

Council Plan Actions 2021-2025- Year 1

Council Plan Objective	Action	Due date	Progress	Officers Update
1.1 Develop a new planning scheme for Ararat Rural City that is clear in its intention, supports growth and builds confidence and certainty around land use.	Commence consultation and implementation of new Planning Scheme	30/06/2022	In progress 0-50%	Review of current scheme is complete to be received at the February 2022 Council meeting.
1.2 Support innovative housing models that work to overcome market failure and create the capacity to increase the population of Ararat Rural City.	Development of a Transitional Worker Housing project	30/06/2022	In progress 0-50%	Project partners identified and Heads of Agreement for a rental guarantee being negotiated.
	Develop a potential Public Private Partnership (PPP) model for development of affordable housing	30/06/2022	Complete	Model has been developed and a Heads of Agreement has been negotiated with a potential investor.
	Explore feasibility of development of state-owned land with Development Victoria	31/03/2022	Complete	Council has worked with Development Victoria to explore opportunities to develop Crown Land in Ararat. The project has not moved forward due to complexities around land acquisition.
	Develop an alternate access to the Ararat East Development Zone based on successful State Government funding	31/03/2022	Complete	State funding secured through the Workforce Pilot Program. Design, CHMP and environmental study is in place. Construction will be completed in-house by October 2022.
	Seek funding support from Victorian State Government for key trunk infrastructure to assist in de-risking private sector housing development	30/06/2022	Complete	Trunk road and drainage infrastructure gained through the State Government Workforce Pilot Program (\$950,000). An additional fund was provided to support Transitional Worker Housing projects (\$300,000).
1.3 Work with other levels of government, business, and not-for-for profits to develop programs to increase in-migration to Ararat Rural City to grow our population.	Seek funding from the Victorian State Government to support a significant in-migration project to support population growth.	30/06/2022	Complete	Funding was received under the Workforce Pilot project to support a project with the Wyndham Community Education Centre to support in-migration to support population growth (\$650,000).
	Seek funding for a workforce pilot program to support employment attraction initiatives	30/06/2022	Complete	Funding received under the Workforce Pilot project to support employment attraction (\$281,000). Carmel Goulding appointed as Workforce Pilot Lead.

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2.1 Partner with Federation University Australia to deliver the Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct.	Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct established with 4 PhD scholars appointed in 2021/2022	31/12/2021	Complete	Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct established. 3 PhD and 2 Masters by research Scholarships have been funded through the Destination Australia Scheme. An additional scholarship will be funded by Council to support the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. A scholarship has been negotiated to support the development of Council's new planning scheme. Appointments of 3 PhD students and 1 Masters Student have been made.
	Develop a community digital hub and co-working space	31/12/2021	Complete	Project complete. Digital Hub and Coworking space opened by 30/11/2021.
2.2 Work with other levels of government, local business, and private investors to develop a business park within Ararat Rural City, focused on agricultural value adding and advanced manufacturing, potentially leveraging "behind the meter" power.	Commence consultation with stakeholders to the develop the concept of a Business Park in the municipality.	30/06/2022	Complete	Business Park identified as a key advocacy project by Council for the 2022 Federal and State Elections. Consultations with RDV and Pacific Heat and Power have been undertaken regarding funding and attraction of tenants.
	Continue to support the development of biomass power facility	Ongoing through 2021-2022	Ongoing	The biomass power facility is progressing well. It has successfully completed FEL1 design and is progressing to FEL2. Over 140,000 tonnes of straw have been committed to provide feedstock.
2.3 Engage with Grampians Tourism and local businesses to drive growth in high yield tourist outcomes.	Implement new funding model Grampians Tourism	30/06/2022	Complete	A new MOU has been developed, including new funding model, and adopted by Council.
	Continuation of business facade program	30/06/2022	Complete	2021/2022 Façade Grant program rolled out.

