11/25	Statutory Meeting	Warracknabeal
12/11/25	Team Building Workshop	Warracknabeal
14/11/25	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO Catch Up	Online
21/11/25	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO Catch Up	Online
21/11/25	RCV Planning Reform Webinar	Online
25/11/25	Citizenship Ceremony Discussion and Walk Through	Online

Cr Melinda Keel – Dunmunkle Ward (November)		
Date	Activity	Location
12/11/25	Statutory Meeting	Warracknabeal
12/11/25	Team Building Workshop	Warracknabeal

Cr Chris Lehmann – Hopetoun Ward (November)		
Date	Activity	Location
06/11/25	CEO Mid-Year Review with Independent Chair and Advisor Christine Mileham	Online
12/11/25	Statutory Meeting	Warracknabeal
12/11/25	Team Building Workshop	Warracknabeal

Cr Karly Kirk – Warracknabeal Ward (November)		
Date	Activity	Location
31/10/25	Vic Grid - Access and Connections and Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines Workshop	Online
06/11/25	CEO Mid-Year Review with Independent Chair and Advisor Christine Mileham	Warracknabeal
06/11/25	Federation University Presentation - 'Understanding the Impacts of New Developments on Wimmera Southern Mallee'	Horsham
06/11/25	By Five Presentation	Online
10/11/25	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	Warracknabeal
12/11/25	Statutory Meeting	Warracknabeal
12/11/25	Team Building Workshop	Warracknabeal
21/11/25	RCV Planning Reform Webinar	Online
21/11/25	Rail Freight Alliance Briefing	Melbourne

Cr Kylie Zanker – Warracknabeal Ward (November)		
Date	Activity	Location
Mayor Activities		
30/10/25	Wimmera Regional Mayor and CEO Meeting	Horsham
30/10/25	Wimmera Catchment Authority Board Meeting	Horsham
31/10/25	VicGrid Access and Connections Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines Workshop	Online
05/11/25	Radio interview with Anthony Thompson	Horsham
06/11/25	CEO Mid-Year Review with Independent Chair and Advisor Christine Mileham	Online
06/11/25	Federation University Presentation - 'Understanding the Impacts of New Developments on Wimmera Southern Mallee'	Horsham
06/11/25	By Five Presentation	Online
10/11/25	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	Warracknabeal
11/11/25	Remembrance Day Event	Warracknabeal
11/11/25	Wimmera Pride Meeting	Horsham
Councillor Activities		
12/11/25	Team Building Workshop	Warracknabeal
12/11/25	VLGA Annual General Meeting	Online
16/11/25	Opening of the Shed Project	Warracknabeal
21/11/25	Western Highway Committee Meeting	Online
24/11/25	Councillor Briefing	Online
24/11/25	ANZAC Park Project Control Group Meeting	Warracknabeal
25/11/25	Rural Northwest Health Annual General Meeting	Online
25/11/25	E2E Growth Introduction Meeting with Warracknabeal Action Group	Warracknabeal

12.3 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTIVITY REPORT

Tammy Smith (November)		
Date	Activity	Location
30/10/25	Wimmera Regional Mayor and CEO Meeting	Horsham
30/10/25	Wimmera Catchment Management Authority Board Meeting	Horsham
31/10/25	Rupanyup Housing Update	Online
31/10/25	Vic Grid Access and Connections and Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines Workshop	Online
03/11/25	Wimmera Victorian Farming Federation Branch Meeting	Horsham
05/11/25	Long Term Financial Plan Presentation to All Staff with LGExperts	Online
05/11/25	Meeting with SES regarding building in Rupanyup	Online
06/11/25	CEO Mid-Year Review with Independent Advisor	Online
06/11/25	Federation University, Understanding the Impacts of New Developments (Energy and Mining) on Farmers in the Wimmera Southern Mallee	Horsham
06/11/25	Wimmera Southern Mallee By Five Presentation	Online
07/11/25	Rural Councils Victoria Executive Meeting	Online
10/11/25	Exploring Opportunities for Connecting Infrastructure – Regional Development Victoria and Developer	Online
10/11/25	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	Warracknabeal
10/11/25	Wimmera Southern Mallee Councils Alliance – CEO Meeting with The Agenda Group	Online
10/11/25	Resource Victoria Land Rehabilitation and Coexistence Discussion	Online
10/11/25	Rupanyup Progress Association Meeting	Rupanyup
11/11/25	Vic Grid Meeting with Minyip Representatives regarding Power Upgrades	Online
11/11/25	Statutory Council Meeting	Warracknabeal
13/11/25	Why Hyper Local Matters – Regional Development Victoria Panel with Critical Minerals proponents (Panellist)	Online
13/11/25	Local Government CEO Dinner	Melbourne
14/11/25	Local Government CEO and Director Forum	Melbourne

Tammy Smith (November)		
14/11/25	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO Meeting	Online
19/11/25	Meeting with Mayor and Governance Support Officer	Warracknabeal
20/11/25	Training – Child Safe Standards, Safeguarding Children Training for Relevant Managers and Leaders	Dimboola
20/11/25	Road Map to Victoria’s Energy Transition – Current and Emerging Issues	Online
21/11/25	Rural Councils Victoria Executive Meeting	Online
21/11/25	Rural Councils Victoria Planning Reform Webinar with Maddocks	Online
21/11/25	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO Meeting	Online
24/11/25	ANZAC Park Project Control Group Meeting	Warracknabeal
25/11/25	Housing Implications of New Economic Development in Yarriambiack Shire – planning session	Warracknabeal
25/11/25	Introduction E2E Growth to Warracknabeal Action Group	Warracknabeal

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 Mayor (Chairperson), or if delegated by the Chairperson, the Chief Executive Officer, a Councillor 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 Councillor / Officer is to respond.

The party submitting the question need not physically attend the Council Meeting, however if they are not physically present at the part of the meeting allocated for public question time, the Mayor (Chairperson) may determine that a verbal answer will not be provided at the meeting and a written answer will instead be communicated after the meeting.

13.1 QUESTIONS SUBMITTED

Name:	Town:
Question:	
Respondent:	
Response:	

14 COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND NOTICE OF MOTIONS

14.1 MAYORS REPORT

On 12 November 2025, I was officially elected as Mayor of the Yarriambiack Shire Council. I approach this position with dedication, recognising that it is both an honour and a privilege to serve and represent our community.

Our advocacy continues, with our Wimmera Southern Mallee Council's Alliance. Our Council supported a joint submission to VicGrid in regard to the Victorian Access Regime. The submission responded to the three consultation papers released by VicGrid on 23 September 2025, being:

1. Access and Connections Consultation Paper;
2. Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines for Renewable Energy and Transmission Projects; and
3. Draft Grid Impact Assessment Guidelines.

Our Council Officers are busy responding to the Environmental Effects Statement process for the Warracknabeal Energy Park. With week one of the hearing being held in Longerenong between 24 and 28 November 2025. The hearing continues until 22 January 2026 and will be held between the Wimmera and Melbourne.

I am pleased to announce the opening of the Warracknabeal Courthouse project this afternoon, marking the successful transformation of the building. This development will serve to strengthen community connections into the future. Additionally, the Wonder Cabinette is scheduled for completion before the end of the year and will be situated on the same site.

This afternoon, I will preside over my first Citizenship Ceremony as Mayor of the Shire during this Councillor term. I am excited to take part in the final legal step for new citizens, which involves making a pledge of commitment to officially become Australian. The ceremony serves as a formal welcome, recognising new citizens as full members of the Australian community and symbolising their sense of belonging and dedication to Australia.

