



Ararat Rural City

# MINUTES

## COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday 30 July 2024**

Held in the Council Chambers, Shire Offices  
(Livestreamed)

Commenced at 6.00pm

Council:

Cr Bob Sanders (Mayor)

Cr Gwenda Allgood

Cr Jo Armstrong

Cr Rob Armstrong

Cr Peter Beales

Cr Henry Burridge

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](https://www.facebook.com/aratruralcitycouncil) into your address bar.**

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

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**PRESENT:**

Cr Gwenda Allgood, Cr J Armstrong, Cr Rob Armstrong, Cr Bob Sanders, Cr Bill Waterston, Cr Peter Beales, Dr Tim Harrison - Chief Executive Officer, Rebecca Rodger - Contracts and Procurement Lead, Thomas Duncan - Theatre Technical Officer and Candice O'Brien – Personal Assistant to CEO.

**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 – CR R ARMSTRONG***

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 – CR ALLGOOD***

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 – CR BEALES***

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**

*That the apology of Cr be accepted.*

**MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG  
SECONDED CR R AMSTRONG**

**That the apology of Cr Burrige be accepted.**

**CARRIED 5016/24**

**1.4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 June 2024 be confirmed.*

**MOVED CR WATERSTON  
SECONDED CR ALLGOOD**

**That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 June 2024 be confirmed.**

**CARRIED 5017/24**

## 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.

**There were no Declaration of Conflict of Interests received.**

## 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.

**There were no Petitions or Joint Letters received.**

## SECTION 3 – REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL DECISION

### 3.1 COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025/ANNUAL PLAN 2024/2025

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
**DEPARTMENT:** CEO's OFFICE  
**REFERENCE:** 16241

#### **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.

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At the beginning of its current term Council adopted the Council Plan 2021-2025 which outlined its key strategic themes and objectives across the planning period. Each financial year Council produces an annual plan for the financial year which provides a series of actions aimed at operationalising Council's strategic intent. The Annual Plan 2024/2025 is the fourth, and final, annual plan produced in the current planning cycle. It will also cover the period of transition to a newly elected Council and development of new Council Plan.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Council adopts a Council Plan that outlines its strategic direction, objectives, and measures of performance for at least the following four years. Council adopted its Council Plan 2021 – 2025 following the 2020 Council elections. In addition to adopting the Council Plan 2021 – 2025, each year Council produces an Annual Plan for the financial year which outlines the actions to be taken each year to implement Council's strategy. It is essentially the plan to operationalise Council's strategic direction.

The Annual Plan 2024/2025 represents the fourth Annual Plan put in place to achieve the strategic intent of the Council Plan 2021-2025. It is important to consider that this Annual Plan will be in place over the transition to a new Council following the 2024 Victorian Council elections. Therefore, the Annual Plan 2024/2025 will focus on two key outcomes:

- ensuring that the strategies identified in the Council Plan 2021 - 2025 are operationalised in 2024/2025
- delivering key statutory obligations, particularly around strategic planning, of the newly elected Council under the *Local Government Act 2020*

The Annual Plan 2024/2025 has specific actions associated with achieving each objective which sits under each of the six key theme of the Council Plan 2021-2025. The key themes and objectives are provided below:

#### **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.
- 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 in-migration to Ararat Rural City to grow our population.

#### **2. BUILDING ROBUST LOCAL ECONOMIES**

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

- 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. 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.
- 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. 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.**

- 4.1 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. 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.**

- 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. 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.
- 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.



## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

### ***Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives***

The Annual Plan 2024/2025 has alignment to each key theme and objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

Adopting the Annual Plan 2024/2025 has direct strategic alignment to objective 6.1 Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation and rating fairness.

### ***Budget Implications***

Adoption of the Annual Plan 2024/2025 does not have any additional budget implications. All actions in the annual plan are budgeted in the 2024/2025 Budget or have no additional resourcing requirements.

### ***Policy/Relevant Law***

Section 90 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires that Council produces a Council Plan for a minimum of a four year period. The Annual Plan is a document related to operationalising the Council Plan.

### ***Sustainability Implications***

The key theme, *5. Preserving Our Environment*, has direct sustainability impacts. Actions relating to renewable energy, implementation of Council's Environment Strategy and electrification of Council plant all have clear and tangible links to sustainability outcomes.

### ***Risk Assessment***

Implementing the Annual Plan has some inherent risks around project and program delivery on time, at cost and at an acceptable quality. These risks are managed through careful budget monitoring, a focus on effective project management and appropriate stakeholder engagement. Council has a commitment to improved performance across all of these areas.

### ***Innovation and Continuous Improvement***

The Annual Plan 2024/2025 has strong themes of innovation and continuous improvement running through it. There are a number of innovative actions identified in relation to sustainability, housing, clustered economic development and partnership.