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3.1 Position Ararat Rural City Council as a prime mover in driving circular economy policy in waste management, including local processing and management of recyclables, and in use of renewable energy for Council purposes.	Fully implemented new Waste Management Plan, aligned with circular economy outcomes by 30 June 2022.	30/06/2022	In progress 51-99%	Council has agreed to Waste Management Plan. Implementation is progressing well. Full four bin program and local processing will be rolled out by 3 October 2022
	Council adopts Waste Management Pathway Plan at the October 2021 Council Meeting	31/10/2021	Complete	Plan adopted by Council at the October 2021 Council meeting.
3.2 Develop innovative energy solutions utilising locally produced waste.	Continue to support the development of biomass power facility	Ongoing	Ongoing	The biomass power facility is progressing well. It has successfully completed FEL1 design and is progressing to FEL2. over 140,000 tonnes of straw have been committed to provide feedstock.
	Work with Pomonal Power and BREAZE to undertake a feasibility study for an innovative local power solution	Ongoing	Ongoing	Working to assist Pomonal power and Breeze to conduct the feasibility study.
3.3 Partner with local organisations and scientific experts to develop an appropriate and pragmatic local government Environment Strategy, focussed on the circular economy, emission reduction through renewable energy and management of Council assets.	Establish Environment Working Group comprising scientific/technical and community membership	30/11/2021	Complete	Working group made up of scientific and community members has been established through invitation and expression of interest.
	Environment Working Group, working with consultants, develops Environment Strategy 2021-2031.	31/03/2022	Not started	This project will commence once the Environment Working Group forms and commences work.
	Implementation of Environment Strategy	30/06/2022	Not started	Implementation of the ARCC Environment Strategy will commence once it is developed by the Environment Working Group.

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4.1 Ensure that asset development and renewal during the planning period matches that identified in Council's Asset Plan 2021-2031	Undertake complete review of assets management, including systems, physical asset management, valuation and financial models.	31/03/2022	Complete	Asset management teams was established. An asset management schema was developed and adopted by Council. Asset Plan 2022-2032 was developed.
	Commence planning and negotiation with Regional Roads Victoria to develop a north-south heavy vehicle route for the Pyrenees Hwy	30/06/2022	In progress 0-50%	Initial discussions and route planning have commenced with Regional Roads Victoria.
	Complete 2020-2022 Roads Capital Works Plan	30/06/2022	In progress 51-99%	The Capital works program is progressing well with most rural roads finished. Works on Dean St and Baird St have also been completed.
	Implement sealed road shoulder maintenance program	30/06/2022	Complete	Works have been completed
	Undertake the 2021/2022 footpath and cycleway maintenance program	30/06/2022	In progress 0-50%	Planning has commenced and the program will be completed by 30 June 2022.
	Plan and undertake the drainage renewal program	30/06/2022	In progress 0-50%	Planning has commenced and the program will be completed by 30 June 2022. Learning for the extreme weather events on the 6 & 7 January 2022 will form part of the planning piece.
	4.2 Work directly with asset users to manage and develop new and existing assets.	Planning and funding models for rural roads "spine" developed and endorsed by Rural Roads Group	30/06/2022	Ongoing

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	Policy and framework developed for sealing urban gravel roads and significant urban laneways	31/12/2021	In progress 51-99%	Policy development underway - identified as a key element of the Asset Plan 2022-2032
	Undertake a feasibility study for redevelopment of McDonald Centre (jointly with Grampians Community Health)	30/06/2022	In progress 0-50%	Discussions have commenced with Grampians Community Health. This project is a key element of Council's advocacy plan in the lead up to the 2022 State and Federal elections.
	Work with the Lake Bolac Hall Committee to complete preliminary design for Lake Bolac Hall refurbishment	30/06/2022	Not started	Discussion with the Lake Bolac Hall Committee to commence in first half of 2022.
	Undertake the Ararat Fitness Centre Feasibility Study	31/03/2022	Complete	Work has commenced on the study with further community engagement to be undertaken in January 2022. Work is progressing and will be completed in accordance with the funding agreement. The feasibility study has been completed.
4.3 Deliver infrastructure outcomes that support economic growth, promote community wellbeing and safety, and align with Council's financial sustainability.	Implementation of key infrastructure projects from the Asset Plan 2021-2031 during the planning period.	30/06/2022	Complete	Key infrastructure projects have been identified for the Asset Strategy. The majority of work in 2021/2022 will be in the planning and funding space.
	Provide free public WiFi services Ararat	30/06/2022	In progress 51-99%	This project has commenced and due for completion in 2022.
	Implement Pomonal Tunnel Track Linkage Plan	30/06/2022	In progress 0-50%	Work has commenced on planning of the site requirements.