As a Council our advocacy efforts have not waned, and we are actively working in the background to promote housing opportunities in our Shire. We cannot wait to share some of the exciting opportunities that are being presented in the new year.

On a final note, Council has reviewed and finalised its Priority Projects list, which can be found on our website - [Home - Yarriambiack Shire Council](#).

Our high priority projects are:

1. Hopetoun Former School Site development;
2. Housing in a Snapshot Strategy;
3. ANZAC Park redevelopment;
4. Murtoa Recreation Reserve redevelopment;
5. Beulah Supermarket and Precinct; and
6. All Roads Lead to Yarriambiack strategic road network upgrades.

As we approach the State election campaign, we will emphasise the importance of all the strategic projects listed and the valuable benefits they offer to the liveability of our Shire and region.

14.2 FEDERATION UNIVERSITY UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACTS OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS (MINING AND ENERGY) ON WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE

Presented by Mayor Andrew McLean

SUMMARY

Between February and June 2025, seventeen Wimmera Southern Mallee farmers were interviewed about how new industry development, such as wind and solar energy projects, mineral sands mining, and transmission lines are affecting their communities. The project, initiated after discussions with Yarriambiack Shire Council and the Southern Wimmera Renewables Research Association, addressed concerns about the strain these proposals place on farmers, particularly regarding mental health and community connection. The research investigated how farmers navigate heightened expectations and rapid changes in land use, highlighting significant effects on individual well-being, identity, and perceptions of community amid ongoing external pressures.

Resolution:

That Council:

- a) Note the research report, Understanding the Impacts of New Developments (Mining and Energy) on the Wimmera Southern Mallee, conducted by Federation University; and
- b) Acknowledge Yarriambiack Shire Council's role in advocacy to supporting this research to be undertaken.

Moved Cr Heintze

Seconded Cr Zanker

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment: Summary Report - Understanding the Impacts of New Developments on WSM - September 2025](#)

DISCUSSION

On 06 November 2025, representatives from the Yarriambiack Shire Council, including the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Operating Officer attended the launch of Federation University's research at the Horsham Campus.

The Council is pleased to have advocated for this initiative and extends its appreciation to Dr Cathy Tischler for her dedication in advancing this significant project.

In addition, the Council expresses its full support for this research as an important first step in encouraging ongoing dialogue and increasing awareness of the mental health effects that this significant change is having on our community.

14.3 NOTICE OF MOTION - MALE SANITARY BINS

Presented by Councillor Kylie Zanker

SUMMARY

Councillor Kylie Zanker has been contacted by a community member advocating for the installation of incontinence bins not only in female public toilets but also in male and unisex facilities.

Resolution:

That Council:

- a) Ensure that sanitary bins are available in Council's public toilets, wherever female disposal facilities exist, so all community members and visitors to our Shire have equitable options.

Moved Cr Zanker

Seconded Cr Keel

For: Cr Zanker, Cr Keel and Cr McLean.

Against: Cr Lehmann, Cr Kirk and Cr Heintze.

Casting vote for the motion by Mayor McLean.

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

DISCUSSION

Incontinence bins for men in public toilets are important for several reasons:

1. Inclusivity and Equality

Historically, sanitary disposal facilities have been provided mainly in women's restrooms for menstrual products. Men who experience incontinence often lack equivalent options, which creates inequality and discomfort. Providing bins ensures that men have the same dignity and convenience.

2. Health and Hygiene

Men with urinary or faecal incontinence often use pads or other absorbent products. Without proper disposal facilities, these items may end up in regular trash bins or toilets, leading to:

- Blocked plumbing systems.
- Increased risk of contamination and odour.
- Unsanitary conditions for cleaning staff and other users.

3. Growing Need

Incontinence is not limited to older adults; it can affect men of all ages due to medical conditions, surgeries, or disabilities. With aging populations and greater awareness of health issues, the demand for appropriate disposal facilities is increasing.

4. Privacy and Dignity

Having a discreet disposal option helps men manage their condition without embarrassment. It reduces stigma and encourages people to use public spaces confidently.

Conclusion

Therefore, it is extremely important that equitable disposal facilities are available in Yarriambiack Shire Council public toilets, where female sanitary bins are also provided.

15 REPORTS FOR DECISION

15.1 FUNDING APPLICATION ENDORSEMENT: RABL PARK SKATEPARK UPGRADE PROJECT (ELECTION COMMITMENT)

Prepared by Rebecca Botheras, Sport and Recreation Coordinator

SUMMARY

The Victorian Government's 2025-26 Budget has allocated \$200,000 to the Yarriambiack Shire Council through the Community Sport and Recreation Grants. This funding will support the Rabl Park Skatepark Upgrade Project and delivers on a commitment made to the Murtoa community during the 2022 Victorian State Elections.

Although the funding commitment has previously been announced, Council is required to complete a retrospective funding application process to formally secure the funds.

This report seeks Council's endorsement to proceed with the funding application.

Resolution:

That Council:

- a) Endorse the funding application for the Rabl Park Skatepark Upgrade Project under the Community Sport and Recreation Grants (2022 Victorian State Election Commitment); and
- b) Agree to underwrite any cost escalation to the project budget to deliver the full scope of the project as outlined in the application.

Moved Cr Keel

Seconded Cr Kirk

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment: Project Designs – Rabl Park Skatepark Upgrade Project](#)

DISCUSSION

Yarriambiack Shire Council has been allocated \$200,000 through the Victorian Government's 2025-26 Budget for the Rabl Park Skatepark Upgrade Project. This funding forms part of an election commitment made during the 2022 Victorian State Elections.

Over the past 12 months, Council has undertaken continuous project planning and consultation with Sport and Recreation Victoria to develop a deliverable scope for the Rabl Park Skatepark Upgrade Project. These efforts have focused on balancing the \$200,000 budget allocation with the expectations of the Victorian Government's Election Commitment, while also aligning with the aspirations of the Murtoa community as outlined in strategic documents such as the Rabl Park Masterplan and the Murtoa Community Action Plan.

Council Officers have now developed a scope and preliminary plans that reflect community needs and respond to the 2020 petition submitted by students from the Murtoa College, meet the funding criteria, and are capable of being delivered within budget.

The project scope includes the following elements:

- Construction of a new 20m x 10m concrete slab featuring six modular skateable elements;
- Repurposing of the existing skatepark slab to create a half-court basketball court; and

- Completion of the concrete footpath to connect the pump track, basketball court and skatepark.

On 16 October 2025, Council Officers presented the project scope and plans to the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR). The DJSIR confirmed their in-principal support towards the plan, meaning the project can now proceed toward formal approval and funding.

To secure these funds, Council is now required to complete a “backwards” application process, by lodging a funding application and enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions.