The strategic challenges including the renewal of Council's asset base, the continuation of an appropriate range and level of services, the maintenance of a sound financial position and protection of our natural environment.

### ***Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement***

The Council Plan 2021-2025 was developed based on community engagement and consultation. There are a significant number of actions in the Annual Plan 2024/2025 relating to engagement around strategy and service delivery. These include re-booting the Rural Roads Group, implementing the environment strategy and review of the planning scheme.

## RECOMMENDATION

*That*

*Council adopts the Draft Annual Plan 2024/2025*

## MOVED CR BEALES

## SECONDED CR J ARMSTRONG

**Council adopts the Draft Annual Plan 2024/2025**

**CARRIED 5018/24**

## ATTACHMENTS

The Draft Annual Plan 2024/2025 and the Council Plan 2021 - 2025 is provided as Attachment 3.1



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- 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.



## ARARAT RURAL CITY COUNCIL'S COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025



Ararat Rural City

### 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.
- 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 in-migration to Ararat Rural City to grow our population.

### 2. BUILDING ROBUST LOCAL ECONOMIES

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

- 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.



### GROWING OUR PLACE

- Completion of new planning scheme by 30 June 2023.
- New planning scheme supports commercial and industrial land provision for growth.
- Available residential land increased by 600 lots by 30 June 2025.
- Residential housing stock increased by 300 properties by 30 June 2025.
- Total population of the municipality increased by 750 by 30 June 2025 (6.3%).

### BUILDING ROBUST LOCAL ECONOMIES

- Increase in jobs in local economy by 15% by 30 June 2025.
- Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct fully functional with 8 PhD scholars in place.
- Business park developed and lead tenants established in agricultural value add sector.
- Ararat Rural City Council identified as the tourism leader in the Grampians Region.
- Tourism visitation and stays in Ararat Rural City increased by 50% by 30 June 2025.

### PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- Fully implemented new waste plan, aligned with circular economy outcomes by 30 June 2022.
- Local processing of waste recyclables in place by 31 December 2022.
- All energy used by Ararat Rural City Council is from renewable sources, with a preference for local solutions such as rooftop solar/battery by 30 June 2024.
- Industrial bio-mass power plant, utilising straw waste in final pre-construction phase by 30 June 2025.
- Environment Working Group has produced draft Environmental Strategy by 31 December 2021.

### DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING KEY ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE

- Aradale planning project funded and completed by 30 June 2023.
- Planning and funding models for rural roads "spine" developed and endorsed by Rural Roads Group by 30 June 2022.
- Negotiations with government and utility providers to ensure future industrial, commercial and residential development is supported by essential trunk infrastructure by 30 June 2023.
- Policy in place regarding sealing of urban gravel roads and sealing of significant urban laneways by 31 December 2021.
- Implementation of key infrastructure projects from the Asset Plan 2021-2031 during the planning period.

### ENHANCING COMMUNITY LIFE

- Increase annual visitation to the Ararat Art Gallery by 30% p.a.
- Increase community use of the Town Hall by 20% p.a.
- Increase audience sizes at commercial and funded performances at the Town Hall by 20% p.a.
- Increase Ararat Rural City Council's volunteer numbers by 20% per annum.
- Explore a model for improving the viability of Gum San by 31 December 2021.

### STRONG AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

- Council budgets continue to deliver public value and return efficiency dividends where appropriate.
- Risk management processes continue to be effective and approved by Audit and Risk Committee.
- Community engagement process show longitudinal signs of improvement.

[www.ararat.vic.gov.au](http://www.ararat.vic.gov.au)

ARARAT RURAL CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL PLAN  
2021-2025

ANNUAL PLAN 2024/2025



Ararat Rural City

<b>1. Growing Our Place</b>		
<b>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.</b>	Complete a review of Council's Planning Scheme as required under Section 12B of the <i>Planning Environment Act 1987</i> .	30/06/2025
	Recruit a community reference group to provide community input to the planning scheme review process.	31/12/2024
	Develop an Ararat East Development Zone Structure Plan.	30/06/2024
	Continue to develop the Ararat Housing Enterprise P/L, delivering the first four houses in Ararat during 2023/2024.	30/06/2025
<b>1.2 Support innovative housing models that work to overcome market failure and create the capacity to increase the population of Ararat Rural City.</b>	Work with key stakeholders to work towards implementation of the key recommendations of the Aradale Development Strategy.	Ongoing
	Develop an application to the Community Enabling Infrastructure (CEI) to support trunk infrastructure for a major private sector housing development.	30/08/2024
	Develop an Ararat Housing Strategy.	28/02/2025
<b>1.3 Work with other levels of government, business, and not-for-profits to develop programs to increase in-migration to Ararat Rural City, growing our population.</b>	Work with the Wyndham Community Education Centre to implement the Job Skills Program to increase the number of people from the Communities of Burma relocating to Ararat.	30/06/2025
	Implement the Resident Attraction Program funded in the 2024/2025 Budget.	31/03/2025

