



Ararat Rural City

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 26 July 2022

To be held in the Council Chambers, Shire Offices
(Livestreamed)

Commencing at 6.00pm

Council:

Cr Jo Armstrong (Mayor)

Cr Gwenda Allgood

Cr Rob Armstrong

Cr Peter Beales

Cr Henry Burridge

Cr Bob Sanders

Cr Bill Waterston



Ararat Rural City

A recording of this meeting is being made for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of the minutes of the Council Meeting.

The recording is being streamed live via Facebook, to improve transparency between council and the community and give more people the opportunity to view what decisions are being made. You do not require a Facebook account to watch the live broadcast, simply enter www.facebook.com/aratruralcitycouncil into your address bar.

Recordings of Council Meetings (excluding closed sessions) are made available on Council's website.

SECTION 1 – PROCEDURAL MATTERS	3
1.1 LIVE STREAMING	3
1.2 TRADITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/OPENING PRAYER/COUNCILLORS PLEDGE	3
1.3 APOLOGIES	3
1.4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	3
1.5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST	4
SECTION 2 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	5
2.1 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS	5
2.1.1 PETITION- PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW, MOYSTON RESIDENTS.....	6
SECTION 3 – REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL DECISION	9
3.1 KERBSIDE RESOURCE RECOVERY POLICY	9
3.2 HEATH STREET, ARARAT- SPEED REDUCTION SIGNAGE.....	12
3.3 REFRAMING THE PLANNING SCHEME.....	14
3.4 KEY FINANCIAL DRIVERS.....	20
3.5 REVIEW OF WASTE MANAGEMENT CHARGES	23
3.6 2022/2023 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM REPORTING AND ROLLOUT	26
SECTION 4 – INFORMATION REPORTS	29
4.1 BUILDING APPROVALS	29
4.2 PLANNING MATTERS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATION.....	32
4.3 ASSET PLAN 2022-2032 ANNUAL PLAN YEAR 1 REPORT.....	35
4.4 COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 YEAR 2 ACTION PLAN UPDATE.....	39
4.5 ARARAT CHILDCARE SURVEY.....	44
SECTION 5 – INFORMAL MEETINGS	47
5.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS	47
SECTION 6 – NOTICES OF MOTION	49
(112) NOTICE OF MOTION: CR PETER BEALES.....	49



SECTION 7– URGENT BUSINESS.....	50
SECTION 8 – CLOSE SESSION (CONFIDENTIAL)	51
CLOSURE OF COUNCIL MEETING TO THE PUBLIC.....	51
OPEN COUNCIL MEETING RECOMMENCEMENT	51
LIFTING OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTIONS	51

SECTION 1 – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 LIVE STREAMING

Council is keen to engage with members of the community and live streams the formal Council Meetings to make them accessible. The stream is available to view on Council's Facebook page from 6pm and on Council's website following the Council Meeting.

1.2 TRADITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/OPENING PRAYER/COUNCILLORS PLEDGE

Traditional acknowledgement

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we humbly ask you to help us, as elected Councillors of the Ararat Rural City Council. Guide our deliberations. Prosper what is your will for us, to your honour and glory and for the welfare and benefit of the people whom we serve in the Ararat Rural City.

Councillors Pledge

We will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions invested in us under the *Local Government Act 2020* and any other Act to the best of our skill and judgement.

1.3 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDATION (if required)

That the apology of Cr be accepted.

1.4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 28 June 2022 be confirmed.

1.5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at a *Council meeting* at which he or she:

- 1 is present must disclose that conflict of interest by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present at the *Council meeting* immediately before the matter is considered; or
- 2 intends to be present must disclose that conflict of interest by providing to the *Chief Executive Officer* before the *Council meeting* commences a written notice:
 - (a) advising of the conflict of interest;
 - (b) explaining the nature of the conflict of interest; and
 - (c) detailing, if the nature of the conflict of interest involves a Councillor's relationship with or a gift from another person, the:
 - name of the other person;
 - nature of the relationship with that other person or the date of receipt, value and type of gift received from the other person; and
 - nature of that other person's interest in the matter,and then immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting announcing to those present that he or she has a conflict of interest and that a written notice has been given to the *Chief Executive Officer* under this sub-Rule.

The Councillor must, in either event, leave the *Council meeting* immediately after giving the explanation or making the announcement (as the case may be) and not return to the meeting until after the matter has been disposed of.

SECTION 2 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2.1 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

- 1 Unless *Council* determines to consider it as an item of urgent business, no motion (other than a motion to receive the same) may be made on any petition, joint letter, memorial or other like application until the next *Council meeting* after that at which it has been presented.
- 2 It is incumbent on every Councillor presenting a petition or joint letter to acquaint himself or herself with the contents of that petition or joint letter, and to ascertain that it does not contain language disrespectful to *Council*.
- 3 Every Councillor presenting a petition or joint letter to *Council* must:
 - write or otherwise record his or her name at the beginning of the petition or joint letter; and
 - confine himself or herself to a statement of the persons from whom it comes, the number of signatories to it, the material matters expressed in it and the text of the prayer or request.
- 4 Every petition or joint letter presented to *Council* must be in *writing* (other than pencil), typing or printing, contain the request of the petitioners or signatories and be signed by at least 12 people.
- 5 Every petition or joint letter must be signed by the persons whose names are appended to it by their names or marks, and, except in cases of incapacity or sickness, by no one else and the address of every petitioner or signatory must be clearly stated.
- 6 Any signature appearing on a page which does not bear the text of the whole of the petition or request may not be considered by *Council*.
- 7 Every page of a petition or joint letter must be a single page of paper and not be posted, stapled, pinned or otherwise affixed or attached to any piece of paper other than another page of the petition or joint letter.
- 8 If a petition, joint letter, memorial or other like application relates to an operational matter, *Council* must refer it to the *Chief Executive Officer* for consideration.

2.1.1 PETITION- PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW, MOYSTON RESIDENTS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: MANAGER PLANNING, COMMUNITY AND COMPLIANCE
DEPARTMENT: PLANNING, COMMUNITY AND COMPLIANCE
REFERENCE: Review of the Planning Scheme

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A joint letter was received from residents of Moyston and Rhymney at the June 2022 Council meeting. In line with Clause 55.1 of Council's Governance Rules the item was received with a resolution to be represented in July 2022.

The joint letter outlined concerns that the residents shared with the issues raised by Noelhurst Pastoral Co Pty Ltd and presented by Mr Bob Milne to Item 3.2 of that meeting being the report on the Planning Scheme Review entitled *Reframing the Planning Scheme*. The suggested changes to the planning scheme should be considered as part of the next suite of actions to review the zones, overlays, and strategies

DISCUSSION

The joint letter advised that the 10 signatories supported the issues raised by Tract on behalf of Noelhurst Pastoral Co Pty Ltd in relation to the planning scheme review report. Specifically, the joint letter stated:

"We, the undersigned have reviewed the submission made on behalf of Noelhurst Pastoral Co Pty Ltd by Tract and make the following comments and requests:

1. *We share concerns regarding the inherent incompatibility of lifestyle and small-scale, low volume agricultural enterprises and hobby farms with traditional broad acre farming activity and believe the Planning Scheme should be utilised to ensure conflicts arising between such uses should not arise. The current review process provides an opportunity for appropriate mechanisms to be put in place to achieve this outcome.*
2. *We support dwelling lot excisions of smaller allotments where required to facilitate succession planning with respect to farming operations, and request that Council undertake more rigorous analysis of such applications to ensure that they relate to legitimate generational change to support farming enterprises and not rural lifestyle opportunities.*
3. *We request that Council undertake a comprehensive and strategic analysis of impacts arising from the increased demand for rural residential lots within land zoned for farming purposes on agricultural operations and other social and community infrastructure need. This should consider the unprecedented demand for this type of property in recent years, exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic.*
4. *We request Council undertake a more extensive and meaningful consultation process with the farming community in relation to these matters."*

There is no doubt that those who signed the joint letter have experience in running productive agricultural businesses in the local community. However, the proposed changes are not something that can be changed as yet, as insufficient work has progressed to develop this component.

As noted in the Reframing the Planning Scheme report at Item 3.3 in this agenda there are a number of significant pieces of work that will be done from now until late 2023 that revise the local policy provisions, zoning and overlays of the Ararat Planning Scheme. The issues that have been outlined in the joint letter are best discussed across the agricultural sector as part of this further work to review the areas of productive agricultural land, enhance local policy for handling requests in these areas and the minimum areas for new dwelling.

Discussion with the author of the original submission outlining the concerns of incompatible land use outcomes indicated that there was no specific research undertaken to support either their proposal of 100ha lot minimum. They were also not aware of any technical work to support 80ha farm minimum as suggested in the joint letter.

Determining a viable farm unit needs to consider a range of factors including:

- other overlay controls,
- the pattern of historic subdivision,
- the resources available to improve agricultural output,
- the market access
- the cumulative benefit that accrues across multiple parcels in an area.

The proposed significant increase in lot areas is also likely to impact on the ability of some rural landholders to build their farms in an economic manner, further concentrating the large landholders and excluding opportunities for niche or other parties to enter into the sector.

If changes are to be made to the minimum area for new dwellings, then a piece of work would need to be prepared to address these matters in some detail and evaluate the benefits and risks that such changes bring.

Land use conflicts between rural uses and lifestyle lots is not a common reported issue in the municipality. More commonly there are conflicts (animals, noise, dust and similar) in the Ararat town area and the villages throughout the municipality.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The review and reframing of the Planning Scheme advances the following objectives and strategies:

1. Growing Our Place

We will create the settings to support growth across our municipality through an improved planning scheme, actively pursuing new housing options and exploring models for in-migration.

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.

2. Building Robust Local Economies

We will develop strong relationships to build and strengthen a diverse local economy, focused on creating jobs and wealth through adding value to existing strengths in agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality.

6.Strong and Effective Governance

We will work hard to build models of governance that place delivering public value at the centre through effective financial management; well measured risk management; and implementation of effective community engagement practices.

