



Ararat Rural City

2024/2025

# DRAFT BUDGET

SNAPSHOT

## A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR BOB SANDERS

Thank you for taking the time to read the snapshot of Ararat Rural City Council's 2024/25 Draft Budget. It's vital our community understands how Council allocates the funds collected from council revenue, and this Draft Budget reflects our fidelity to financial responsibility for our dynamic community.

We're immensely proud to deliver an average zero percent rate rise for the seventh year running. Our focus on upgrading crucial infrastructure across the community continues, along with a significant investment in the future of our young people, with funds going towards programs for primary and secondary school students and a very exciting trades apprenticeship program in the works.

The full Draft Budget is available for you to read online at Engage Ararat, and there are several ways you can make your voice heard during this important community consultation process – see over the page for details on how to submit your comments and ideas.

We look forward to hearing your feedback on Council's Draft Budget for 2024/25.



See details of Council's \$15,513,000  
investment in capital works





## 0% RATE RISE

Once again, Council is proud to deliver a net zero percent rate rise. It's a reflection of our commitment to responsible financial management, and understanding our community's economic pressures. We're dedicated to delivering essential services and exciting new projects while prioritising fiscal responsibility and prudence.



## \$6.25M ON MT WILLIAM ROAD

This sum is earmarked for reconstructing at least six kilometres of Mt William Road, a critical section of the region's main heavy agricultural freight route. The road holds strategic importance to the entirety of Western Victoria and the Wimmera Mallee economy, as well as our tourism sector.



## \$100K ON YOUNG PEOPLES' PROGRAMS

Working primarily with Crazy Ideas College, Council is excited to deliver a series of innovative, inspiring programs for young people attending our primary and secondary schools. These programs will arm our community's emerging minds with confidence, courage and skills for the future.

### **The 2024/25 Draft Budget represents Council continuing its financially responsible approach into its seventh budget cycle.**

The Draft Budget continues to return an efficiency dividend to the community through an average zero percent rate rise over seven years, and an ongoing commitment to renewing the community's assets through a \$15,513,000 investment in capital works.

Council will continue to deliver quality and timely outcomes through focusing on service delivery and capital works programs, and on in-house service provision.



## \$100K ON RESIDENT ATTRACTION PROGRAM

Growing our community's skilled workforce is a priority for Council. The proposed resident attraction program is designed to present all the fantastic benefits life in our municipality can offer, attracting workers who can bring fresh ideas and expertise into our community.



## \$200K ON ARARAT LIBRARY UPGRADE

Ararat Library offers an enormous range of services to our community beyond book-borrowing, including preschool sessions, job skills development education, school holiday programs, outreach services and more. This important community space will be modernised and upgraded.



## NEW SKILLS PROGRAM

Council's ongoing commitment to developing key skills areas in the municipality will be expanded through graduate and cadet appointments. We're also thrilled to propose the development of a trades apprenticeship program, to be established and rolled out across 2024 and 2025.

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- \$500k contribution to an ongoing partnership commitment to Ararat Housing Enterprise P/L
- \$230k contribution to community infrastructure projects
- \$400k investment in upgrading footpath network
- \$2.143m to reconstruct an initial two-kilometre section of Buangor Ben Nevis Rd, commencing at the Western Highway end
- \$100k to support the successful, ongoing business façade program
- \$1.461m to reconstruct sections of Webb St and Churchill Ave in Ararat
- \$80k contribution to a \$330,000 project to redevelop the Tatyoon sports oval; \$250,000 provided by the Country Football and Netball funding stream
- \$1.8m towards renewing rural gravel roads through resheeting or sealing treatments such as Otta Seal
- \$750k to fund Year Three of Council's five-year commitment to improve urban drainage systems
- \$239k to renew kerb and channel assets
- Continuing to fund free access to Outdoor Pools

## Ararat Rural City Council encourages community members to have their say on the 2024/25 Council Draft Budget, as part of its ongoing commitment to community consultation.

Remember, your rates fund the budget, and our job is to work hard to serve you by doing what is best for the community we live in.

The full Draft Budget is available on the Engage Ararat website: [www.engage.ararat.vic.au](http://www.engage.ararat.vic.au). You can also use this site to lodge your thoughts and comments via the easy-to-use virtual community pinboard.

Residents can also make submissions by writing to Ararat Rural City Council – PO Box 246, Ararat, VIC, 3377 – or by emailing [engage@ararat.vic.gov.au](mailto:engage@ararat.vic.gov.au).

Council encourages residents to attend one of the upcoming Town Hall Draft Budget Meetings, to learn more about the Draft Budget and understand how it impacts their district. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions and get answers directly from Council members, and share your priorities for our community.

**Monday 27 May:** Tatyoon - 7pm - CFA Shed, 2728 Tatyoon Rd, Tatyoon

**Tuesday 28 May:** Elmhurst - 11am - Mechanics Institute, High Street, Elmhurst

**Tuesday 28 May:** Ararat - 2pm - Ararat Town Hall, 193 Barkly St, Ararat

**Wednesday 29 May:** Pomonal - 11.30am - Pomonal Hall, Ararat-Halls Gap Rd, Pomonal

**Wednesday 29 May:** Moyston - 2.30pm - Moyston Hall, 12 Brooke St, Moyston

**Wednesday 29 May:** Willaura - 5.30pm - Willaura Hall, Main Street, Willaura

**Wednesday 29 May:** Lake Bolac - 7pm - Lake Bolac Complex, 90 Montgomery St, Lake Bolac

Submissions are open until 11 June 2024 at 5pm.



Can't make it to a Town Hall Meeting? We're also hosting individual drop-in sessions on **Thursday 30 May 2024** at the Ararat Rural City Council offices, 59 Vincent St, Ararat between 9am and 2pm.



Ararat Rural City