## 2. Building Robust Local Economies

	Develop a report on existing partnership and engagement activities with Federation University Australia at the AJTP.	31/08/2024
	Develop an annual schedule of events, highlighting the work of the partnership between Federation University Australia, Council and AJTP.	30/08/2024
	Build stronger connections between AJTP and local industry, including promotion of industry internships for research students.	Ongoing
	Develop an ARCC Economic Development and Innovation Strategy that supports development of agriculture, circular economy, advanced manufacturing, and high yield tourism.	31/08/2024
	Develop an implementation plan for ARCC as a "smart rural city".	31/03/2025
	Work with Invest Victoria, Regional Development Victoria and private sector partners to develop plans for the ARCC Circular Economy Precinct.	Ongoing
	Attract one new circular economy industry to Ararat during 2024/2025.	30/06/2025
	Continue to support Valorify P/L to develop a biogas plant in Ararat which uses straw as the major input.	Ongoing
	Partner with local wine makers Grampians Wine Incorporated and Grampians Tourism to seek funding to develop an annual fine wine and food event within the municipality.	31/03/2025
	Work with operators and Grampians Tourism to establish three new tourism businesses in the municipality during 2024/2025.	30/06/2024
<b>2.1 Partner with Federation University Australia to deliver the Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct (AJTP).</b>		
<b>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" energy.</b>		
<b>2.3 Engage with Grampians Tourism and local businesses to drive growth in high yield tourist outcomes.</b>		

### 3. Preserving Our Environment

<p><b>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 use of renewable energy for Council purposes.</b></p>	<p>Develop and adopt an ambitious business based on key partnerships and production of higher value outputs, that views municipal “waste” as an economic resource.</p>	31/12/2024
	<p>Explore a model for collaborating with community asset committees to use rooftop solar to increase use of renewable energy at community facilities.</p>	31/12/2024
	<p>Develop and adopt an implementation plan for Council’s Electrification Policy.</p>	31/12/2024
<p><b>3.2 Develop innovative energy solutions utilising locally produced waste.</b></p>	<p>Continue to support Valorify P/L to develop a biogas plant in Ararat which uses straw as the major input.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Work with Federal and State Government and private sector partners to plan, fund and develop a circular economy industrial precinct.</p>	30/06/2025
	<p>Support Pomonal Power to implement community-based energy solutions for the community.</p>	31/12/2024
<p><b>3.3 Partner with local organisations and scientific experts to develop an appropriate and pragmatic local government Environment Strategy focused on the circular economy, emission reduction through renewable energy and management of Council assets.</b></p>	<p>Continue quarterly meetings of the Environment Working Group during implementation of the Strategy.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Adopt an Annual Implementation Plan for Council’s Environment Strategy.</p>	31/12/2024
	<p>Produce an annual scorecard outlining Council’s progress on environmental outcomes.</p>	30/06/2024



#### 4. Developing and Maintaining Key Enabling Infrastructure

<p><b>4.1 Ensure that asset development and renewal during the planning period matches that identified in Council's Asset Plan 2021-2031.</b></p>	Review Council's Asset Plan 2021-2031.	31/03/2025
	Adopt a Capital Works Plan 2025-2029.	31/03/2025
	Undertake a full external valuation of Council assets that meets the requirements of the external auditor and the Victorian Auditor General's Office.	31/12/2024
	Maintain an asset valuation system that effectively manages valuations and depreciation that meets the requirements of the external auditor and the Victorian Auditor General's Office.	31/12/2024
	Re-engage with the Department of Transport and Planning to complete preliminary planning for the North-South Heavy Vehicle Route.	31/12/2024
	Lobby for funding for the North-South Heavy Vehicle Route.	31/12/2024
	Complete 2024/2025 Capital Works Program.	30/06/2025
	Adopt key road sealing, gravel resheeting, drainage, footpath and cycleway, and community projects relating by the 2024/2025 Capital Works Program at the August 2024 Council Meeting.	31/08/2024
	Undertake the road-related elements of the Advocacy Program adopted by Council.	30/06/2025