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.

Budget Implications

The 2021/2022 and current budget allocates resources for the preparation of this work.

Policy/Relevant Law

The *Planning & Environment Act* sets out objectives in section 4. The proposed approach supports the objectives to:

- *Provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use, and development of land;*
- *Secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all; and Victorians and visitors to Victoria.*

Sustainability Implications

Any projects to review the Farming zone control needs to consider the economic, environmental and social implications of the change. Rural localities need to have a diversity of household types, ages and forms of economic activity to sustain critical elements of that community – for example enough volunteers to sustain the CFA, the local hall committee, sports activities, rural schools and localised shopping.

Further sustaining the level of residents also allows for informal arrangements between neighbours to support aging in place, works with common benefits and support in times of crisis and emergency.

Risk Assessment

Proposed changes need to be developed based on a full understanding of the risks and benefits that will accrue. This work can be prepared as part of the actions identified in the report at Item 3.3- Reframing the Planning Scheme.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Amending the planning scheme is a process of continuous improvement to build and shape controls on individual sites and areas. The review of the scheme has highlighted extensive changes in the last five years by both the Council and the state across a broad range of areas.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Further work will be needed as the planning scheme advances that will require both input and review by the entire community. The *Planning and Environment Act* mandates this and the approach outlines at Item 3.3- Reframing the Planning Scheme, provides additional steps beyond the minimum level for the whole community to be involved.

RECOMMENDATION

That the petition be noted, and the signatories be advised of the work to be undertaken in the future as part of the reframing of the Planning Scheme.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments in relation to this item.

SECTION 3 – REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL DECISION

3.1 KERBSIDE RESOURCE RECOVERY POLICY

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: MANAGER PLANNING, COMMUNITY AND COMPLIANCE
DEPARTMENT: PLANNING, COMMUNITY AND COMPLIANCE
REFERENCE: 5871

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report presents feedback on the Draft Kerbside Resource Recovery policy, to guide the implementation of the new kerbside waste collection service.

DISCUSSION

Council adopted its *Waste Management Strategy* in early 2021 to guide the planning, procurement and provision of waste and resource recovery services. This document sought to operationalise the changes required to waste and resource management by the State and Federal Governments following worldwide changes in the recycling sector since 2018.

Council is working towards the implementation of additional collection of glass and organic material in October 2022. As part of these changes the following actions will occur:

- An “all in” residential collection service for rural residents for waste, recyclables and glass (the 3-bin system)
- Residents of the town area and villages will have a 4-bin system with the addition of an organics bin to the 3 bins provided to rural residents.
- Council will crush the glass recovered from the monthly collection and re-use this as glass sand or pass it on for others to re-use, noting there is a growing demand for reprocessed materials in state and federally funded projects
- Council will have organic matter collected processed into compost
- Recycling materials will continue to be sorted in the region and processed in established state facilities
- Waste materials collected will continue to be disposed of locally at Stawell.

It is hoped that with the efforts of residents that the materials recovered and reused will increase from less than 30% of the annual tonnage to more than 70%. The implementation of the new bin system, collection and re-processing arrangements are expected to see the overall waste collected drop from around 3,000 tonnes per year to less than 1,300 tonnes annually. Reduction in the material going to landfill in the red-lid bin will save all ratepayers as landfill attracts both a disposal charge and a state levy that is set to continue to rise.

Historically the terms of the collection service have been managed by processes and actions that were not clearly documented and available to people in the community. This also left room for inconsistent decision making. The draft policy seeks to fill these voids and provide an agreed position for service delivery.

Given that the waste and resource management area is the most substantial annual operating cost to Council it is important that such agreement is reached.

The Recycling Victoria policy defines four targets to achieve a circular economy:

- divert 80% of waste from landfill by 2030 (with an interim target of 72% by 2025). To achieve this target the state is mandating the implementation of 4 kerbside bins for all households to separate waste, paper/card/metal, organics and glass or the adoption of an alternative separation system in rural areas to increase recovery of these materials.
- cut total waste generation by 15% per capita by 2030
- halve the volume of organic materials going to landfill between 2020-2030 (with an interim target of 20% reduction by 2025)
- ensure every household has access to food and organic waste recycling or local composting by 2030.

Community Engagement

The development of the policy included the provision of a month-long input window using the *Engage Ararat* portal. The document was uploaded to the system from 06 June 2022 to 4 July 2022. During that time there were 83 visits to the site and 7 submissions were received.

These are provided in full in Attachment A with responses from staff.

Broadly these could be categorised thus:

- 2 submissions in support of the policy and proposed changes
- 3 submissions seeking improvements or information
- 2 submissions with other waste management suggestions.

Because of the extensive nature in both the operation of the service and the materials being expanded to be collected the improvements are recommended to be revisited in 12 months' time after the service is implemented. This is not because the ideas lack merit, but the ability to make the proposed changes successfully in one sitting is already a substantial task. Further discussion with food businesses (on current arrangements), as well as service capacity requires are to be undertaken before this suggestion can be confirmed.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The policy also assists in achieving the Council Plan 2021-2025 objectives to:

3 Preserving our Environment

We will take pragmatic approaches to ensuring that Ararat Rural City Council takes a regional lead in responsible environmental management and engagement with the circular economy.

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.*

Development and implementation of the *Kerbside Resource Recovery Policy* advances the *Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020* objectives and strategies:

Budget Implications

The waste management activity is the most expensive single service annually to Council. Opportunities to reduce the exposure to future service cost changes are critical for responsible governance and financial management.

Costings for service changes need to be considered against the other known or likely cost increases – for example whilst a 4-bin system increases the number of trucks pulling to the kerb of each serviced household per month from 6 to 9, moving materials out of the red lidded waste bin into other bins will save

waste disposal costs as the state landfill levy increases and the cost to build new landfill cells continues to rise.

Similarly processing the food and garden waste in a green bin is typically at least 20% cheaper than landfilling it and returns the compost to farms and parkland as a soil conditioner, rather than generating greenhouse gas which in rural landfills is often expensive and difficult to capture and use.

Policy/Relevant Law

The proposed service changes are consistent with the national and state legislative requirements. The form of the state controls and the consequences for non-compliance with either, or both, is not yet known.

Sustainability Implications

The collection, reprocessing and disposal of waste has economic and environmental impacts as outlined above. At a social level there is an expectation that local government will act in a responsible manner and provide the tools to the households and business to benefit current and future generations.

Assessing the current performance of this service has highlighted the poor performance in this space and the steps that will move the Council to providing effective service delivery in this sector.

Risk Assessment

The policy itself seeks to mitigate the risk of inconsistent application of the service and defines what users can expect in the operations of the Council.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

In implementing each action and changes to the service, Council is seeking to meet both the community expectation for better service and the state obligation for improved recovery of materials that can be re-used. Achieving the state and national targets for waste diversion will require us all to work together. We have shown as a community in the last 2 years our ability and strength to make changes in times of transition and it is hoped these skills will again be evident as the program rolls out.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

In developing the policy Council staff have drawn on the community input undertaken through the development and consultation on the *Waste Management Strategy* and now put the draft policy through its own feedback process.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1 Adopt the *Kerbside Resource Recovery Policy*; and
- 2 Review the suggested improvement to include food businesses 12 months after the commencement of the organics collection service and in consultation with the food businesses.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Submissions and responses to consultation on the Draft *Kerbside Resource Recovery Policy*
- 2 *Kerbside Resource Recovery Policy* are provided as Attachment 3.1

3.2 HEATH STREET, ARARAT- SPEED REDUCTION SIGNAGE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: MANAGER PLANNING, COMMUNITY & COMPLIANCE
DEPARTMENT: PLANNING, COMMUNITY & COMPLIANCE
REFERENCE: 5873

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks to reduce the speed limit on the Western Highway at the eastern entrance to Ararat.

With the increasing development to the east of Ararat in both Green Hill Estate, the Caledonian Court Industrial area and existing local traffic movement, it is considered necessary to seek to extend the 60kph speed limit out to Heath Street, Ararat to ensure the safety of all road users.

DISCUSSION

After an extended level of inactivity, Council has seen significant development in Ararat East. This activity includes:

- The approval of 124 lots in Green Hill Drive over 7 stages
- Development of strategy to reuse and redevelop the Aradale site;
- Take up of all the lots in Caledonian Court by various businesses; and
- Increased use of the connection between the Western Highway and the Warrak Road (to access prison, wind farm and rural businesses) via Heath and McLellan Streets.

Council has also received concerning reports of the difficulty in foggy condition of safely entering the Western Highway at Heath Street.

Whilst the area is yet to commence sales and reach its full development potential, it is considered appropriate to undertake community engagement and any changes prior to there being near misses or serious accidents.

More generally the reduction in the speed limit to 60kph to this point will also enhance the safety of pedestrians and cyclists using the shared path to Green Hill Lake as well as the safety of the level crossings on the bend in the Western Highway before the Barkly Street roundabout at the eastern gateway to the town and on Heath Street itself.

Council has undertaken works in conjunction with Department of Transport to upgrade the turning movements and lighting in this location and the requested speed reduction is the next step in this process to ensure the safety of current and future road users.

A request by Council, the Department of Transport will see this matter be considered under the 2021 *Speed Zoning Policy* and *Speed Zoning Technical Guidelines* of the Department, and if supported in principle a community engagement process will be implemented.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

5. *Enhancing community Life*

We will work with the communities of Ararat Rural City to maintain social cohesion, support community activity and cultural life, and enhance safety.

Budget Implications

There are no budget implications known for the proposed request.

Policy/Relevant Law

The request to reduce the speed limit in this area is consistent with Councils' responsibility under the Local Government Act for:

priority to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations" section 9 (2) (b).

Sustainability Implications

The review of the speed limit seeks to mitigate future risks to the community by avoiding/minimising collision risks, as well as health impacts and broader community trauma that arises from such situations.