Council will apply for the full \$200,000 and will not be required to provide a financial contribution. The project budget will be as follows:

Construction Costs	\$171,000
Project Management (5%)	\$10,000
Contingency (10%)	\$19,000
Total Project Cost	\$200,000

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2025 – 2029 Strategic Objectives	Priorities
An Innovative and Diversified Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for continued and enhanced funding to enable strategic investment in our roads, footpaths, and associated assets to support tourism, economic development and social inclusion and connection across our Shire.
A Healthy and Inclusive Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and/or maintain strong partnerships to deliver high quality services and sustainable infrastructure to enhance the social health and wellbeing outcomes for all our residents. • Advocate, prioritise, and invest in infrastructure that supports an accessible, inclusive, and socially connected community to improve liveability. • Advocate and support community safety initiatives, that enhance community safety and the liveability of our communities.
A Resilient and Sustainable Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support community groups to deliver on the Sport and Recreation Strategy and Recreation Reserve Master Plan initiatives, in alignment with Council’s policies
A Council that serves its Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build trust through engaging with our community, delivering quality services and outcomes.
Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, Plans, Strategies and Frameworks	
Policy	Project Management Policy
	Grant Management Policy
	Procurement Policy
Procedure	Project Management Procedure
Strategy	Sport and Recreation Strategy

Council Plan 2025 – 2029 Strategic Objectives	Priorities
Framework	Priority Projects Framework

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

- 25 November 2020 – Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – Item 8.0 – Murtoa College Rabl Park Petition
- 24 November 2021 – Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – Item 12.4 – Allocation of Round 3 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funding
- 26 February 2025 – Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – Item 15.6 – Rabl Park Skatepark Upgrade Project

OPTIONS

- Council may wish to reject the recommendation and reconsider the Victorian Government Election Commitment Funding Opportunity.
- Council may wish to reject the recommendation and request further community consultation be undertaken prior to lodging a funding application.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic	The Rabl Park Skatepark Upgrade Project is expected to deliver positive economic outcomes by increasing park usage and attracting visitors to Murtoa. The addition of multi-use features, such as a half-court basketball area, will enhance local appeal, support nearby businesses, and provide short-term employment opportunities during construction.
Social	The Rabl Park Skatepark Upgrade Project will enhance social wellbeing by providing a safe, inclusive space for young people to gather, be active, and connect with peers. By incorporating multi-use facilities, such as the half-court basketball area, the project encourages physical activity, fosters community engagement, and supports positive social connections among youth in Murtoa.
Environmental	The Rabl Park Skatepark Upgrade Project will have minimal environmental impact, as it involves re-purposing an existing basketball court slab. This approach reduces the need for new construction materials and limits land disturbance, supporting sustainable use of existing infrastructure.
Financial	The Rabl Park Skatepark Upgrade Project will be fully funded through the Victorian Government's Community Sport and Recreation Grant. Neither Council nor the community will be required to contribute financially.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council has undertaken extensive community and stakeholder consultation regarding the Rabl Park Skatepark Upgrade Project. The project was initially identified by Murtoa College students through a petition, followed by meetings between Council Officers, Councillors, and students.

The project was subsequently shortlisted from Council's Priority Projects Listing, which draws on the Murtoa Community Action Plan, the Rabl Park Masterplan, and the Sport and Recreation Strategy. Although the Victorian Government election commitment predated the development of the Masterplan and Strategy, the consultation undertaken during these processes provided a strong foundation for community input.

Since the announcement of the election commitment, Council has maintained regular communication with the Murtoa Progress Association, whose executive recently moved a motion in support of the project and will provide a Letter of Support. Outcomes from all consultations indicate that the Murtoa community is fully supportive of the upgrade.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not required for this report.

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	If Council were to decline the election commitment and not proceed with the Rabi Park Skatepark Upgrade Project, it could face reputational damage for failing to deliver on a promise made to the Murtoa community. By endorsing the project and moving forward with the funding application, Council demonstrates its commitment to its election pledge and responsiveness to community needs, thereby maintaining public trust and reducing reputational risk.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Program and Project Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Supporting the funding application and accepting the election commitment demonstrates Council's commitment to a project identified in the Murtoa Community Action Plan, the Rabi Park Masterplan, and as a priority in Council's Project Listing.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Pursuing the project with funding support from the Victorian Government reduces the financial impact on Council, as no Council or community contribution is required. Additionally, the upgrade of the existing facilities is expected to lower future maintenance costs, providing longer-term financial benefits.	Reduces Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

- Active Victoria 2022-2026 - Strategic Framework Objectives: Connecting Communities and Building Value.
- Victorian Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2023-2027 – Priority 3: Improving Wellbeing, Priority 5: Increasing Active Living.

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 FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Prepared by Anita McFarlane, Chief Financial Officer

SUMMARY

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020, Council is required to have an integrated approach to strategic planning with the requirement that monitoring and performance reporting is to be adopted.

This is the September (01 July to 30 September 2025) Quarterly report which presents both Financial and Non-Financial Performance indicators in accordance with our Performance Reporting Framework.

Resolution:

That Council:

- a) Adopt the quarterly Financial and Non-Financial Performance Report as of 30 September 2025 as attached to this report.

Moved Cr Zanker

Seconded Cr Heintze

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment: Financial and Non-Financial Performance Reporting Report - 2025-26 - Quarter 1](#)

DISCUSSION

Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting Regulations) 2020, identifies that Council must produce the following reports within identified time frames as below:

- a. **Quarterly Budget Reports** - comparing actual and budgeted results and an explanation of any material variations must be completed.
- b. **Risk Reports** - 6-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood, and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies.
- c. **Performance Reports** - 6 monthly reports of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The Leadership Team has adopted a holistic approach to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Regulations, by compiling a Quarterly Financial and Non-Financial Performance Report.

The report incorporates Budget, Risk and Performance Reporting. Council's risk appetite has been utilised to develop non-financial performance indicators for reporting purposes.

For this quarter, the report has been presented to the Leadership Team, to Councillors at Council Forum on 29 October 2025 and to the Audit and Risk Committee on 10 November 2025.

RELEVANT LAW

- *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 97 Quarterly Budget Report
- Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2025 – 2029 Strategic Objectives	Priorities
A Council that serves its Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake robust and transparent planning and risk management to ensure our organisation is sustainable now and into the future. Embed good governance practices into all decision making.
Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, Plans, Strategies and Frameworks	
Policy	Risk Management Manual
Guideline	Occupational Health and Safety and Wellbeing Guidelines
Plan	Revenue and Rating Plan
Framework	Budget Framework and Guidelines Manual
	Performance Reporting Framework
Other	Risk Management Manual

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

30 June 2025 – Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes – Item 15.3 Adoption of the 2025/26 Budget

OPTIONS

This report recommends that Council receive a quarterly report including both financial and non-financial performance metrics. Such reporting will strengthen governance, improve oversight, and foster greater transparency in decision-making processes.

Options to be considered:

- The Report is presented in a combined overarching report format that is presented quarterly.
- The Reports could be separated into three distinct reports, opposed to a combined overarching report that is presented quarterly.
- The Risk Report and Performance Reports could be moved to 6 monthly in line with the *Local Government Act 2020* requirements, with the Budget Reports being quarterly only.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Financial	Yarriambiack Shire Council is heavily reliant on operational and capital grants as a source of revenue funding. This poses a significant financial risk to Council. Councils' ability to raise source revenue is restricted by the annual rate cap and is at risk to decreases or increases that are lower than cost inflation.
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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engagement has not been undertaken to develop the Performance Reporting Framework.

In accordance with section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles.

The financial and non-financial performance indicators are utilised as a tool for decision making to achieve good governance.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not applicable.

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
Corporate Governance, Compliance and Liability Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	The quarterly report incorporates the reporting requirements as outlined in the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 Schedule 1.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The quarterly report includes Budget v Actual reporting, which enables management, Audit and Risk Committee and Councillors to monitor the financial performance of Council and assess and address risks as they arise.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Program and Project Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The quarterly report incorporates detailed project reporting, providing enhanced oversight on the performance of projects.	Maintains 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.