4. Developing and Maintaining Key Enabling Infrastructure (continued)		
<p><b>4.2 Work directly with asset users to manage and develop new and existing assets.</b></p>	<p>Re-establish the Rural Roads Group and hold meetings at least quarterly.</p>	31/12/2024
	<p>Conduct an annual asset forum that provides an opportunity to engage the community in development and review of key asset plans.</p>	31/03/2025
	<p>Review the 10-year Capital Works Strategy to inform 2025/2026 Budget.</p>	31/03/2025
	<p>Develop a detailed two-year Capital Works Plan 2025/2026 - 2026/2027 to inform 2025/2026 Budget.</p>	31/03/2025
	<p>Deliver key outcomes from Council's Asset Plan 2022-2032 during the planning period.</p>	30/06/2025
<p><b>4.3 Deliver infrastructure outcomes that support economic growth, promote community wellbeing and safety, and align with Council's financial sustainability.</b></p>	<p>Complete concept plans and costing for the development of basketball, gymnastics, and aquatic facilities in Ararat.</p>	31/12/2024
	<p>Complete plans for development and implementations of walking/cycling tracks as an element of the Ararat on the Move strategy.</p>	31/12/2024
	<p>Seek funding and undertake renovation and extension of the Buangor Recreation Reserve kitchen.</p>	30/06/2025
	<p>Complete resurfacing, drainage, and irrigation project at the Tatyoon Recreation Reserve.</p>	31/12/2024
	<p>Plan upgrades of the Lake Bolac Memorial Hall.</p>	31/03/2025

## 5. Enhancing Community Life

<p><b>5.1 Open up Council's arts and culture assets to greater community participation, ownership, and engagement in decision-making.</b></p>	<p>Develop an Arts and Culture Reference Group comprising a representative from each of Ararat Town Hall, TAMA, Willaura Modern, Langi Morgala, J Ward, and Gum San to meet at least quarterly.</p> <p>Conduct a series of community focus groups to provide feedback and direction to Council on improving participation in Town Hall and TAMA activities.</p> <p>Review resourcing of Council's cultural assets in the 2025/2026 Budget process.</p> <p>Consider the value of arts and cultural assets as an element of Council's economic development model.</p>	<p>31/12/2024</p> <p>31/12/2024</p> <p>30/06/2025</p> <p>31/03/2025</p>
<p><b>5.2 Develop models of volunteering that recognise, support, and properly utilise the skills that community volunteers bring to community life.</b></p>	<p>Promote the benefits and achievements of volunteers, to encourage participation.</p> <p>Work with community groups to conduct a Volunteer Expo.</p> <p>Develop an ARCC Volunteers Network.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>30/06/2025</p> <p>31/03/2025</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>Work with community stakeholders to facilitate a series of community cultural events.</p> <p>Engage with key stakeholders to redevelop Council's Access and Inclusion Policy.</p> <p>Develop an engagement plan to work with the Barengi Gadjin Land Council in implementation of the Recognition and Settlement Agreement.</p> <p>Commence a process of establishing respectful and productive relationships with Traditional Owner organisations.</p>	<p>31/12/2025</p> <p>31/03/2025</p> <p>31/12/2024</p> <p>31/12/2024</p>

<b>6. Strong and Effective Governance</b>	
	<p>Review Community Vision 2021-2031. 31/03/2025</p> <p>Adopt a Council Plan 2025-2029. 31/03/2025</p> <p>Adopt a Rating and Revenue Strategy 2025-2029. 31/03/2025</p>
<p><b>6.1 Deliver responsible budget outcomes linked to strategy, which deliver value, innovation, and rating fairness.</b></p>	<p>Develop a 2025/2026 Council Budget that delivers public value and returns dividends to the community where appropriate. The budget will conform to Council's financial sustainability criteria. 30/06/2025</p> <p>Provide monthly reporting on Capital Works Program implementation, including cost against budget information. Ongoing</p> <p>Provide monthly financial reporting to Council and the community commencing in December 2024. 31/12/2024</p>
	<p>Review the Audit and Risk Committee Charter. 31/12/2024</p> <p>Undertake an annual review of Council's Business Continuity Plan and Disaster Recovery Plan. 31/03/2025</p>
	<p>Undertake an annual review of Council's Risk Management Policy and Framework. 31/03/2025</p> <p>Ensure appropriate analysis of all inquiry and investigation reports relevant to Council operations and recommendations implemented. Ongoing</p>
	<p>Respond to all issues raised through Council's external auditor and the Victorian Auditor General's Office. 30/06/2024</p> <p>Respond to all issues raised through Council's Internal Audit function. 30/06/2024</p> <p>Review Council's Deliberative Engagement Strategy. 31/12/2025</p>
<p><b>6.2 Ensure appropriate risk management is applied to Council and organisational decisions and apply Council's internal audit function to areas of perceived risk.</b></p>	<p>Review Council's approach for informing the community of development and progress of major projects. 30/11/2025</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	

### 3.2 PROPOSED NEW INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES IN ARARAT

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
**DEPARTMENT:** CEO'S OFFICE  
**REFERENCE:** 16242

**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.

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the 30 April 2024 Council Meeting, Council endorsed the exploration and concept development of alternative site/s for the delivery of the services and facilities currently offered at the Ararat Fitness Centre.

This report provides the outcome of the above activities for review by Council and proposes that the preferred sites and concepts be released for community consultation and engagement.