Risk Assessment

Both community reporting and staff observations of patterns of movement in this area identify an emerging future risk at this location.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

As part of the Speed Zoning Policy, community consultation will be undertaken if this proposal is accepted by the Department of Transport.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council write to the Minister for Roads & Road Safety, seeking the 60kph speed limit for the Western Highway be extended eastwards, to beyond the intersection of that road with Heath Street, Ararat for the safety of existing road, rail & shared path users.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments in relation to this item.

3.3 REFRAMING THE PLANNING SCHEME

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: MANAGER PLANNING, COMMUNITY AND COMPLIANCE
DEPARTMENT: PLANNING, COMMUNITY AND COMPLIANCE
REFERENCE: PA

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the report to the June Council Meeting adopting the Planning Scheme Review this report outlines the proposed actions to implement changes to address the issues with the current planning scheme.

DISCUSSION

Planning for our community is a fundamental element of the economic prosperity, sense of place and custodial care of the environment. Over an extended period of time the document has not kept pace with the needs of the local people and has continued to evolve through layers of control being added but rarely integrated. Without such integration, it has failed to create logical and consistent foundation that delivers a clear path to the future that meets the community needs.

The key findings of the Planning Scheme Review are:

1. Need to develop greater depth of local policy to guide development or implement sustainable growth outcomes specifically:
 - a. Resolve the historic zonings since amalgamation and promote the growth of Ararat town to a sustainable or thriving regional centre
 - b. Promote the ability of the villages to share in the region's growth given the available infrastructure (services, community and social)
 - c. Strengthen recognition of long-standing industrial businesses and the strategic suitability of Ararat on the Melbourne – Adelaide Road and rail connections and central location on the Portland/Geelong port transport route
 - d. Allow the tourism capability of Pomonal, Moyston and Lake Bolac to thrive through a mature approach to the population/human resource needs that such development requires
 - e. Develop local heritage policy content that embodies the practical need to support the ongoing investment in these sites and balances the "heritage story" element of these sites and their future usefulness for owners
2. Need to promote a significant growth initiative for the future to ensure the economic and social stability of the municipality.
3. Implement a process that integrate zoning and overlays after updating the mapping layers so that development prospects reflect the land capability.
4. Incorporate new pieces of work such as *Ararat in Transition* and the *Ararat Flood Study* into the planning scheme



Planning scheme review, scoping and redevelopment

Review the Planning Scheme

- Statistics for development
- Feedback from users and community – survey and existing information
- Challenges
- Opportunities

Guided by Planning & Environment Act
Proposed to be done by: Led by Veronica and supported by consultant
Output: Review report
Audience: Council, Community, DELWP

Landscape Water Assessment

- Review flood and salinity information
- Feedback from farmers and CMA
- Identify changes to be included in scheme to FO, LSIO and Salinity Overlay

Guided by Clause 13 of the Planning Scheme
Proposed to be done by: Technical expert
Note: this work exists for flooding with CMA
Output: Report establishing NO GO and GO GO or Go Lightly areas
Audience: Council, Community, CMA, Farm sector

Planning scheme amendment to implement outcomes

- Explanatory Report
- Draft of changes – maps and document
- Formal community engagement

Guided by Ministerial Guidelines – Form & Content of a Planning Scheme as well as relevant Practice Notes
Proposed to be done by: Technical expert
Output: Report defining needs and weaving the above to a new local strategy
Audience: Council, Community, DELWP, CFA

Review Environmental Controls

- Review state and commonwealth datasets for vegetation and ground truth
- Compile list of known sites where soil contamination may be evident
- Feedback from community and state experts on findings
- Establish if there is any new information from various projects
- Evaluate accuracy of current controls

Guided by Ministerial Direction No.1, Clause 12 and 13 of the Planning Scheme
Proposed to be done by: Technical expert
Output: Report establishing NO GO and GO GO or Go Lightly areas
Audience: Council, Community Groups, DELWP, DEE (Cwith)

Growth – People and Place

- Set a vision for each location in terms of the sustainable population in terms of houses, jobs or community facilities/infrastructure
- Feedback from key industry operators, GABN, development sectors
- Review Ararat in Transition, previous Industry studies and like

Guided by Clause 13.03 of the Planning Scheme
Proposed to be done by: Technical expert led and supported by CEO and MPCC
Output: Report defining needs and weaving the above to a new local strategy
Audience: Council, Community, DELWP, CFA

Setting new path forward

- Review zoning choices/best fit
- Land zoning allocations of parcels to reflect set criteria
- Document changes to the zones and overlay

Guided by Ministerial Guidelines – Form & Content of a Planning and Practitioner’s Guide to Victorian Planning Schemes, as well as relevant Practice Notes
Proposed to be done by: Technical expert
Output: Report defining needs and weaving the above to a new local strategy
Audience: Council, Community, DELWP, CFA, CMA

Landscape Fire Assessment

- Review topography and vegetation information at locality level
- Feedback from CFA groups (local, regional and state) and environmental experts
- Review BMO and BPA

Guided by Clause 13.03 of the Planning Scheme
Proposed to be done by: Technical expert
Output: Report establishing NO GO and GO GO or Go Lightly areas
Audience: Council, Community, DELWP, CFA

Landscape Visual Assessment

- Review current controls at locality level
- Feedback from community on expectations
- Review SLO – is extent appropriate and controls relevant

Guided by Clause 13.03 of the Planning Scheme
Proposed to be done by: Technical expert
Output: Report establishing Go Lightly areas or triage of controls
Audience: Council, Community, DELWP

Public land assessment

- Review current controls at locality level for individual site
- Feedback from community on expectations
- Review zones to establish if appropriate controls relevant

Guided by VEAC, Parks Victoria and DELWP Land unit
Proposed to be done by: Technical expert
Output: Report confirming future zones
Audience: Council, Community, DELWP

Project oversight – group of 6-8 people representing various parts of the municipality and an indigenous representative plus CEO and MPCC



Action Plan to deliver changes

As highlighted in the Planning Scheme Review the proposed approach to changes and the inter-relationship between pieces of work can be shown visually as provided in Figure 1.

Delivering the planning scheme review in a timely manner involves several key components and stages.

Namely:

- a. Gathering of new/updated data on land capability by theme – fire, flood, vegetation and such
- b. Ground truthing and sense checking the new data – both by Council and with the Community Reference Group
- c. Reviewing the vision and projected population for the Council area with the view to achieve an environmental & economically sustainable community.
 - i. Establish how the population will be best distributed geographically given the needs for:
 - Access to services and need for any new services
 - Available infrastructure
 - Variety/choice of lifestyle likely to be sought
 - Economic scenarios and employment opportunities and whether the existing zoned land is sufficient to accommodate the proposed population in a manner that will suit most people (existing residents and future residents, as well as existing/future businesses).
 - ii. Determine any new land required for development for residential, commercial, industrial and community purposes. Where new land is needed, evaluate if existing land can be efficiently re-developed (ie infill in existing towns and villages and review of minimum lot area in rural lifestyle precincts).
- d. Synthesising the data through a number of key policy filters to review the zones and overlays and amending these as needed. Document the findings of the work, the proposed changes and broadly test proposals with entire community.
- e. Review feedback and draft changes to the Planning Scheme.

The timeline for this work and additional key steps are shown on the following page.

Activity	2022						2023												
	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Gathering of new/updated data on land capability by theme																			
Environment																			
Fire																			
Flood - run separate planning scheme amendment process for this work when done as absence is current risk																			
Productive Agricultural land forms																			
Public land																			
Visual assessment																			
Infrastructure - input from agencies																			
Update mapping base																			
Ground truthing and sense checking the new data – both by Council & with the Community																			
Phase 1a- Consultants and Council																			
Phase 2 - Council and Community Reference Group																			
Refine mapping base																			
Reviewing the vision & projected population for the Council area with the view to achieve an environmental & economically sustainable community.																			
Workshop with Councillors and Community Reference Group to explore and define key population, housing, agriculture, industry, employment and community service outcomes/goals																			
Undertake broader community engagement on proposed parameters																			
Review feedback and revise parameters																			
Adopt policy position on strategy for Settlement, Housing, Heritage, Environmental protection and risks, Economic Development (agriculture, manufacturing, business, services), transport and infrastructure																			
Document agreed position and justification based on work undertaken in this activity																			
Synthesising the data through a number of key policy filters to review the zones & overlays and amending these as needed.																			
Community Reference Group adopt draft key policy parameters against land capability and policy positions developed to establish how development will be geographically spread based on land capability, services and infrastructure, variety/lifestyle choice and quantity required																			
Determine any new land required for development for residential, commercial, industrial and community purposes. Where new land is needed, evaluate if existing land can be efficiently re-developed (ie infill in existing towns & villages and review of minimum lot area in rural lifestyle precincts.																			
Run decision matrix over each parcel of land																			
Sense check the outcome with Community Reference Group																			
Document the findings of the work & the proposed changes & broadly test proposals with entire community.																			
Review feedback & draft changes to the Planning Scheme																			
Run Planning Scheme Amendment process																			
Changes to zonings and overlays																			
Additional schedules if proposed to zones																			

Community Input

Integral also to the success of the changes is to develop a group of residents and business owners to oversight, sense check & challenge the works, to ensure that it is as robust as possible.

This group ideally would comprise people of different ages, from various geographical parts of the municipality, with different life experiences. It is critical that they represent a diversity of views and have “skin in the game” - that is as landholders or businesspeople they can critically analyse the benefits & risks of key strategies proposed and the “winners” and “losers”.

Whilst it may seem harsh to exclude non-owners as a key group, the reality is that these people are more mobile and have differing choices available, likewise state agency representatives might wither participate

on an ad-hoc basis or as observers but should not lead the direction of the works, as again the long-term consequences are not theirs to bear.

From steps (d) to (h) the community reference group would act as Champions for the project, bringing a variety of ideas to the process, promoting possibilities in the community and seeking to build consensus or compromise wherever possible.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The review and reframing of the Planning Scheme advances the following objectives and strategies:

1. Growing Our Place

We will create the settings to support growth across our municipality through an improved planning scheme, actively pursuing new housing options and exploring models for in-migration.