15.3 COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE AND FEE WAIVER POLICY (VERSION 2.1)

Prepared by Monique Metlika, Governance Support Officer

SUMMARY

The Community Assistance and Fee Waiver Policy establishes a comprehensive framework for determining the type and extent of support provided to the Yarriambiack community as well as the method by which such assistance is documented.

During a governance review, the Governance Support Officer, in collaboration with the Chief Executive Officer, identified that the Council's donation towards secondary schools' annual awards night within the municipal district was omitted from the Policy. This oversight has now been rectified with the necessary amendments.

Resolution:

That Council:

- a) Rescind the Community Assistance and Fee Waiver Policy (Version 2) adopted by Council on 30 June 2025; and
- b) Adopt the revised Community Assistance and Fee Waiver Policy (Version 2.1) as attached to this report.

Moved Cr Heintze

Seconded Cr Kirk

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment: Community Assistance and Fee Waiver Policy](#)

DISCUSSION

The Community Assistance and Fee Waiver Policy (Version 2) underwent a comprehensive review process and was formally adopted on 30 June 2025. This review was conducted to ensure that the policy aligns with the best practices in governance and adequately addresses the needs of the community.

Recently, it was identified through good governance practices that the policy lacked a reference to the donation made by the Council for secondary school's annual awards night. This omission was recognised and rectified, as the annual awards night donation is an important aspect of the Council's support for community initiatives.

To address this oversight, section 3.7 has been added to the policy to include this information. This addition ensures that the policy now comprehensively covers all aspects of the Council's community support initiatives, providing clear guidance on the allocation of donations for annual awards nights. The inclusion of this section not only rectifies the previous omission but also enhances the transparency and accountability of the Council's governance practices.

RELEVANT LAW

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- Planning and Environment (Fee) Regulations 2016

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2025 – 2029 Strategic Objectives	Priorities
A Council that serves its Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed good governance practices into all decision making.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build trust through engaging with our community, delivering quality services and outcomes.
Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, Plans, Strategies and Frameworks	
Policy	Project Management Policy
	External Private Works Policy
	Community Assistance and Fee Waiver Policy
Framework	Priority Projects Framework

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

- 25 May 2022 – Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – Item 12.2 Community Assistance and Fee Waiver Policy
- 30 June 2025 – Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – Item 15.3 Community Assistance and Fee Waiver Policy

OPTIONS

- The Councillors could choose to make alterations to the policy, and/or request that the policy is released for community feedback.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic	The policy includes financial contributions for community groups in relation to Weir Pools, Swimming Pools, Recreation Reserves, Halls and Progress Associations (or equivalent). Supporting volunteers to operate and manage important assets and groups supports economic development and prosperity of our townships.
Social	Financial contributions and the waiving of fees, where possible, assists with enhancing social assets and amenity, enhancing the health and wellbeing of our community.
Financial	A clear framework outlining where Council will provide a waiver of fees, ensure Council is being fiscally responsible, and is recouping costs associated with providing a service for the community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement has not been undertaken with the amendment of this policy.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not applicable for this report.

RISK

Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level	Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk	Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level
Corporate Governance, Compliance and Liability Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	A framework for fee waivers and community assistance is necessary to ensure all parties understand the process and expectations clearly.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	A clear framework reduces the risk of reputational damage and ensures a transparent, equitable process is applied to decision making.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	A clear framework and clarity regarding Councils fee waivers and access to funding allocations ensures Council can mitigate its financial risks.	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.

15.4 PROPOSAL TO SELL LAND, FORMER DEPOT SITES IN HOPETOUN

Prepared by Tammy Smith, Chief Executive Officer

SUMMARY

Yarriambiack Shire Council has conducted a comprehensive review of its Long-Term Financial Plan, which was endorsed by Councillors on 29 October 2025 and subsequently released for community consultation. As part of this review and financial health assessment, it was determined that Council must reduce expenditure and, where feasible, divest surplus assets.

Two former depot sites in Hopetoun have been identified as excess to requirements and are proposed for consideration for sale.

In accordance with Council's Asset Lifecycle Policy, proceeds from such asset sales may be allocated to asset renewal projects and upgrades prioritised by the community, with particular attention to needs within Hopetoun.

Resolution:

That Council:

- a) In accordance with Section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, commence the community engagement process in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and Procedure, to sell the land known as:
 - i. 92 Cummings Street Hopetoun (lot 9 LP26623, Lot 10 LP26623 and Lot 11 LP26623) total areas 3036 square metres; and
 - ii. 74-76 Cummings Street Hopetoun (lot 2 LP 147375) total area 1543 square metres.
- b) Once the community engagement process has concluded, present the outcome of that consultation back to Councillors, with a final recommendation to sell or not to sell the land being subject of a Council decision.

Moved Cr Zanker

Seconded Cr Heintze

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

ATTACHMENTS

The attachments are confidential information for the purpose of section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, specifically s3(1) a, s3(1) e, s3(1)(f), s3(1)(g).

[Confidential Attachment: Land Valuation Report – 92 Cummings Street Hopetoun](#)

[Confidential Attachment: Land Valuation Report – 74-76 Cummings Street Hopetoun](#)

[Confidential Attachment: Soil Contamination Report – 92 Cummings Street Hopetoun](#)

[Confidential Attachment: Soil Contamination Report – 74-76 Cummings Street Hopetoun](#)

[Confidential Attachment: Legal Advice Maddocks](#)

DISCUSSION

Yarriambiack Shire Council has determined that two former depot sites in Hopetoun are no longer required. It is recommended that Council proceed with community consultation, consistent with the Council's Community Engagement Policy and Procedure, regarding the proposed sale of these land parcels.

The details regarding both sites are discussed below.

92 Cummings Street Hopetoun

This site was the former Council depot yard for the Hopetoun operations team, before a new depot was built at 78 Hopetoun-Aerodrome Road, Hopetoun in 2014.

Image 1: Image identifying the location of 92 Cummings Street Hopetoun



Image 2: Image identifying street view of former depot site of 92 Cummings Street Hopetoun



Figure 3: Image of New consolidated Depot, 78 Hopetoun Aerodrome Road Hopetoun, built in 2014.



Being a former Council depot site, a soil contamination assessment has been undertaken by Western Victoria Soil Testing. The National Environment Protection Measures (NEPM) Health Based Investigations level assessment identified that the site is deemed to conform with a Level D Category – Commercial / Industrial Use (HIL-D) sites.

Category D covers the least hazardous contaminated soil. Category D waste soil is defined in Waste disposal categories – characteristics and thresholds. The full details regarding the requirements relating to Category D soil is found on the Environment Protection Authority website as follows: [Manage waste soil | epa.vic.gov.au](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/management/landfill/landfill-waste-management).

In summary, Category D soil is classified as reportable waste, and the soil must be tested and disposed of at landfills authorised to receive it.

When reviewing the chemical findings in relation to the site's usage, none of the samples were found to exhibit concentrations exceeding the permissible NEMP HIL-D health limits.

It is noted, if Council was to sell the land, the chemical findings in relation to other *NEPM* levels (*Category A – Residential/Sensitive Site Use (HIL-A)*, *Category B – Medium to high-density Residential Use (HIL-B)* and *Category C – Public/Recreational Use (HIL-C)*), two (2) of the soil samples were found to exhibit concentrations exceeding the permissible *NEPM HIL-A, HIL-B* and/or *HIL-C* health limits.

To mitigate the risk of the site being utilised for anything other than Commercial and Industrial use, it is recommended that Council enact a Section 173 Agreement as a condition of sale, to impose such an obligation on a purchaser. Details regarding a section 173 Agreement will be further explained later in this report.