#### DISCUSSION

##### Site Analysis

Underutilised sites in Ararat were identified and analysed for their suitability to deliver all or parts of the existing services and facilities at the Ararat Fitness Centre. These sites included Council owned or managed land and other Crown or government owned land. Large and vacant privately owned sites were also considered but were assessed as not viable due to the likely cost of purchasing the land on top of the cost of the new community infrastructure.

The sites were assessed against a set of criteria based on what the community and users valued about the existing site and facilities, how the alternative sites could deliver these values, and the absence of adverse factors that exist at the current Ararat Fitness Centre. The criteria included:

- Size Adequacy – Is there sufficient land for the potential facilities?
- Access & Transport – Could young people or those without cars be able to walk, cycle or catch a bus there? Is there or could there be adequate parking? Does this location offer improved road safety outcomes? Are there other access barriers?
- Complementarity – Are there other community uses and facilities that would complement a new indoor sports and aquatic facility? Would it add value to, or detract from, the existing precinct or neighbourhood? Would the site support improved participation, health and wellbeing outcomes?
- Likely cost versus benefits.

##### Indoor Aquatic Facilities Site

Based on the site analysis, it is recommended that the Ararat Outdoor Pool at Alexandra Gardens be upgraded to an indoor pool with new a children's pool, hydrotherapy pool/spa and sauna, rather than construct a new indoor aquatic facility in another location. The upgraded pool could be utilised all year round, rather than only in summer. This will also save on the cost of excavation and construction of a new swimming pool and the associated pool administration and changeroom facilities, which already exist at the Ararat Outdoor Pool. This will also reduce ongoing maintenance costs which would be incurred if a new indoor aquatic facility was built in Ararat.

The Ararat outdoor pool site cannot accommodate an attached indoor sports facility without imposing on the AFL/cricket oval. Acceptance of this recommendation therefore means that the indoor sports and aquatic facilities will be provided in separate buildings. This may impact on families that have members involved in more than one activity at the Ararat Fitness Centre at the same time.

### Indoor Sports Facilities Site

A summary of the site analysis is provided in Table 1 below for the site selection for the new indoor sports facilities. The disused old netball courts and associated building structures at Alexandra Oval Recreation Reserve was identified as the preferred site. Almost all remaining Ararat Fitness Centre facilities and services could be accommodated, except gym facilities. The site is adequate in size for indoor basketball/multi-purpose courts, gymnastics, and squash. The site also has established access and transport connections, yet is not located on or near a busy road or major arterial road, providing improved road and pedestrian safety. It is located in close proximity to the Ararat Outdoor Pool, and it is already used as a multi-purpose sporting precinct with a community centre, AFL, new netball courts, tennis, cricket and an emerging outdoor volleyball scene.

Table 1. Summary of the key sites against the assessment criteria.

Site	Size Adequacy	Access & Transport	Complementarity	Other Comments
<b>Alexandra Oval Precinct (Preferred)</b>	Disused netball and southern lawn tennis courts are adequate in size for new indoor sports facility.	Centrally located. Existing footpath network to the precinct and walking distance from the CBD, train station, and existing nearby bus stops. Existing onsite parking. Internal paths could be constructed to support pedestrian flow between the indoor sports centre and aquatic facilities.	Located within the same precinct as the Ararat Outdoor Pool, AFL, netball, tennis, cricket. The disused lawn tennis courts are being used informally for outdoor volleyball. Existing café located at the outdoor pool in Alexandra Gardens, as well as existing playground, lake, BBQs, outdoor fitness equipment, etc. Close proximity to East Grampians Health Service to support access for their clients.	Selection of this site will help create a more lively sport and recreation hub at the Alexandra Oval and Gardens Precinct.
<b>Kokoda Park</b>	Land size is adequate for a new indoor sports facility.	Somewhat centrally located. Limited existing footpath connections. Walking distance from the train station but potentially too far to walk from CBD. Existing town bus access. New onsite parking will need to be delivered.	Less connected to other sport and recreation facilities. Existing Men's Shed and Ararat Community Enterprise buildings, playground and disused tennis courts. Close proximity to a childcare centre, which will support early childhood access to programs and primary carer access to childcare while participating in sports during the day.	Use of this site will impact on the oval.
<b>Centenary Park</b>	Land size is adequate for a new indoor sports facility.	Less central compared to other sites. Limited existing footpath connections. Not walking distance from train station or CBD. Existing town bus access. New onsite parking will need to be delivered.	Existing playground. While it is walking distance from the Ararat Pony Club and Gordon St Reserve, lack of sight line and paths means these sites do not feel closeby to Centenary Park.	
<b>Ararat Secondary College School Farm Campus</b>	Land size is adequate for a new indoor sports facility.	Less central compared to other sites. No formal footpaths. No nearby public transport. New onsite parking will need to be delivered.	Closer in proximity to the Ararat Pony Club and Gordon St Reserve than Centenary Park, but requires new path connections.	Use of this site may impact on existing agricultural education use of this site.