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.

2. Building Robust Local Economies

We will develop strong relationships to build and strengthen a diverse local economy, focused on creating jobs and wealth through adding value to existing strengths in agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality.

3. Preserving Our Environment

We will take pragmatic approaches to ensuring that Ararat Rural City Council takes a regional lead in responsible environmental management and engagement with the circular economy.

4. Developing and Maintaining Key Enabling Infrastructure

We will ensure that we plan, fund and develop new infrastructure in ways that delivers strong public value. Existing infrastructure will be managed, renewed, and maintained to ensure that it continues to serve identified public needs.

4.2 Work directly with asset users to manage and develop new and existing assets.

4.3 Deliver infrastructure outcomes that support economic growth, promote community wellbeing and safety, and align with Council's financial sustainability.

6. Strong and Effective Governance

We will work hard to build models of governance that place delivering public value at the centre through effective financial management; well measured risk management; and implementation of effective community engagement practices.

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.

Budget Implications

The 2021/2022 and current budget allocates resources for the preparation of this work.

Policy/Relevant Law

The *Planning & Environment Act* sets out objectives in section 4. The proposed approach supports the objectives to:

- *Provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use, and development of land;*
- *Secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all*

Victorians and visitors to Victoria; and

- *Balance the present and future interests of all Victorians by facilitating the renewal of surplus government land.*

Sustainability Implications

The review has highlighted that financial, social and environmental sustainability are not adequately managed through the planning process. The work program for the subsequent improvements will be framed to overcome these challenges.

Risk Assessment

As outlined above, the planning scheme review has identified a range of thematic, as well as individual risks, in the designation of zones, overlays and other policy controls. The proposed approach seeks to work from current data and include a cross section of the community in the process for developing the new scheme to ensure it reflects more than the voices of technical staff and state agencies that do not have a direct interest in the outcome.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Amending the planning scheme is a process of continuous improvement to build and shape controls on individual sites and areas and reflect changing community values as well as fortunes. The review of the scheme has highlighted extensive changes in the last five years by both the Council and the state across a broad range of areas.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The process to review the Planning Scheme and make changes will include both formal and informal stakeholder collaboration with key elements proposed to be as follows:

- Recruitment of a Community Reference Group to ensure the project is grounded in the needs of existing and future residents and businesses
- Formal notification of any proposed changes as they are developed and agreed
- Information going out to the entire community through the *Engage Ararat* platform and promotion of the project through various media channels as work is available for review
- Inclusion of input of those state agencies commonly referred to in planning application as outlined in Clause 66 of the current planning scheme as work progresses

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Planning Scheme Work Plan for the tasks arising from the Planning Scheme Review.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments in relation to this item.

3.4 KEY FINANCIAL DRIVERS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 5878

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ararat Rural City Council has gone through a significant period of internal reform actively engaging its financial policy to demonstrate that it is possible for a small rural council to move towards financial sustainability.

The following are seen as the key financial drivers of this reform:

- Rating
- Debt
- Asset Preservation
- Surplus budgets
- Managing expenditure
- Rate rises
- Service standards

DISCUSSION

Ararat Rural City Council commenced a process four years ago to demonstrate that small rural Councils, like Ararat Rural City Council, can maintain assets, deliver effective community services and remain financially viable. Conventional wisdom in Victorian local government suggests that small rural Councils cannot be financially sustainable. The aim of this report is to provide a clear framework that Ararat Rural City Council will continue to follow in its ten-year financial plan that will yield a sustainable small rural council.

In its Financial plan 2021–2031 Council identifies the following key strategic actions:

- Maintaining investment in renewal capital works to ensure an effective local roads network that meets the economic and social needs of the municipal community
- Ensuring ongoing organisational efficiencies are returned as a dividend to ratepayers through responsible rating
- Investing in pragmatic approaches to environmental management and investment in local approaches to engaging in a circular economy
- Maintaining and developing community recreational and sporting facilities
- Developing key industry and research partnerships to deliver cost effective, innovative approaches to health and wellbeing, economic growth and housing development
- Demonstrating that small rural councils, like Ararat Rural City Council, can maintain assets, deliver effective community services and remain financially viable.

Council's recent financial management record includes:

- An average five-year zero total rate increase
- Four years of asset renewal and upgrade to depreciation ratios of significantly greater than 100%
- Significant increases in capital works expenditure over four budgets
- Maintaining a commitment to local employment through bringing jobs "in-house" in leisure services, waste management and cleaning

It is important that Council build on these actions through development of a clear set of drivers of its financial policy that will ensure that Ararat Rural City Council continues to focus ongoing sustainability. A public articulation of these drivers provides a strong basis for accountability.

The key drivers of financial sustainability at Ararat Rural City Council are:

Rating

Maintenance of the “pie model” to provide some form of long-term rating equity and reduce rate shock across rating sectors based on annual valuation fluctuations.

Debt

Debt is only used to fund strategic infrastructure outcomes with an emphasis on intergenerational equity

Asset Preservation

Maintain the asset renewal and upgrade ratio to at least 110% of depreciation

Surplus budgets

Maintain cash and operating surpluses in each financial year

Managing expenditure

Managing expenditure is a key driver of financial sustainability at Ararat Rural City Council

Rate rises

Rate rises will be kept to a minimum based on seeking organisational efficiency. These efficiencies will be returned to the ratepayer as a dividend through lower rate rises or rate cuts.

Service standards

Expenditure savings and ratepayer dividends will not come at the price of lower service standards.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The key financial drivers align strongly with the thrust of the Council Plan 2021-2025, particularly the following:

- 6.1** Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation and rating fairness.

Budget Implications

This item does not have any direct budget implications for the 2022/2023 Budget. There key financial drivers are major influences on budget development and delivery, in current and future contexts.

Policy/Relevant Law

There is no direct legislative requirement for Council to deliver financial outcomes or efficiencies for the community, with the exception of the requirement to comply with rate caps under the Fair Go Rates System.

Sustainability Implications

There are no environmental sustainability implications.

Risk Assessment

There are no risk management implications.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Council's approach to financial management encapsulated in the Key Financial Drivers drives innovation and continuous improvement. The focus on public value, organisational effectiveness and efficiency and cost saving rather than revenue growth provides a model that challenges the status quo.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

All of Council's financial plans and key financial policy have been developed in response to community engagement processes.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the Key Financial Drivers as the underpinning principles behind Council's financial management, budgeting processes and service delivery.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments relating to this item.

3.5 REVIEW OF WASTE MANAGEMENT CHARGES

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 5885

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With Council's implementation of the "circular economy" approach to waste management extended until 3 October 2022, a review of the waste management service charges outlined in the Council Budget 2022-2023 is required. The user fees and charges for optional bin collection services also need to be determined.

DISCUSSION

Compulsory Services

At the Council Meeting held on 28 June 2022 the Council Budget 2022-2023 was adopted and the waste management service charges for 2022-2023 were declared as:

- Kerbside collection - 4 bin system - \$462
- Kerbside collection - 3 bin system - \$410

With the date of implementation now changed to 3 October 2022 it is proposed that the service charge from the 2021-2022 budget continues to apply pro rata for the period from 1 July 2022 to 2 October 2022, and the service charge from the 2022-2023 budget be applied pro rata from 3 October 2022 to 30 June 2023. This will result in the following waste management service charges being applied:

- Kerbside collection from 1 July 2022 to 2 October 2022 - 240L waste bin - \$102.50
- Kerbside collection from 1 July 2022 to 2 October 2022 - 120L waste bin - \$78.50
- Kerbside collection from 1 July 2022 to 2 October 2022 - 240L recycling bin - \$37.00
- Kerbside collection from 3 October 2022 to 30 June 2023 - 4 bin system - \$346.50
- Kerbside collection from 3 October 2022 to 30 June 2023 - 3 bin system - \$307.50

The proposed charge amounts have been based on 25% of the 2021-2022 service charge amount being applied for the period from 1 July 2022 to 2 October 2022 and 75% of the service charge amount included in the budget for 2022-2023 being charged for the period from 3 October 2022 to 30 June 2023. These charges will result in essentially the same budgeted income expected for 2022-2023 with only minor variations based on the number of properties serviced before and after the transition. These revised charges reflect a change to the effective dates of the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 charges rather than a change to the annual charge amount itself.

Optional Services

With the waste management service charges for the 3 bin system and the 4 bin system only available for residential and farm properties with a dwelling, a schedule of fees for commercial, industrial and non-rateable properties needs to be considered.

The following proposed fees will apply to all optional services, including services requested by commercial, industrial and non-rateable properties. The fee amounts have been prepared with consideration of the

competitive market of waste collection service provision and represent 75% of an annual charge as they will apply for the period from 3 October 2022 to 30 June 2023.

- 140L waste bin - \$390
- 240L recycle bin - \$330
- 80L glass bin - \$51
- 240L organics bin - \$330

There is a regulatory requirement for Council to move towards pricing that maintains competitive neutrality for optional waste services.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

3. Preserving our environment

We will take pragmatic approaches to ensuring that Ararat Rural City Council takes a regional lead in responsible environmental management and engagement with the circular economy.

- 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.*

6 Strong and Effective Governance

We will work hard to build models of governance that place delivering public value at the centre through effective financial management; well measured risk management; and implementation of effective community engagement practices.

- 6.1** *Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation and rating fairness*

Budget Implications

The adjustment of the waste management services charges will result in essentially the same budgeted income expected for 2022/2023 with only minor variations based on the number of properties serviced before and after the transition. The adjusted charges reflect a change to the effective date of the charge rather than a change to the annual charge itself, in that the service charges declared for 2021/2022 will continue to apply pro rata for the period 1 July 2022 to 2 October 2022, while the new charges declared in the 2022/2023 budget will apply pro rata for the period from 3 October 2022 to 30 June 2023.