74 – 76 Cummings Street Hopetoun

This site was the former Telecom yard which Council took ownership of prior to amalgamations in approximately 1985. Council has generally used this site for the asphalt emulsifier tank, which has now been moved to the current depot site at 78 Hopetoun Aerodrome Road, Hopetoun.

Image 4: Image identifying location of 74 – 76 Cummings Street Hopetoun



Image 5: Image identifying street view of 74 – 76 Cummings Street Hopetoun



Similarly to the details listed above, as the site is a former Council depot site, a soil contamination assessment has been undertaken. It is deemed to conform to the NEPM Health-based Investigation Level Category D – Commercial/ Industrial Use (HIL-D) sites.

When reviewing the chemical findings in relation to the site's usage, none of the samples were found to exhibit concentrations exceeding the permissible NEPM HIL-D health limits.

It is noted, if Council was to sell the land, the chemical findings in relation to other *NEPM levels (Category A – Residential/Sensitive Site Use (HIL-A), Category B – Medium to high-density Residential Use (HIL-B) and Category C – Public/ Recreational Use (HIL-C), one (1) of the soil samples was found to exhibit concentrations meeting or exceeding the permissible NEPM HIL-A, HIL-B and/or HIL-C health limits.*

To mitigate the risk of the site being utilised for anything other than Commercial and Industrial use, it is recommended that Council enact a Section 173 Agreement as a condition of sale, to impose such an obligation on a purchaser.

Section 173 Agreement

If Council is intending to sell the land, it is recommended that Council would require the purchaser to agree to certain conditions or obligations attaching to the sale, such as developing the land for an intended purpose and use.

The most common vehicle for imposing such obligations on a purchaser is an agreement pursuant to section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Section 173 Agreement). This has the advantage of imposing positive enforceable covenants on the purchaser which are recorded on the title and attached to the land, so those obligations are binding upon any successor in title of the purchaser. Common forms of positive obligations to be included in such a Section 173 Agreement include (but not limited to):

- a) Not using the land for any other purpose than the intended one without Council's consent. This could mean outlining that the use for this land is restricted to commercial and/or industrial use.

Property Valuation and Funds Generated from the Sale

In accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*, a property valuation has been obtained from a person who holds the qualification or experience specified under 13DA (2) of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* and that it is within the six month period specified prior to the proposed sale. It should be noted that if the land is not sold within six months of the valuation report, a new valuation is required to be obtained.

The valuation for the following properties concluded that:

92 Cummings Street Hopetoun: The market value as of 13 October 2025, at date of valuation report issue was \$140,000 (one hundred and forty thousand) excluding GST and subject to Vacant Possession.

74 – 76 Cummings Street Hopetoun: The market value as of 13 October 2025, at date of valuation report issue was \$40,000 (forty thousand) excluding GST and subject to Vacant Possession.

This is the minimum market value, and Council would aim to achieve a higher price for the properties exceeding the market value amounts.

It is further recommended that on the sale of the depots the funds be quarantined for future investment into Hopetoun specific projects.

RELEVANT LAW

- *Local Government Act 2020* (The Act).

There are three essential elements of compliance with section 114 of the Act as follows:

- (a) Give public notice of the proposed sale in accordance with section 114(2)(a).
- (b) Undertake a community engagement process in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy pursuant to section 114(2)(b).
- (c) Obtain a valuation of the kind specified in section 114(2)(c) at least 6 months prior to the sale or gifting of the land.

The Council is required to ensure that, when publicly advertising the proposed gifting of land, it solicits feedback—whether in support or opposition—in accordance with Section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Previous legal advice in relation to the Cromie Street Murtoa gifting of land decision, confirmed that section 114 does not preclude any proposed gifting of land as long as the following conditions above are met. In the absence of any specific guidelines, Council has been recommended to consider *Local Government Best Practice Guideline for the Sale, Exchange, and Transfer of Land* (**Best Practice Guideline**) dated June 2019, published by the former state Department of Planning and Community Development.

In the event that land is sold for less than market value or exchanged for land of a lesser value (or, for that matter, gifted), Council should explain the circumstances, reasons or factors which led to the decision to accept a sale price that is less than market value or land on exchange with a lower value or, as in this case, to gift land.

- *Planning and Environment Act 1987 – Section 173*
- *Valuation of Land Act 1960*

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2025 – 2029 Strategic Objectives	Priorities
An Innovative and Diversified Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate and support agriculture, economic development and investment in our region.
A Resilient and Sustainable Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for responsible land use, with consideration for the natural environment.
A Council that serves its Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed good governance practices into all decision making. • Consider a broad base of evidence before making decisions, ensuring value for money and responsive, innovative services and solutions are provided.
Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, Plans, Strategies and Frameworks	
Policy	Asset Lifecycle Policy
	Community Engagement Policy and Procedure
Plan	Long Term Financial Plan

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

- 27 November 2019 – Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – Item 13.6 Proposed Sale of Lot 4, Industrial Land Hopetoun
- 24 November 2021 – Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – Item 12.1 Sale of Dwelling 51 Gardiner Street Warracknabeal
- 24 November 2021 – Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – Item 15.4 Sale of surplus land at Crown Allotment 7, Section 24 known as Duncan Street, Warracknabeal

OPTIONS

Council could choose not to commence the advertising process to sell the land and instead consider leasing the land. Council will still have responsibility over the land and will still be required to hold the land as an asset on the balance sheet. The annual leasing values are contained within the valuation reports.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic	The sale of commercial or industrial land facilitates business growth and enables enterprises to establish operations within our township.
Social	Council is in a constrained financial position, where priority projects are scoped, and do not have the financial contributions required to be pursued. Selling surplus assets enables funds to be generated to support and enact future projects, that meet the Council Plan objectives and the overall Council Vision.
Financial	Selling land helps Council achieve long-term financial sustainability by lowering asset holdings.

Environmental	The enactment of a 173 Agreement ensures that Council can ensure the land can be utilised for its intended use and purpose only.
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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement will commence on 27 November 2025 for a minimum of 28 days. As Council is heading into the Christmas break, the advertising will be extended through December and January to ensure the community has opportunity to provide feedback.

Council will advertise the proposed sale of the land in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and Procedure.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not required for this report.

RISK

Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level	Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk	Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Selling land helps Council achieve long-term financial sustainability by lowering asset holdings.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Strategy Execution and Change Management Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Selling land enables those funds to be utilised for alternative purposes, supporting the strategic vision and objectives of the Council.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Environmental Sustainability Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Ensuring a Section 173 Agreement is enacted with the sale of both properties mitigates environmental sustainability risks.	Reduces Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Department of Health - [Managing risks associated with land contamination. Guidance for councils.](#)

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 PROPOSAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PRIVATE HANGAR AT HOPETOUN AERODROME

Prepared by Tammy Smith, Chief Executive Officer

SUMMARY

Yarriambiack Shire Council has received a proposal from Mr Grant Wilson, a resident of Yarriambiack Shire, seeking approval to construct an aeroplane hangar at the Hopetoun Aerodrome. The proposed hangar would be owned by Mr Wilson, with Council entering into a long-term ground lease agreement at market rates. This document outlines the details of the proposal and presents Council's recommendation to proceed with this commercial arrangement to promote increased utilisation of the aerodrome.

This recommendation is subject to community consultation in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and Procedure.