### **Initial Concepts**

Indicative floor plans have been prepared to assist Council and community to conceptualise what may be possible at the preferred location of the Alexandra Oval Precinct. These are provided as attachments to this report, along with a summary of the design elements and considerations.

### **KEY CONSIDERATIONS**

#### ***Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives***

This report aligns with and seeks to achieve the following Strategic Objectives:

#### **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.**

- 4.1 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.

#### ***Budget Implications***

The site analysis and initial concept development have been undertaken internally by Council officers and has not had budget implications. The next phase of community consultation and engagement is also expected to be undertaken with existing council resources.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation and engagement, further concept development to enable the procurement for construction may incur costs and will be funded by the reallocated funds from the stage 1 redevelopment of the Ararat Fitness Centre. The estimated cost and budget impacts to deliver the new and upgraded infrastructure will be determined after community have provided their feedback and concept changes are made, if required.

#### ***Policy/Relevant Law***

Ararat Rural City Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025  
Ararat Rural City Council's Asset Plan 2022-2032

#### ***Sustainability Implications***

Improved sustainability design elements and outcomes have been considered as part of the development of the initial concepts and will continue to be factored into the development of this project.

#### ***Risk Assessment***

New locations and facilities carry the risk causing unintended impacts. The community and stakeholder consultation and engagement will enable Council to identify and resolve any issues during the initial design phase and reduce any future risks.

#### ***Innovation and Continuous Improvement***

This project will develop innovative options for the delivery of enhanced indoor sports, aquatic and gymnastics facilities, and improve the overall recreation offering in the Ararat Rural City.

#### ***Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement***

The proposed location and initial concepts will be released for community and stakeholder consultation and engagement.

To reiterate the April 2024 Council Meeting, the existing facilities and services at the Ararat Fitness Centre will remain until the potential new locations are operational, and existing users will be consulted to support a smooth transition.

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That:*

1. *Council receives this report and seeks community and stakeholder feedback on the:*
  - a. *Proposed location and initial concept floor plans for a new indoor sports centre at the Alexandra Oval Precinct, and the*
  - b. *Proposed upgrade of the Ararat Outdoor Pool and the initial concept plans.*

**MOVED CR ALGOOD  
SECONDED CR J ARMSTRONG**

1. **Council receives this report and seeks community and stakeholder feedback on the:**
  - a. **Proposed location and initial concept floor plans for a new indoor sports centre at the Alexandra Oval Precinct, and the**
  - b. **Proposed upgrade of the Ararat Outdoor Pool and the initial concept plans.**

**CARRIED 5019/24**

**ATTACHMENTS**

The Proposed New Indoor Sports Centre – Initial Concepts, Proposed Ararat Outdoor Pool Upgrade – Initial Concepts and Summary of Design Elements & Considerations are provided as Attachment 3.2