The user fees for optional services have not been incorporated into the budget for 2022/2023, however the increased costs to provide the optional services have also been excluded from the budget.

Policy/Relevant Law

Council is required under Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 to prepare a budget for each financial year, which includes declaring waste management services charges under Section 162 of the Local Government Act 1989.

The disclosure of fees and charges for optional waste services is not required by legislation to be included in the Council budget. However, after the adoption of Council's budget, the proposed user fees for optional services have been considered internally by comparison to waste industry providers.

Aligning the fee amounts for optional services with the competitive industry ensures that Council is commercially neutral.

Sustainability Implications

In developing the proposed fees all environmental, social and economic impacts have been considered.

Risk Assessment

Low risk, considered as part of budget management processes.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Implementing the proposed changes to the waste management service charges declared in the Council Budget 2022/2023 will ensure that Council is able to apply charges in a fair and equitable manner.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The draft Budget 2022/2023 was discussed at several Councillor briefings and community consultation was undertaken through community workshop sessions and the Engage Ararat website. The change to the waste management services charges will result in essentially the same budgeted income expected for 2022/2023 with only minor variations based on the number of properties serviced before and after the transition.

Analysis of user fees for optional services has been considered internally by comparison to waste industry providers.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1 The service charge from the 2021/2022 budget continues to apply pro rata for the period from 1 July 2022 to 2 October 2022, and the service charge from the 2022/2023 budget be applied pro rata from 3 October 2022 to 30 June 2023, with the adjusted service charge amounts being as follows:
 - i. Kerbside collection from 1 July 2022 to 2 October 2022 - 240L waste bin - \$102.50
 - ii. Kerbside collection from 1 July 2022 to 2 October 2022 - 120L waste bin - \$78.50
 - iii. Kerbside collection from 1 July 2022 to 2 October 2022 - 240L recycling bin - \$37.00
 - iv. Kerbside collection from 3 October 2022 to 30 June 2023 - 4 bin system - \$346.50
 - v. Kerbside collection from 3 October 2022 to 30 June 2023 - 3 bin system - \$307.50
- 2 The following user fees will apply to all optional waste services, including services requested by commercial, industrial and non-rateable properties for the period from 3 October 2022 to 30 June 2023 which are based on 75% of an annual charge:
 - i. 140L waste bin - \$390
 - ii. 240L recycle bin - \$330
 - iii. 80L glass bin - \$51
 - iv. 240L organics bin - \$330

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments in relation to this item.

3.6 2022/2023 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM REPORTING AND ROLLOUT

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 5884

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council adopted its 2022/2023 Capital Works Program as a key element of the 2022/2023 Budget. The program is significantly different to previous years in that it is not predominantly made up of larger road and bridge renewal. The 2022/2023 Program is composed of a series of smaller projects, including a focus on renewal and upgrade of community infrastructure.

In order to ensure transparent reporting around the development and implementation of this year's capital works program a process for quarterly reporting, commencing in October 2022, and adoption of works programs in each works area is proposed.

DISCUSSION

Council's 2022/2023 Capital Works Program is substantially different to the last few years. The program does not have a number of major road or bridge projects. Council believes that during the period of pricing instability being experienced currently, that it was better to undertake a "small target" capital works program in 2022/2023. The emphasis this year will continue to be on renewal and updating Council assets, undertaking a larger number of smaller projects of lower value in order to avoid the impacts of price volatility in the market. It is hoped that this approach will also provide opportunities to support local employment and engagement of local contractors. The capital works program will also have an emphasis on improvements to urban drainage and support the renewal of community assets.

The 2022/2023 Capital Works Program will consist of the following elements:

Capital Works Program Element	Budget
Helendoite Road bridge replacement	\$ 800,000
Community infrastructure	\$1,500,000
Gravel road resheeting and widening	\$2,100,000
Road reseal program	\$2,100,000
Major patching	\$ 400,000
Urban drainage	\$ 700,000
Footpaths and cycleways	\$ 300,000
Plant and equipment	\$ 810,000
Total	\$8,710,000

Given that the program is made up of a range of smaller projects in 2022/2023, it is important that roll out of the program is reported to Council and community in a clear and transparent way. Detailed programs of works are being developed and will form the basis of progress reporting on a quarterly basis. The programs will be endorsed by Council under a rolling program over the next three months. This program will be as follows:

Capital Works Program Element	Program adoption
Community infrastructure	First half of program August 2022 Second half of program February 2023
Gravel road resheeting and widening	First half of program August 2022 Second half of program February 2023
Road reseal program	Full program July 2022
Major patching	Programmed based on road condition
Urban drainage	First three projects programmed August 2022. Remainder February 2023
Footpaths and cycleways	Full program adopted in September 2022
Plant and equipment	Program will be adopted following full plant review

The full roads reseal program is provided as Attachment 3.6, for Council endorsement.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The key financial drivers align strongly with the thrust of the Council Plan 2021-2025, particularly the following:

- 4.1 Ensure that asset development and renewal during the planning period matches that identified in Council's Asset Plan 2021-2031.
- 4.2 Work directly with asset users to manage and develop new and existing assets.
- 4.3 Deliver infrastructure outcomes that support economic growth, promote community wellbeing and safety and align with Council's financial sustainability.
- 6.1 Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation, and rating fairness.

Budget Implications

The 2022/2023 Capital Works Program represents a significant element of Council's 2022/2023 Budget. In the current volatile civil construction market, it is essential that Council manages capital works expenditure carefully to ensure budget outcomes are met.

Policy/Relevant Law

The 2022/2023 Capital Works Program complies with the program funded in the 2022/2023 Budget.

Sustainability Implications

There are no environmental sustainability implications.

Risk Assessment

The 2022/2023 Capital Works Program was developed as a mitigation of the financial risks associated with market volatility currently being experienced in the civil and building construction sectors.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Development of the 2022/2023 Capital Works Program represented an agile response to market conditions. A capacity to rework strategy based on a changing environment is a critical element in developing an innovative organisation.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The 2022/2023 Capital Works Program was developed as an element of the 2022/2023 Budget. There was extensive community engagement undertaken prior to adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses quarterly reporting of progress on the 2022/2023 Capital Works Program;
2. Endorses the following timeframes for adopting each element of the 2022/2023 Capital Works Program;

Capital Works Program Element	Program adoption
Community infrastructure	First half of program August 2022 Second half of program February 2023
Gravel road resheeting and widening	First half of program August 2022 Second half of program February 2023
Road reseal program	Full program July 2022
Major patching	Programmed based on road condition
Urban drainage	First three projects programmed August 2022 Remainder February 2023; and

3. Endorses the Road Reseal Program for 2022/2023.

ATTACHMENTS

The full roads reseal program for 2022/2023 is provided as Attachment 3.6.

SECTION 4 – INFORMATION REPORTS

4.1 BUILDING APPROVALS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: MANAGER PLANNING, COMMUNITY & COMPLIANCE
DEPARTMENT: PLANNING, COMMUNITY & COMPLIANCE
REFERENCE: 3243

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:
Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

DISCUSSION

This report outlines the monthly building permit approvals issued by Ararat Rural City Council and by private building surveyors for building works within Ararat Rural City for June 2022.

Approvals by Ararat Rural City Municipal Building Surveyor June 2022

Permit No.	Application Date	Approval Date	Building Address	Description of Building Works or Use of Building		
NIL						

TOTAL VALUE \$ NIL

Approvals by private surveyors – June 2022

Permit No.	Date Approved	Notification Received by Council	Building Address	Description of Building Works or Use of Building	Surveyor
6768672318087	02/06/2022	01/02/2022	1331 Helendoite Road Tatyoon	Yard Cover	Coast To Country Building Approvals
4776384756736	02/06/2022	12/05/2022	483 South Beach Road Lake Bolac	Farm shed	Coast To Country Building Approvals
8528966081982	02/06/2022	08/04/2022	3174 Mortlake-Ararat Road Worndoo	Hay shed and yard cover	Coast To Country Building Approvals
6541421720764	07/06/2022	20/07/2021	8 Wattle Crescent, Ararat	Storage shed	Coast To Country Building Approvals
5883062736812	09/06/2022	09/06/2022	773 Geelong Road Dobie	Proposed Farm Shed	VIC Central Building Surveyors
8953171967190	09/06/2022	09/06/2022	2261 Moyston-Willaura Road Willaura	Farm shed	Coast To Country Building Approvals
3590926664524	10/06/2022	10/06/2022	70-78 Moore Street Ararat	Construction of three shade sails	Triple H Building Consultants
9645573505863	20/06/2022	23/05/2022	1006 Yarram Gap Road Willaura	Dwelling alterations & verandah, pergola & carport	Coast To Country Building Approvals
7993238594156	21/06/2022	03/06/2022	25 Bibby Road Tatyoon	Swimming Pool & Swimming Pool Child Safety Barrier	Coast To Country Building Approvals
9692720709368	30/06/2022	08/12/2021	1469 Ararat-Halls Gap Road Moyston	Shed	Coast To Country Building Approvals
3557931901995	27/06/2022	04/04/2022	139 Lambert Street Ararat	Construction of a shed	Axedale Building Consulting
9811385617556	30/06/2022	09/05/2022	26 Ford Street Ararat	Storage Shed	Coast To Country Building Approvals
9409098908063	30/06/2022	23/05/2022	3 Port Fairy Road Ararat	Carport	Coast To Country Building Approvals
3368420523136	24/06/2022	03/06/2022	1510 Watgania Road Willaura	Farm Shed	Coast To Country Building Approvals
1709230019836	28/06/2022	23/06/2022	152 Buangor Road Buangor	Construction of a shed	Axedale Building Consulting

TOTAL VALUE \$2,042,100

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

- 2 Building Robust Local Economies -**
We will develop strong relationships to build and strengthen a diverse local economy, focused on creating jobs and wealth through adding value to existing strengths in agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Building Approvals Report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments relating to this item.