Resolution:

That Council:

- a) Approves beginning the community engagement process to consider entering into a ground lease with Mr Grant Wilson for building a private hangar at the Yarriambiack Shire Council Hopetoun Aerodrome.
- b) Authorises that, if there are no objections after community engagement, the Chief Executive Officer will have delegated authority to support the hangar construction at the Hopetoun Aerodrome, following the conditions outlined in the attached Memorandum of Understanding, noting this arrangement involves no cost to Council; and
- c) Will enter into a Ground Lease with Mr Grant Wilson, which will be brought to Councillors for endorsement in early 2026, if the community engagement process is successful.

Moved Cr Kirk

Seconded Cr Keel

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

ATTACHMENTS

The attachment is confidential information for the purpose of section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, specifically s3(1)(f).

[Confidential Attachment: MoU between Grant Wilson and Yarriambiack Shire Council](#)

DISCUSSION

Background

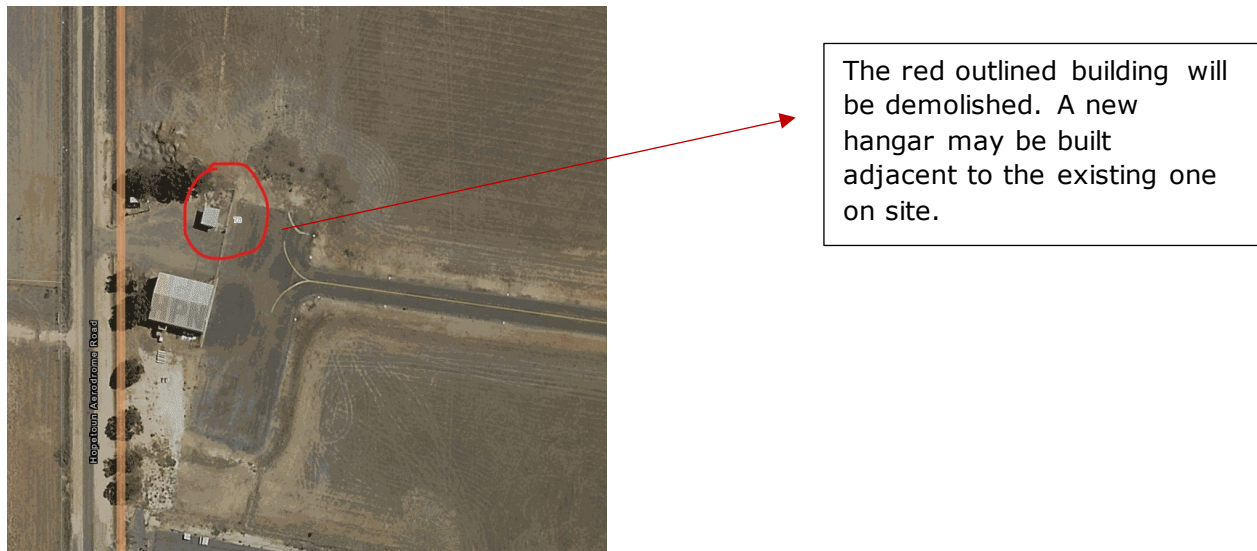
Mr Grant Wilson wishes to build a hangar at the Yarriambiack Shire Council Hopetoun Aerodrome, located at 78 Hopetoun Aerodrome Road, Hopetoun Vic 3396.

The Yarriambiack Shire Councillors may approve the construction of a hangar on public land through a Council resolution, provided that all legislative requirements are satisfied.

A preliminary assessment of the Hopetoun Aerodrome site was completed, which indicated that an existing office building needs to be demolished to allow for the construction of a hangar. This would be at the cost of Mr Wilson and would need to be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced demolition company on Council's panel of preferred supplier list.

This would enable the hangar to be built within the footprint that is acceptable to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) requirements.

Figure 1: Site Map Hopetoun Aerodrome Buildings



The construction of the hangar must be in accordance with Council's Project Management Policy and Procedure, Occupational Health and Safety Policy and Manual, and Occupational Health and Safety legislation. In addition, all works at the site must meet the *Local Government Act 2020* and CASA requirements.

A Memorandum of Understanding outlining expectations between Mr Wilson and Yarriambiack Shire Council has been prepared and is attached for Councillors' review.

Process

On 26 November 2025, the Yarriambiack Shire Councillors will review this report. Subject to endorsement, the community consultation process will commence. Should there be no objections, it is recommended that support be given to the construction of a hangar at the Hopetoun Aerodrome, thereby initiating the outlined process. The detailed procedure is presented below:

- a) The community consultation will be undertaken for 28 days in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and Procedure. Due to the Christmas period, the consultation will commence on Thursday 27 November 2025 and conclude on Monday 05 January 2026.
- b) If objections are received, Council approval is required before the project can proceed.
- c) If no objections are received, the Project can proceed forward from 05 January 2026.
- d) In order for a hangar to be constructed at the Hopetoun Aerodrome, the CASA requirements must be considered and enacted by Council.
- e) All activities planned and executed at the Hopetoun Aerodrome must be carried out by personnel with appropriate qualifications and experience and must be fully insured in accordance with Council and legislative requirements. Where applicable, the Council shall engage only its panel of preferred suppliers to perform such works.
- f) Volunteer labour and in-kind support involving plant and equipment are not permitted. All plant and equipment must comply with safety standards and meet chain of responsibility requirements under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (where applicable).

Ground Lease

Council Officers will work on developing a Ground Lease, which will be presented to Councillors at either the January or February 2026 scheduled Council Meeting, open to the public.

A ground lease is required when privately owned buildings are constructed on Council land.

An annual fee is to be paid by Mr Wilson, as determined by a certified valuer who assesses the value of the ground lease.

The ground lease will enable Mr Wilson to sub-lease the hangar, but all sub-lease activities require approval from the Council's Chief Executive Officer to ensure compliance with permitted site uses.

The Governance Officer is responsible for establishing the ground lease and sourcing the property valuation in accordance with Councils Leases and Licensing Policy, and the *Local Government Act 2020* requirements.

RELEVANT LAW

- The *Local Government Act 2020* (The Act).
- *Valuation of Land Act 1960*

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2025 – 2029 Strategic Objectives	Priorities
An Innovative and Diversified Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate and support agriculture, economic development and investment in our region.
A Resilient and Sustainable Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for responsible land use, with consideration for the natural environment.
A Council that serves its Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed good governance practices into all decision making. • Consider a broad base of evidence before making decisions, ensuring value for money and responsive, innovative services and solutions are provided.
Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, Plans, Strategies and Frameworks	
Policy	Leases and Licences Policy
	Occupational Health and Safety Policy and Manual
	Community Engagement Policy and Procedure
	Project Management Policy

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

- 22 November 2023 – Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes - Item 16.1 Warracknabeal Aeroclub Lease Agreement
- 24 May 2023 – Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes - Item 15.1 Hopetoun Caravan Park Private Cabins Lease Agreement

OPTIONS

- a) Council could choose not to support the construction of a privately owned hangar at the Hopetoun Aerodrome and deny the request.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Social	Backing a private hangar at the Council aerodrome promotes social and recreational opportunities and increases airport use.
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Financial	<p>Council could generate additional income from the ground lease, that would not otherwise have been available. In 2023, the Ground Lease valuation for the Warracknabeal Aeroclub was \$1,615.00 per annum, plus GST, with a Consumer Price Index (CPI) review on the anniversary of the commencement date of the agreement.</p> <p>This funding could contribute to the running and operational costs associated with the aerodrome.</p>
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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement will commence on the 27 November 2025 for a minimum of 28 days. As Council is heading into the Christmas break, the advertising will be extended through December and January to ensure the community has opportunity to provide feedback.