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	Implement Gordon Street Recreation Reserve Redevelopment	30/06/2022	Complete	Work has commenced on site, milestone tender requirements have now been extended out to 31.03.2022 to obtain costings that adhere to the budget. Tender has been awarded and work on the construction of the pavilion has now commenced in line with the funding milestones.
	Undertake renovation and extension of the Buangor Recreation Reserve kitchen	30/06/2022	In progress 0-50%	Three design proposals have been developed for community consideration.
	Undertake renovation of the Lake Bolac Complex kitchen	30/06/2022	In progress 0-50%	The "complex" kitchen is now managed by the Lake Bolac Golf Club under a lease agreement with Council. Discussions have commenced around kitchen design to meet the Golf Club's needs.
5.1 Open up Council's arts and culture assets to greater community participation, ownership and engagement in decision-making.	Work with the Friends of Gum San to explore a model for improving the viability of Gum San.	31/12/2021	Complete	An MoU has been negotiated with Friends of Gum San for management of the site. Final handover will occur in late January 2022.
	Develop the Ararat Regional Library Strategy	31/12/2021	Complete	5-year Strategy complete and action plan currently being formed for implementation.
	Establish a Town Hall Users Group to provide advice on issues relating to the operations of the Town Hall	30/11/2021	Complete	Town Hall user group established, will hold first meeting in July 2022
	Establish a TAMA Gallery Reference Group to provide advice on the operations of TAMA	30/11/2021	In progress 51-99%	The TAMA Gallery Reference group is currently being formed with professional artist members appointed and recruitment underway of community members.

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5.2 Develop models of volunteering that recognise, support and properly utilise the skills that community volunteers bring to community life.	Promote the benefits and achievements of volunteers to encourage participation.	31/05/2022	Ongoing	This is an ongoing Council role.
	Facilitate networks/partnerships with community groups	30/06/2022	Ongoing	Council will continue to increase its level of involvement with and support for community groups across the municipality. Council's Community grants need to be better publicised across ARCC.
5.3 Partner with community groups, not-for-profits, and traditional owner organisations to develop Ararat Rural City as a more inclusive and diverse community.	Review the Access and Inclusion Policy	30/06/2022	Not started	This important project will be carried forward to the Annual pan 2022/2023.
	Develop a Gender Equality Policy	31/12/2021	Complete	Gender Equality Action Plan submitted to the Gender Equality Commission 25/03/2022.
	Commence a process of establishing respectful and productive relationships with traditional owner organisations	30/06/2022	Not started	This important project will be carried forward to the Annual pan 2022/2023.
6.1 Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation and rating fairness.	Council budgets continue to deliver public value and return dividends where appropriate	30/06/2022	Ongoing	Council budgets will continue to be framed to deliver public value across all services. Focus of core business and financial sustainability will underpin financial decision making. The 2022/2023 Budget will be framed to ensure that Council has the option to deliver a zero percent rate rise.
	Council develop and implement a performance dashboard providing reporting to the CEO, Council and Community	31/12/2021	In progress 51-99%	Performance dashboard in place and currently being used for Budget management and monitoring. KPIs developed across services and being refined through sense checking activity and regular meetings with service leaders.

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	Undertake key data quality improvement projects during 2021/2022	31/03/2022	Ongoing	Key data projects are being developed and delivered around KPI, financial and asset data.
6.2 Ensure appropriate risk management is applied to Council and organisational decisions. Council's internal function is applied to areas of perceived risk.	Council Review the Business Continuity Plan and Disaster Recovery Plan	30/06/2022	In progress 51-99%	Emergency Management and Risk Management staff have commenced a review of BCP and DRP.
	Review Council's Risk Management Policy and Framework	30/06/2022	Complete	Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Framework reviewed. Presented to Audit and Risk Committee on 7 September 2021 and adopted by Council at the Council meeting held on 21 September 2021.
	Develop a Risk Management training program	30/06/2022	Complete	Basic Risk Training Session was conducted by Council's Risk Service Provider on 2 March 2022 for all Managers, Coordinators, Supervisors and Team Leaders.
	Implement a Risk Assessment Process and Building Inspection Program for all Council assets	30/06/2022	Complete	Building Inspection Checklist developed and utilised by Depot and Asset staff.
6.3 Continuously improve Council's community engagement process and practices in line with deliberative engagement practices, while acknowledging the need for a range of different techniques to ensure effective engagement.	Implement the Community Engagement Policy to support and development Council's strategies and projects.	30/06/2022	Ongoing	Council's Community Engagement Policy will be rolled out further during the first half of 2022. This will include utilising the Policy in development of Council's 2022/2023 Budget and Annual Plan.