4.2 PLANNING MATTERS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATION PLANNING PERMITS AND CERTIFICATION OF SUBDIVISION PLANS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: MANAGER PLANNING, COMMUNITY & COMPLIANCE
DEPARTMENT: PLANNING, COMMUNITY & COMPLIANCE
REFERENCE: 3243

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

DISCUSSION

Planning permits, certification of subdivision plans and Statement of Compliances are approved under delegated authority by relevant Council officers each month, where possible. This report outlines the various approvals for Council's information.

Planning permit approvals under delegated authority – June 2022

Application No.	Date Lodged	Date of Delegated Approval / Refusal	Applicant	Location	Proposed Use of Development
3136	28/04/2022	01/06/2022	Pierrpoint Planning	Londonderry Road, Moyston	Use and development of a dwelling
3122	05/04/2022	03/06/2022	Denis Boyd	619 Buangor-Ben Neavis Road, Bayindeen	2 lot subdivision
3125	29/04/2022	03/06/2022	Pierrpoint Planning for B Day	Bellellen Road, Moyston	Use and development of a dwelling
2828-5	03/05/2022	06/06/2022	Daniel Manzie, Bill Jacobs PL	394 Barkly Street, Ararat	Amendment to signage and access - Use and development of a service station & associated retail shop
3120	21/04/2022	07/06/2022	Justin McKenzie	126 Green Street, Elmhurst	Liquor Licence for distillery and home-based business up to 200m ² of floor area and signage
VS2022035	23/5/2022	1/6/2022	Tim McDougall – Ararat Rural City Council	5 Caledonian Court Ararat	Business Identification Signage
3141	30/5/2022	16/6/2022	Graeme McKay Earthworks	1 McGibbony St Ararat	Demolition and replacement of shed

Application No.	Date Lodged	Date of Delegated Approval / Refusal	Applicant	Location	Proposed Use of Development
VS2022037	2/6/2022	16/6/2022	Allan Crick - Action Steel Industries	Karmala Lane Wickliffe	Construction of a stock yard cover over a title boundary
VS2022038	6/6/2022	20/6/2022	Ryley Hamilton	104 Barkly St Ararat	External stair access to upper floor
VS2022039	20/6/2022	21/6/2022	Greg Day	98 Barkly St Ararat	Building and work for fascia and window signs
3126	3/5/2022	22/6/2022	Onley Holdings Pty Ltd	54 Girdlestone St Ararat	Use and development of a medical centre and provision of signage
2686-1	5/5/2022	22/6/2022	Planning and property Partners Pty Ltd for Pitch Festival Pty Ltd	Moyston/Dunkeld Rd Mafeking	Amendment of a Planning permit
VS222036	15/6/2022	29/6/2022	Graeme McKay Earthworks	34 Queen St South Ararat	Proposed earthworks to terrace/reshape the site and storage of plant

VCAT				
Application No.	Applicant	Location	Proposed Use or Development	Status
3048	Pierrpoint Planning for Peatt	Government Road Warrak	Use and development of a dwelling and shed	Permit agreed at mediation 29/6/2022

[Certification of subdivision plans under delegated authority – June 2022](#)

Application No.	Date Lodged	Date of Decision	Applicant	Location	Procedure
S194601E	17/5/2022	1/6/2022	Ararat Survey Pty Ltd	1554 Back Bolac Road, Lake Bolac	Subdivision
S185345P	15/11/2021	30/6/2022	Ferguson Perry Surveying Pty Ltd	4 McDonald Park Road Ararat	Certification of PS900849R
S173178J	6/4/2022	3/6/2022	TGM Group Pty Ltd	Western Highway, Ararat	Certification for PS640123N/S3 - Evans Park stage 3
S1954765	1/6/2022	3/6/2022	Darren Ford – Ararat Survey Pty Ltd	Londonderry Road, Moyston	Statement of compliance for Plan of Consolidation PC382284M
S194951T	25/5/2022	9/6/2022	Beveridge Williams & Co Pty Ltd	7484 Glenelg Highway, Streatham	Certification of PS903123A
S188363B	21/01/2022	20/6/2022	Ferguson Perry	Carey Street, Ararat	Certification of PS905880V

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The report supports the strategic objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- 2 **Building Robust Local Economies -**
We will develop strong relationships to build and strengthen a diverse local economy, focused on creating jobs and wealth through adding value to existing strengths in agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report on Planning Matters Approved under Delegation – Planning Permits and Certification of Subdivision Plans and Statement of Compliances be received.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments relating to this item.

4.3 ASSET PLAN 2022-2032 ANNUAL PLAN YEAR 1 REPORT

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S DEPARTMENT
REFERENCE: 5882

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Asset Plan 2022-2032 contains actions to be undertaken during the 2022/2023 (Year 1) financial year under the following objectives:

1. Engaging our Community
2. Data is Critical
3. Building Analytical Systems
4. Ensuring Funding of Major Asset Classes
5. Planning for Management of Key Assets; and
6. Improve Focus of "Softer" Asset Classes

The Asset Plan 2022-2032 Annual Plan Year 1 is presented to Council and highlights the actions identified against the objectives.

DISCUSSION

The emphasis of Council's Asset Plan 2022-2032 is to ensure that all community assets for which Council has stewardship are managed to ensure their long-term effectiveness, amenity, and safety. In order for this to be achieved, Council will take a planned approach that includes key elements of community engagement, technical management, and financial planning.

This report outlines the actions to be undertaken for Year 1 of the Asset Plan 2022-2032.

The Annual Plan for financial year 2022/2023 (Year 1) contains 36 actions, which the following table outlines:

Asset Plan Objective	Action
1.1 Ensure community input into development and review of Council's key asset management plans.	Ensure that prior to adoption, all asset plans are posted to Engage Ararat to ensure an opportunity for community engagement.
	Engage the Rural Roads Group in development of plans in relation to key rural road infrastructure.
	Conduct an annual asset forum that provides an opportunity to engage the community in development of key asset plans.
1.2 Continue to develop a rolling two-year capital works program based on involvement of the Rural Roads Group and other key stakeholders. Commencing with the Capital Works Plan 2023-2025.	Conduct two Rural Roads Group meetings during 2022/2023 to review the current state of the rural road network and the impact of the Capital Works Plan 2020-2022 and provide input into developing the Capital Works Plan 2023-2025.
	Adopt the Capital Works Plan 2023-2025 to inform Council's 2023/2024 Budget.

1.3 Engage the community in developing major infrastructure goals over the life of the Asset Plan 2022-2032.	Conduct an annual asset forum to engage the community in development of major infrastructure goals for 2023/2024, 2023-2028 and 2023-2032.
	Utilise Engage Ararat to undertake broader consultation of infrastructure goals identified by the annual asset forum.
2.1 Maintain accurate, current, and appropriate data sets relating to condition assessments of all major asset classes.	Establish agreed data sets for major asset classes. For road assets these need to be consistent with the outcomes of the Rural Roads Support Package.
	Ensure condition assessments for major data sets are current and accurate.
	Utilise Confirm across the organisation to ensure a consistent approach to collection of asset data. This includes completion of training for all staff involved.
2.2 Continue to develop smart mechanisms for collecting asset condition data utilising Internet of Things technologies and continuing to utilise existing and future Australian Roads Research Board (ARRB) iPave data.	Trial use of deflection meters to assess bridge condition in real time.
	Trial use of flood indicators and BoM data to inform drainage asset works and trigger interventions during flood events.
	Incorporate existing ARRB iPave data into asset condition data.
2.3 Create mechanisms for "crowd sourcing" asset condition data from community sources, including an app-based approach and integration of customer relationship system (CRMS) data.	Identify suitable apps that can facilitate crowd sourcing of asset data from the community.
	Develop system integration between Council's CRMS system and Confirm to ensure that asset condition data is kept updated based on completion of customer requests.
3.1 Working with Regional Council Transformation Program partners develop a predictive asset system for key asset classes	The predictive asset system will be developed in house at ARCC during 2022/2023 funded through the RCTP 2.0 program.
3.2 Utilising technology developed in conjunction with the Ararat Digital Twin project develop a "data lake" of asset data that can then be utilised to develop a range of spatial models to support decision making.	Ensure that all data asset data being collected is stored in a format that allows for use in a "data lake"
3.3 Ensure that Confirm is utilised as a key system across the organisation to capture key asset information in the field. This capability will support accurate recording of key maintenance and renewal activity as well as field-based condition assessments.	Roll out Confirm on suitable devices to all staff involved in recording asset maintenance or renewal tasks.
	Undertake training for all staff required to use Confirm
4.1 Maintain the asset renewal ratio at, at least 110% for the ten-year life of the asset plan.	Ensure that the 2023/2024 Budget maintains an asset renewal and upgrade to depreciation ration of at least 110%
4.2 Ensure that annual budgets during the period do not reduce asset maintenance allocations for each major asset class between 2022 - 2032.	Ensure that the maintenance budget for each major asset class is maintained at least the 2022/2023 level in the 2023/2024 Budget.
4.3 Develop improved financial systems that integrate asset data to ensure effective, real-time reporting of financial performance in asset	Undertake a complete revision of the "depot budget" to ensure that a transparent model is in place to manage expenditure.

management. This includes unit rates for maintenance, renewal and redevelopment of each asset class and accurate depreciation expenses.	Develop an activity-based costing model for asset maintenance that allows accurate costing information to be examined.
5.1 Develop four-year plans for each asset class that will articulate standards, intervention levels and financing models for maintenance, renewal, development, and disposal or decommissioning of each asset class. These will be developed through a process of community engagement and technical review and revised based on performance every two years.	Develop four-year asset plans for the following asset classes: sealed roads, unsealed roads, bridges, buildings, drainage and footpaths.
	Each asset plan will be subject to community engagement through the Engage Ararat website.
5.2 Produce a ten-year program to evaluate unsealed urban streets and laneways and recommend a long-term program to seal key elements of the network.	Develop a ten-year urban street and laneway plan.
	The ten-year urban street and laneway plan will form the basis of investment decisions in the 2023/2024 Budget.
5.3 Implement a planned approach to improving urban drainage over a five-year period. This plan will be based on improving capacity of the system to manage higher rainfall events and implement improvements areas with long term drainage issues.	Commence the urban drainage program with a \$700,000 investment in the 2022/2023 Budget.
	Ensure, at least, a \$700,000 investment in the 2023/2024 budget.
	Adopt the first three elements of the 2022/2023 drainage program in August 2022.
6.1 Implement the staged redevelopment model for the Ararat Fitness Centre outlined in the Ararat Fitness Centre Feasibility Study.	Complete works to basketball courts, indoor swimming pool, gymnasium floor and drainage/ventilation identified as Stage 0 of Fitness Centre works.
	Prepare implementation plan and costed budget for Stage 1 of the redevelopment plan for the 2023/2024 Budget
6.2 Develop a street tree management program, which incorporates an audit of existing street trees and implementation of the native street tree program, partnering with the Ararat Urban Landcare Group.	Undertake the first year of a rolling three-year street tree audit program.
	Ensure that all street tree plantings conform to the native tree program developed with the Ararat Urban Landcare Group.
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.	In 2022/2023 utilise three key engagement mechanisms around Council asset development and management: Engage Ararat, Rural Roads Groups meetings and an annual asset forum.
	Develop two additional community engagement mechanisms around Council's asset development and management for implementation in 2023/2024.