Council will advertise the proposal in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and Procedure.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not required for this report.

RISK

Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level	Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk	Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Provides an opportunity for additional income generation to contribute towards the operational cost of the airport.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Program and Project Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The project will be overseen by Council in accordance with the draft MoU. This ensures compliance oversight.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Ensuring Council's decision making process is transparent and undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and Procedure will mitigate reputational risk.	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 DUNMUNKLE LODGE ACCOMMODATION FEE WAIVER REQUEST

Prepared by Adam Moar, Manager Development and Environmental Services and James Thomas, Development Services Officer

SUMMARY

Dunmunkle Lodge has requested that Yarriambiack Shire Council either reduce or waive planning permit application fees for the proposed construction of four single bedroom units to accommodate staff at its Minyip aged care facility.

Resolution:

- a) That Council refuses the waiving of the planning permit application fees for the proposed development by Dunmunkle Lodge for additional staff housing.

Moved Cr Keel

Seconded Cr Kirk

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment: Letter - Dunmunkle Lodge Request for Fee Waiver](#)

DISCUSSION

Dunmunkle Lodge is an incorporated, community-based, not-for-profit aged care provider which provides residential care, health support, and wellbeing services to older residents within the Yarriambiack municipality.

Dunmunkle Lodge is proposing to construct four units to accommodate Registered Nurses at its aged care facility in Minyip. The project comes following a \$404,000 grant from the Federal Government under its Aged Care Capital Assistance Program (ACCAP). The proposed units form part of its recruitment and retention strategy for its health services staff as well as to meet newly introduced legislative requirements for all aged care facilities to have a Registered Nurse on-site 24/7.

Most grant programs for development works require written advice on what permits will be required for the development to proceed. Written advice was provided to advise that a planning permit would be required for this development, prior to the grant application being submitted.

If the full grant equates to the development costs, the planning permit fees for this development would be \$1,756.60.

Council adopted its *Community Assistance and Fee Waiver Policy* (the Policy) on 30 June 2025 which provides a framework for determining the type and extent of support provided to the Yarriambiack Shire community by Council. This includes the eligibility criteria and governance structures that facilitate the management of fee waiver requests.

Under Section 3.1 of the Policy, the Chief Executive Officer can consider a request from an incorporated community group or a not-for-profit organisation to waive Planning Permit fees. The Policy specifies that Council will consider Regulation 20 of the *Planning and Environment (Fees) Regulation 2016* when considering a fee waiver. Regulation 20 identifies that the Responsible Authority may wholly or in part waive a fee if the application assists—

- i. the proper development of the State, region or municipal district; or
- ii. the proper development of part of the State, region or municipal district;
- iii. the preservation of buildings or places in the State, region or municipal district which are of historical or environmental interest;

In assessing this fee waiver request, Council acknowledges the lack of suitable housing and rentals available within the municipality. This is identified within the *Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan (2014)* and *Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Housing Review (2020)* which highlighted shortages of all types of housing, including seasonal/itinerant worker accommodation as well as scarcity of available rental housing across the Wimmera Southern Mallee region, limiting workforce housing for businesses and public agencies.

However, granting a fee waiver could create financial and reputational risks for Council by setting a precedent for similar requests from future developers seeking to pursue residential projects within the municipality.

It is recommended that Council does not waive the planning permit fees for this development.

RELEVANT LAW

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Planning and Environment (Fee) Regulations 2016*

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2025 – 2029 Strategic Objectives	Priorities
An Innovative and Diversified Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand, support and advocate for services and associated skilled workforces to unlock economic and community development opportunities across our Shire.
A Healthy and Inclusive Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for and support diverse housing options to meet community needs now and into the future.
Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, Plans, Strategies and Frameworks	
Policy	Community Assistance and Fee Waiver Policy

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Nil.

OPTIONS

- a) Council could reject the fee waiver application.
- b) Council could approve a partial fee waiver.
- c) Council could waive the fees in full.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic	The proposed accommodation will supply additional housing required to attract and retain health services staff in smaller settlements. It will also assist in relieving some pressure from the local rental market.
Social	The proposed accommodation will supply additional housing required to attract and retain registered nurses who are important in providing aged and health care services for the Minyip and district community.
Financial	Council needs to balance the current need for additional housing with the ongoing reputational and financial risks from waiving planning permit fees.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not required.

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
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Permit fees are intended to recover Council's costs to provide statutory planning services.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Council is exposed to reputational risk from the fee waiver request as it may create precedent for future requests.	Maintains Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

- Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan (2014)
- Victoria's Housing Statement
- National Housing Accord

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.

15.7 ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL POLICY

Prepared by Monique Metlika, Governance Support Officer

SUMMARY

The Advisory Committee of Council Policy provides a framework for establishing and managing Advisory Committees of Yarriambiack Shire Council, ensuring they operate transparently, inclusively, and in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. Advisory Committees serve to provide advice and recommendations to Council but have no executive or financial powers. The policy sets standards for conflict of interest, confidentiality, financial management, and media engagement, and requires regular review to maintain good governance and effective community engagement.

This report recommends the adoption of the revised Advisory Committee of Council Policy.

Resolution:

That Council:

- a) Rescind the Advisory Committee of Council Policy adopted by Council on 26 October 2022; and
- b) Adopt the revised Advisory Committee of Council Policy as attached to this report.

Moved Cr Heintze

Seconded Cr Zanker

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment: Advisory Committee of Council Policy](#)

DISCUSSION

This policy is subject to a formal review every three years to ensure its ongoing relevance and effectiveness. As a result of the latest review, several minor amendments have been made, including:

- a) Updates to style and formatting for consistency with Council's Style Guide.
- b) Minor wording changes throughout the document to improve clarity and ease of reading.
- c) Additional information included in the 'Policy Statement and Scope' section.
- d) Further information included regarding conflicts of interest declarations.
- e) Expanded details in section 4.5 regarding the process for declaring gifts, benefits, and hospitality.
- f) Additions to the references and definitions sections for greater clarity.
- g) Inclusion of a table outlining the supporting principles under the *Local Government Act 2020* and how the policy gives effect to these principles.
- h) Amendment to the Review of Policy section to allow the Chief Executive Officer to approve minor administrative changes to the policy without a Council resolution, provided such changes do not materially alter the policy.

In summary, the recent review and minor amendments to the Advisory Committee of Council Policy ensure that it remains clear, current, and aligned with best practice governance standards. These updates enhance the policy's clarity, transparency, and practical guidance for committee operations, while also streamlining administrative processes.

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2025 – 2029 Strategic Objectives	Priorities
An Innovative and Diversified Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand, support and advocate for services and associated skilled workforces to unlock economic and community development opportunities across our Shire.
A Healthy and Inclusive Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and/or maintain strong partnerships to deliver high quality services and sustainable infrastructure to enhance the social health and wellbeing outcomes for all our residents. Promote and support volunteerism throughout our Shire, recognising that collaborative efforts can lead to enhanced outcomes for our communities.
A Council that serves its Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake robust and transparent planning and risk management to ensure our organisation is sustainable now and into the future. Embed good governance practices into all decision making. Advocate for our community, on matters that are important to the entire municipal district. Build trust through engaging with our community, delivering quality services and outcomes. Consider a broad base of evidence before making decisions, ensuring value for money and responsive, innovative services and solutions are provided. Promote initiatives ensuring safety, respect, and equal opportunities for all genders, aiming to end family violence.
Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, Plans, Strategies and Frameworks	
Policy	Procurement Policy
	Gift, Benefits and Hospitality Policy and Guidelines
	Media and Communications Policy
	Governance Rules
	Public Transparency Policy
	Community Engagement Policy and Procedure
Other	YSC Corporate Style Guide

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

26 October 2022 – Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – Item 13.2 Advisory Committee of Council Policy

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council recruits members for Advisory Committees in accordance with the processes outlined in the Community Engagement Policy and Procedure.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not required for this report.