Ararat Rural City

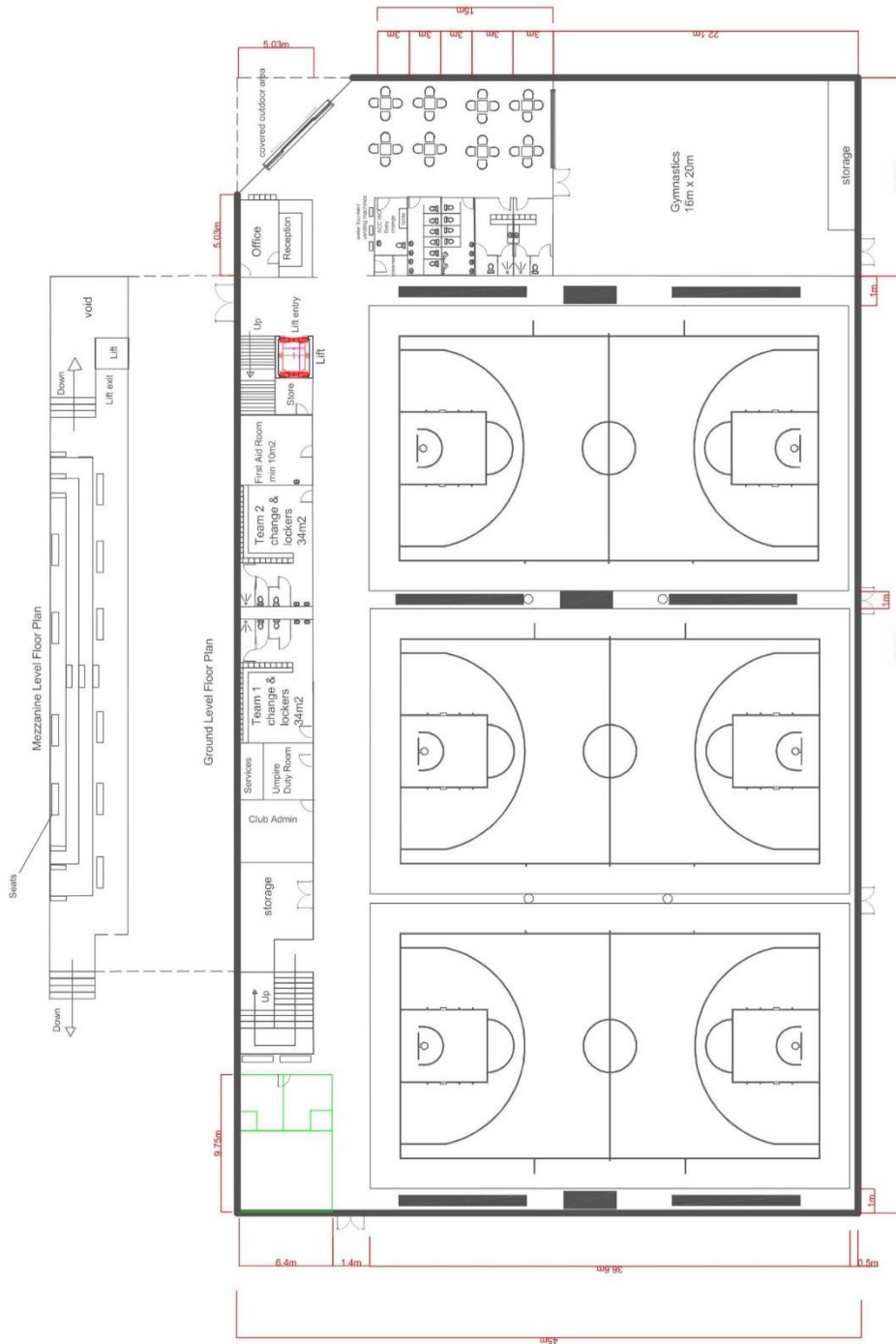
**DRAFT**

Proposed New Indoor  
Sports Centre -  
Initial Concepts

Drawn by PA Date 12.07.2024

Sheet 1 of 2 - Internal Floorplan  
Revision 1

**Internal Floorplan**



External building footprint on site (approx.)



**DRAFT**

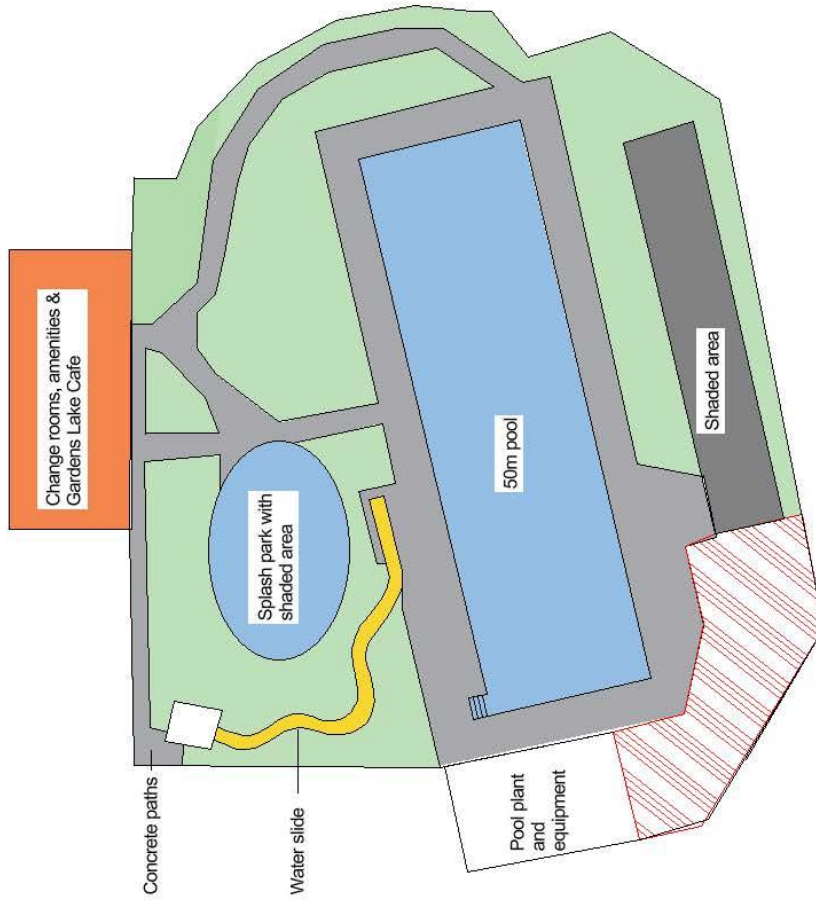
Proposed New Indoor  
Sports Centre -  
Initial Concepts

Drawn by PA Date 12.07.2024

Sheet 1 of 2 - External building footprint on site (approx.)