Further reports will be presented to Council in October, January, April and June outlining the progress of the Asset Plan 2022-2032 Annual Plan Year 1 actions.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

4. Developing and Maintaining Key Enabling Infrastructure

- 4.1 Ensure that asset development and renewal during the planning permit matches the identified in Council's Asset Plan 2022-2031.

Budget Implications

Initiatives and projects listed in the Asset Plan 2022-2032 Annual Plan Year 1 have an allocation in the 2022/2023 Budget.

Policy/Relevant Law

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework – Governance and Management Checklist No GC2 – Asset Plan – Plan that sets out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years.

Sustainability Implications

None identified for this report.

Risk Assessment

Not meeting the requirements of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework will result in negative feedback on the Know Your Council website.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The list presented to Council shows the innovation and continuous improvement that Council is providing both the organisation and the community.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The Chief Executive Officer along with relevant officers will work to ensure that the Asset Plan 2022-2031 Annual Plan Year 1 meets expected milestones and timeframes where possible.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Asset Plan 2022-2031 Annual Plan Year 1 Report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments in relation to this item.

4.4 COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 YEAR 2 ACTION PLAN UPDATE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S DEPARTMENT
REFERENCE: 5882

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council Plan 2021-2025 contains actions to be undertaken during the 2022/2023 (Year 2) financial year under the strategic objectives:

- 1 Growing our place
- 2 Building robust local economies
- 3 Preserving the environment
- 4 Developing and maintaining key enabling infrastructure
- 5 Enhancing community life; and
- 6 Strong and effective governance

The Council Plan 2021-2025 Year 2 Action Plan is presented to Council and highlights the actions identified against the strategic objectives.

DISCUSSION

This report outlines the actions to be undertaken for Year 2 of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

The Council Plan for 2022/2023 (Year 2) contains 60 actions, which the following table outlines:

Council Plan Objective	Action
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.	Complete key strategic reports and reviews.
	Recruit and implement community reference group.
	Complete draft zoning review for broad public and stakeholder consultation.
	Complete the economic and social development study for the Aradale site.
1.2 Support innovative housing models that work to overcome market failure and create the capacity to increase the population of Ararat Rural City.	Develop a population growth model for ARCC based on lead measures.
	Sign an agreement for first tranche of housing under the Transitional Worker Housing program.
	Complete negotiations with potential investors around implementation of a beneficial enterprise to support affordable housing development.
	Continue to work with Development Victoria to explore opportunities for development of state-owned land, including opportunities identified through the economic and social development strategy for Aradale.

Council Plan Objective	Action
	Complete construction of McLellan Street extension to provide alternate access to the Ararat East Development Zone.
1.3 Work with other levels of government, business, and not-for-profits to develop programs to increase in-migration to Ararat Rural City to grow our population.	Extend the RDV funded Workforce Pilot Program, based on existing funding sources, until 30/06/2022 to enhance project outcomes.
	Develop a model to continue to support the in-migration work of the Workforce Pilot Program into 2023/2024, drawing on resources from Jobs Victoria, RDV and ARCC.
2.1 Partner with Federation University Australia to deliver the Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct.	Work with Federation University Australia to refit the Laby Street site as a joint use location.
	Recruit an additional two PhD and one masters candidate to join the AJTP.
	Implement the Digital Twin Ararat project.
	Develop a Council Economic Development and Innovation Strategy.
	Develop and implement a model for embedding research students in local industry through internship programs.
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.	Seek funding from State and Federal Governments and/or private sector partnerships, to develop an industrial park based on renewable energy and agricultural value adding.
	Continue to support the development of biomass power facility.
2.3 Engage with Grampians Tourism and local businesses to drive growth in high yield tourist outcomes.	Work with Grampians Tourism, investors and local operators to leverage outcomes of the Grampians Strategic Investment Strategy.
	Seek opportunities to attract a four-star accommodation option to ARCC.
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 implement four bin materials collection system for ARCC.
	In partnership with Gaia Inviro Tech implement local organics processing capability for household materials collection.
	Implement local processing of the glass materials stream and explore uses of it in civil construction.
	Undertake a staged implementation of the energy saving initiatives identified from EcoSave's report on Council owned assets.
3.2 Develop innovative energy solutions utilising locally produced waste.	Support the ongoing development of the Grampians Gas project.
	Support Pomonal Power to implement community-based energy solutions for the community.
3.3 Partner with local organisations and scientific experts to develop an	Working with the Environment Working Group, develop Environment Strategy 2022-2032.

Council Plan Objective	Action
appropriate and pragmatic local government Environment Strategy, focussed on the circular economy, emission reduction through renewable energy and management of Council assets.	Develop an implementation plan for Council's Environment Strategy.
	Produce an annual scorecard outlining Council's progress on environmental outcomes.
4.1 Ensure that asset development and renewal during the planning period matches that identified in Council's Asset Plan 2021-2031.	Develop an Asset Plan 2022-2032 Implementation Plan 2022/2023.
	Complete preliminary planning for the North-South Heavy Vehicle Route.
	Complete 2022/2023 Capital Works Program.
	Plan and complete the 2022/2023 Urban Drainage Upgrade program.
	Complete the 2022/2023 footpath and cycleway maintenance program.
4.2 Work directly with asset users to manage and develop new and existing assets.	Develop 10-year Capital Works Strategy to inform 2023/2024 Budget.
	Develop a detailed two-year Capital Works Plan 2023/2024-2024/2025 to inform 2023/2024 Budget.
	Working with Fitness Centre stakeholders refine a four-year development plan to implement key recommendations of the Ararat Fitness Centre Feasibility Study.
	Complete works to basketball courts, indoor swimming pool, gymnasium floor and drainage/ventilation identified as Stage 0 of Fitness Centre works.
4.3 Deliver infrastructure outcomes that support economic growth, promote community wellbeing and safety, and align with Council's financial sustainability.	Deliver key outcomes from Council's Asset Plan 2022-2032 during the planning period.
	Complete the Ararat Free Wi-Fi Project
	Complete Stage 1 of Pomonal Tunnel Track Linkage Plan.
	Complete Gordon Street Recreation Reserve Redevelopment.
	Undertake renovation and extension of the Buangor Recreation Reserve kitchen.
	Complete renovation of the Lake Bolac Complex kitchen.
5.1 Open up Council's arts and culture assets to greater community participation, ownership and engagement in decision-making.	Continue to support the Friends of Gum San during the first full year of operating Gum San.
	Implement a Council funded Digital Literacy function at the Ararat Library.
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.
	Undertake community research on motivations for volunteering.
	Facilitate networks/partnerships with community groups.

Council Plan Objective	Action
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.	Engage with key stakeholders to redevelop Council's Access and Inclusion Policy.
	Develop a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.
	Commence a process of establishing respectful and productive relationships with traditional owner organisations.
6.1 Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation and rating fairness.	Develop a 2023/2024 Council Budget that delivers public value and returns dividends to the community where appropriate.
	Develop a set of underpinning financial management principles that drive Council's financial strategy.
	Council completes a project to develop and implement a performance dashboard providing reporting to the CEO, Council and Community.
6.2 Ensure appropriate risk management is applied to Council and organisational decisions. Council's internal audit function is applied to areas of perceived risk.	Undertake an annual review of Council's Business Continuity Plan and Disaster Recovery Plan
	Undertake an Annual review of Council's Risk Management Policy and Framework
	Respond to all issues raised through Council's Internal Audit function
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.	Build a new Council website that provides easy navigation, promotes community engagement and access to key information
	Implement the Community Engagement Policy to support and development Council's strategies and projects.

Further reports will be presented to Council in October, January, April and June outlining the progress of the Council Plan 2021-2025 Year 2 actions.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

- 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.
- 1.2 Support innovative housing models that work to overcome market failure and create the capacity to increase the population of Ararat Rural City.
- 1.3 Work with other levels of government, business, and not-for-for profits to develop programs to increase immigration to Ararat Rural City to grow our population.
- 2.1 Partner with Federation University Australia to deliver the Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct.
- 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.
- 2.3 Engage with Grampians Tourism and local businesses to drive growth in high yield tourist outcomes.
- 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.
- 3.2 Develop innovative energy solutions utilising locally produced waste.

- 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.
- 4.1 Ensure that asset development and renewal during the planning period matches that identified in Council's Asset Plan 2021-2031.
- 4.2 Work directly with asset users to manage and develop new and existing assets.
- 4.3 Deliver infrastructure outcomes that support economic growth, promote community wellbeing and safety, and align with Council's financial sustainability.
- 5.1 Open up Council's arts and culture assets to greater community participation, ownership and engagement in decision-making. 5.2 Develop models of volunteering that recognise, support and properly utilise the skills that community volunteers bring to community life.
- 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.
- 6.1 Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation and rating fairness.
- 6.2 Ensure appropriate risk management is applied to Council and organisational decisions. Council's internal function is applied to areas of perceived risk.
- 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.