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
Corporate Governance, Compliance and Liability Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Advisory Committees are optional bodies that councils may choose to establish to support good governance, community engagement, and informed decision-making. Their establishment helps councils give effect to the overarching governance and community engagement principles outlined in the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> .	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Strategy Execution and Change Management Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Advisory Committees of Council are established to provide informed advice that helps shape the strategic direction of Council, ensuring that decisions and actions reflect the needs and perspectives of the diverse community.	Maintains Residual Risk Level
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Establishing Advisory Committees of Council fosters stronger, more positive relationships between Council and community members by providing meaningful opportunities for engagement, collaboration, and shared decision-making.	Maintains 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.

15.8 TOURISM STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT YEAR 2

Prepared by Sarah Collins, Manager Community Strengthening and Engagement

SUMMARY

This report provides an update to Council on the status of Year 2 initiatives as outlined in the Yarriambiack Shire Council Tourism Strategy 2023-2027.

Resolution:

That Council:

- a) Endorse the Year 2 Tourism Strategy Progress Report as attached to this report.

Moved Cr Zanker

Seconded Cr Keel

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment: Tourism and Economic Development Strategy Status Report](#)

DISCUSSION

The Tourism Strategy 2023-2027 identifies five key themes with 18 actionable items to be undertaken over a four-year period, each initiative notes Council's role and timeline for delivery. Council Officers are progressing well against timelines and tasks as identified in the strategy.

Please refer to the attachment for status updates on the progress of each initiative.

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2025 – 2029 Strategic Objectives	Priorities
An Innovative and Diversified Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactively communicate and advocate to Government bodies, to deliver positive tourism outcomes for our community, capitalising on opportunities as they arise. Advocate for continued and enhanced funding to enable strategic investment in our roads, footpaths, and associated assets to support tourism, economic development and social inclusion and connection across our Shire. Understand, support and advocate for services and associated skilled workforces to unlock economic and community development opportunities across our Shire.
A Healthy and Inclusive Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and/or maintain strong partnerships to deliver high quality services and sustainable infrastructure to enhance the social health and wellbeing outcomes for all our residents. Plan for and support diverse housing options to meet community needs now and into the future. Promote and support volunteerism throughout our Shire, recognising that collaborative efforts can lead to enhanced outcomes for our communities.
A Council that serves its Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake robust and transparent planning and risk management to ensure our organisation is sustainable now and into the future. Embed good governance practices into all decision making.

Council Plan 2025 – 2029 Strategic Objectives	Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for our community, on matters that are important to the entire municipal district. Build trust through engaging with our community, delivering quality services and outcomes. Consider a broad base of evidence before making decisions, ensuring value for money and responsive, innovative services and solutions are provided. Promote initiatives ensuring safety, respect, and equal opportunities for all genders, aiming to end family violence.
Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, Plans, Strategies and Frameworks	
Strategy	Tourism Strategy
	Economic Development Strategy

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

- 13 December 2023 – Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes - Item 15.4 Tourism Strategy
- 27 November 2024 – Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – Item 15.3 Tourism Strategy Progress Report for Year 1

OPTIONS

- a) Councillors have the option of revisiting and updating the strategic themes and actions, if there is consensus that the objectives do not align with the sentiment of the community.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic	The Tourism Strategy and Action Plan provides clear guidance for future tourism directions to enhance economic capacity of the visitor servicing industry within the Yarriambiack municipality.
Social	The Tourism 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.
Financial	The Tourism 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

Community engagement was undertaken during the creation of the Tourism Strategy and is ongoing as required when undertaking actions as listed in the Action Plan.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not applicable.

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
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	Maintains Residual Risk Level

Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level	Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk	Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level
	strategic and operational activities of Council for the four-year period 2023-2027.	
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
- Wimmera Mallee Destination Management Plan
- Yarriambiack Shire Council Local Area Action Plan
- Grampians 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.

16 COUNCIL REPORTS FOR NOTING

Nil.

17 PERMITS ISSUED

List of permits issued in October 2025 is listed below for noting.

Resolution:

That Council:

Note the permits issued by Council between 01 October 2025 to 31 October 2025.

Moved Cr Zanker

Seconded Cr Heintze

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

Reference No	Description	Address	Date of Issue
Local Law Permits			
17-25	Conduct a festival –Run the Beal	Warracknabeal	15/10/2025
18-25	Conduct a festival – Run the Beal	Warracknabeal	15/10/2025
19-25	Yarriambiack Seniors Festival Concert 2025 Event	Warracknabeal	20/10/2025
97/25	Hopetoun Twilight Market	Hopetoun	22/10/2025
96/25	Hopetoun Garage Sale	Hopetoun	22/10/2025
Planning Permits			
PA20250067	Construction of a shed	Warracknabeal	03/10/2025
PA20250065	Construction of a single dwelling in a Heritage Overlay	Murtoa	03/10/2025
PA20250068	Land used as a place of assembly for the Barley Banquet	Rupanyup	03/10/2025
PA20250071	Construction of a shed on a vacant lot	Lascelles	24/10/2025
Septic Tank Permits			
18625	Septic Tank to Reln	Murtoa	22/10/2025
RRWP & APP Permits			
2025-14	RRWP	Murtoa	21/10/2025

18 CLOSED DECISIONS TO BE RECORDED IN OPEN COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

The following Council decisions have been made in a Closed Confidential Council Meeting and are being recorded, where appropriate, in the Agenda of an open Council meeting for public transparency.

Resolution:

That Council:

- a) Determines, pursuant to section 125(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, that the Resolution(s) made and outlined in the table below, while a meeting was closed to the public be made publicly available; and recorded in the public Minutes of this meeting.

Moved Cr Heintze

Seconded Cr Keel

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

Date	Item Number and Title	Decision
29 October 2025	Item 4.1 New Member Appointment to the Yarriambiack Tourism Advisory Committee of Council	<p>Resolution:</p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>a) Appoint Tom Hamilton to the Yarriambiack Tourism Advisory Committee for a term of 7 months, equivalent to the current nominated term.</p> <p>Moved Cr Kirk Seconded Cr Keel</p> <p>That the recommendation be adopted.</p> <p><u>Carried Unanimously</u></p>

19 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 or conveniently 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, they must provide a response to the Councillor as outlined in 2.13 (e) of the Governance Rules.

20 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 10 December 2025

21 CLOSED

Council will close the Ordinary Meeting of Council and move to the Closed (Confidential) Meeting of Council. Noting the meetings will be considered as two separate meetings.

Resolution:

That the Ordinary Meeting of Council is now closed at 10.30am.

Council will now proceed to the Closed (Confidential) Meeting of Council.

Moved Cr Zanker

Seconded Cr Keel

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

SUMMARY CLOSED (CONFIDENTIAL) MEETING AGENDA

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:

1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER CONTRACT

This Agenda item is confidential information for the purpose of section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*:

- a) Because it is personal information, being information which if released would result in unreasonable disclosure of information about any person (section 3(1)(f)); and
- b) This ground applies because the Agenda Item concerns human resource information about the Chief Executive Officer, that would, if prematurely released, compromise Council's position in relation to the requirement to comply with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*.