Budget Implications

Initiatives and projects listed in the Council Plan Action Plan have an allocation in the 2022/2023 Budget.

Policy/Relevant Law

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework – Governance and Management Checklist No 17 – Council Plan Reporting - Report reviewing the performance of the Council against the Council Plan including the results in relation to the strategic indicators for the first six months of the financial year.

Where Council has a report, it must also provide details of the report, where Council has no report it must provide a reason.

Sustainability Implications

None identified for this report.

Risk Assessment

Not meeting the requirements of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework will result in negative feedback on the Know Your Council website.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The list presented to Council shows the innovation and continuous improvement that Council is providing both the organisation and the community.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The Chief Executive Officer along with relevant officers will work to ensure that Council Plan actions meet expected milestones and timeframes where possible.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council Plan 2021-2025 Year 2 Action Plan Report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments in relation to this item.

4.5 ARARAT CHILDCARE SURVEY

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO's Office
REFERENCE: 5887

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform Councillors and the public about the outcome and findings of Council's Childcare Services Survey. The report includes recommended approaches to advocate for the expanded provision of services with particular emphasis on our smaller rural towns and communities.

BACKGROUND

There are several childcare services operating in Ararat Rural City. This includes:

- Three Long Day Care (LDC) centres in Ararat offering newborn up to school-age care, as well as three and four-year-old kinder programs;
- Family Day Care in Ararat and Lake Bolac;
- Kindergartens in Ararat (4), Lake Bolac (1), Willaura (1);
- School-based Outside of School Hours Care (OSHC), with before and after school care, plus vacation care offered in Ararat and Lake Bolac;
- After school and vacation care offered in Pomonal; and
- After school care in Buangor (2 days per week), and Willaura (5 days per week).

The majority of childcare services in Ararat Rural City are managed by private for profit and not for profit providers. There are currently no council-run services in operation in the municipality. While other rural councils have intervened in the market to fill gaps for the provision of service in remote areas where there is not sufficient demand to attract a private operator, these council-run childcare services typically run at a substantial loss. Such losses were further compounded during the pandemic with council-run childcare services not eligible for support from the Australian Government's Early Childhood Care Relief Package.

The Australian and Victorian governments provide subsidies to assist families with the cost of childcare services.

Families eligible for the Australian Government's Child Care Subsidy (CCS) can access support of up to 85% of the cost of childcare. The percentage of the subsidy available is based on the following:

- family income (no subsidy is available for families with a household income of \$356,756 or more);
- the hourly rate cap (varies based on the type of care provided i.e. Centre Based LDC, Family Day Care, OSHC, and In Home Care); and
- the hours of recognised work activity (for two partner households, both must meet the minimum activity requirements to be eligible).

The Australian Government also offers the In-Home Care program which provides subsidised childcare in the family home to assist with the cost of nanny and au pair services. This is capped at a total 3,200 places nationally and is targeted to assist parents or carers who are unable to access other mainstream childcare options such as those who work non-standard hours, are geographically isolated or have families with challenging and complex needs.

The Victorian Government have introduced reforms to provide all students with access to 15 hours of funded kindergarten each week in the two years before they start school by 2029. As part of the reform Ararat Rural City is one of the first of 21 LGAs selected for the early rollout, with local providers currently funded to deliver between five and 15 hours of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten.

DISCUSSION

In March 2022, in response to community concerns about the provision and access to early years services including childcare, kindergarten and afterschool school care – Council launched a survey hosted on Engage Ararat which sought to better understand Ararat Rural City's Childcare landscape.

The survey received 127 responses from residents across the municipality. A disproportionately high number of these responses were received from Lake Bolac (14.7%).

86% of respondents stated that they are currently using local childcare services. As many families with children of different ages may require access to a range of services, the survey provided the option for multiple responses. These included: Centre-run Long Day Care (47.2%); Family Day Care (15.2%); Kindergarten (28%); Before/Afterschool Care (16.8%); In-Home Care (8%); Babysitting services (13.6%); and Other (8%).

Limited availability of places and difficulty of access were the main two responses given in terms of why families are not accessing childcare services. Problems experienced with existing services mirrored these responses identifying accessibility, hours offered, location, and staff shortages as the principal challenges of the sector locally.

The provision and availability of full time childcare and after school care were overwhelmingly presented as what is required to meet the needs of local families.

In addition to the responses to the survey questions 44% of respondents submitted additional comments detailing their own needs and experiences of gaps in service provision.

Availability of services providing Outside School Hours Care was the major issue that came through these responses. In addition, many families with children attending standalone kindergarten programs cannot access an equivalent Outside School Hours Care program (as this service is for school-aged children only). Only those enrolled in Long Day Care with a provider that also offers a kindergarten program can access before and after kinder care.

Available vacancies (including waitlists), access (based on proximity to service), hours of OSHC offered, and staff shortages were issues represented across the entire municipality, but particularly acute in Lake Bolac, Willaura, Moyston and Buangor.

With women representing 91.34% of all survey respondents, the strongest theme to come through the comments was the impact that the impediment to access has on the careers of rural women who wish to be empowered with a career, financial stability and independence. These socio-economic impacts can also amplify the city-rural disparity in other areas including health outcomes and exposure to family and domestic violence.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

Securing new investment and programs that expand the provision of childcare services align strongly with our Council Plan 2021-2025 objectives:

1. Growing Our Place

We will create the settings to support growth across our municipality through an improved planning scheme, actively pursuing new housing options and exploring models for in-migration.

5. Enhancing community Life

We will work with the communities of Ararat Rural City to maintain social cohesion, support community activity and cultural life, and enhance safety.

Budget Implications

There are no budget implications for advocacy to support the expansion of local childcare services. This work will be delivered by existing organisational staff and resources.

Policy/Relevant Law

Local Government Act 2020.

Sustainability Implications

There are no economic, social or environmental implications in relation to advocacy to support the expansion of local childcare services.

Risk Assessment

None identified – Council is not proposing to become a provider of childcare services.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Council is committed to advocating for the allocation of new investment and programs that improve the overall health and wellbeing of the entire community.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Extensive Stakeholder engagement will occur with current childcare providers, the community and government representatives that further informs this work and the outcome we are seeking to achieve.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1 Receives the Ararat Childcare Survey responses; and
- 2 Engage in extensive advocacy to secure support for solutions to the issues identified in the Ararat Childcare Survey results.

ATTACHMENTS

Ararat Childcare Survey Questionnaire Results are provided as Attachment 4.5.

SECTION 5 – INFORMAL MEETINGS

5.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS

AUTHOR'S TITLE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 13039074

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Governance Rules state that if there is a meeting of Councillors that:

- 1 is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of *Council* or briefing Councillors;
- 2 is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- 3 is not a *Council meeting*, *Delegated Committee* meeting or *Community Asset Committee* meeting, the *Chief Executive Officer* must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting

are:

- a) tabled at the next convenient *Council meeting*; and
- b) recorded in the minutes of that *Council meeting*.

DISCUSSION

As a requirement of the Governance Rules, a summary of matters discussed at the Council Briefings held since the last Council Meeting are presented to Council and will be recorded in the minutes.

INFORMAL MEETINGS
Council Briefing held on 12 July 2022
Council Briefing held on 19 July 2022

Issues discussed at the briefing:

- July Council Meeting 2022
- Community Infrastructure 2022/2023
- Budget 2022/2023 update- Waste/recycling charge
- Circular economy rollout
- Capital works 2022/2023
- Organisational update
- 10-year financial plan- key drivers
- Helendoite Road Bridge

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The report supports the strategic objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- 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.

Financial

There are no financial impacts for the receiving of Informal Meetings of Councillors.

Policy/Relevant Law

Reporting of Informal Meetings is in line with the requirements of the Governance Rules.

Risk Assessment

Following the requirements of the Governance Rules will ensure that Council meets its legislative requirements.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

A summary of matters discussed at the Council Briefings are presented for community information.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Informal Meetings of Councillors Report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

The Summary of Council Briefings are provided as Attachment 5.1.

SECTION 6 – NOTICES OF MOTION

A notice of motion must be in writing signed by a Councillor and be lodged with or sent to the Chief Executive Officer no later than 12.00pm (noon) and at least six (6) days prior to the Council Meeting to allow sufficient time for the Chief Executive Officer to include the notice of motion in agenda papers for a Council meeting.

(112) NOTICE OF MOTION: CR PETER BEALES

It is my intention at the ordinary meeting of the Ararat Rural City Council to be held on 26 of July 2022, to move the following motion: "That Council cease its membership of Rural Councils Victoria and review its membership of all organisations Council is affiliated with"

CR PETER BEALES

SECTION 7– URGENT BUSINESS

Items cannot be admitted as urgent business other than by resolution of *Council* and only then if it:

- 1 relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the *agenda*; and
- 2 cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next *Council meeting*.

SECTION 8 – CLOSE SESSION (CONFIDENTIAL)

In accordance with section 66(2)(a), 3(1) *Confidential Information* (a) of the Local Government Act 2020, the following agenda items are listed for consideration in the confidential section:

- Item 8.1- Supply and Delivery of an Integral Bridge System
- Item 8.2- Contract No. 683 – Provision of New Patent Key System
- Item 8.3- Confidential item

CLOSURE OF COUNCIL MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

The Open Council Meeting will now be closed, but members of the public are welcome to rejoin the Council Meeting following the recommencement of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to members of the public pursuant to section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider confidential reports.

OPEN COUNCIL MEETING RECOMMENCEMENT

RECOMMENDATION

That the Open Council Meeting recommence.

Gallery invited to return to Council Chamber.

LIFTING OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTIONS

RECOMMENDATION

That the Confidentiality of the report and decision in relation to 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 not be lifted on adoption of the motion.