Revision 1

### Existing Features & Demolition Plan



Existing building to be demolished



Ararat Rural City

# DRAFT

Proposed Ararat Outdoor  
Pool Upgrade -  
Initial Concepts

Drawn by PA Date 12.07.2024

Sheet 1 of 2 - Existing Features and Demolition Plan  
Revision 1



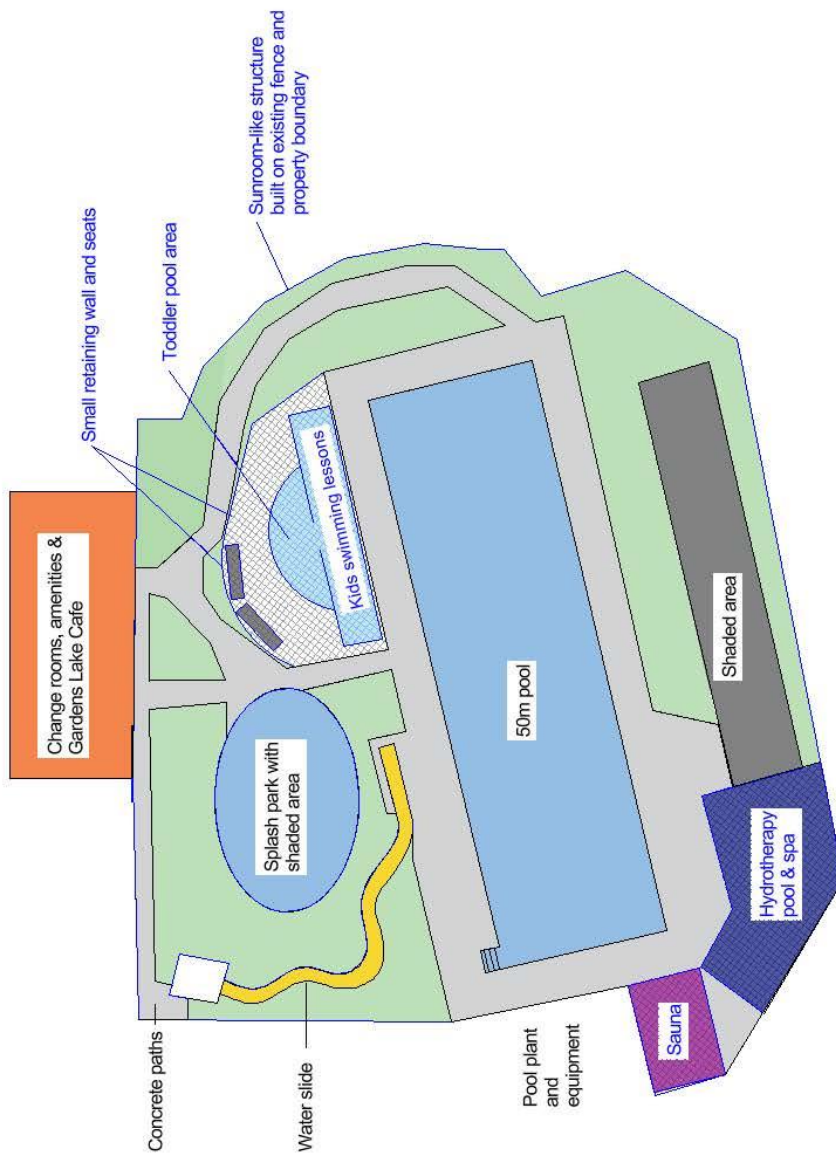
Ararat Rural City

**DRAFT**

Proposed Ararat Outdoor Pool Upgrade - Initial Concepts

Drawn by PA Date 12.07.2024  
Sheet 1 of 2 - Proposed upgrades  
Revision 1

Proposed Upgrades



Examples of sunroom-like pool enclosures:

Proposed new facilities



# Proposed New Indoor Sports Centre & Ararat Outdoor Pool Upgrade: Summary of Design Elements & Considerations

July 2024

## Contents

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## Other Attachments:

1. Proposed New Indoor Sports Centre – Initial Concepts
2. Proposed Ararat Outdoor Pool Upgrade – Initial Concepts

### Background

Ararat Fitness Centre is Ararat Rural City Council's only indoor aquatic and community recreation facility. It includes two multipurpose courts, small gymnasium, aerobics and gym area, squash courts and a 25-metre indoor aquatic pool. The sports played at the Ararat Fitness Centre include basketball, futsal, indoor netball, indoor volleyball, gymnastics, and squash.

The upgrade of the Ararat Fitness Centre was identified as a key infrastructure project in the Council's Asset Plan. This project was intended to enhance functionality, access and inclusion and extend the useful life of a key recreational asset, and yield significant social, economic and community benefit to residents of the Ararat Rural City. However, the stage 1 redevelopment of the Ararat Fitness Centre encountered a near doubling of the expected costs due to challenges with the age, location, current configuration and structural elements of the existing facility, modern facility standards and requirements, and price volatility in the construction market.

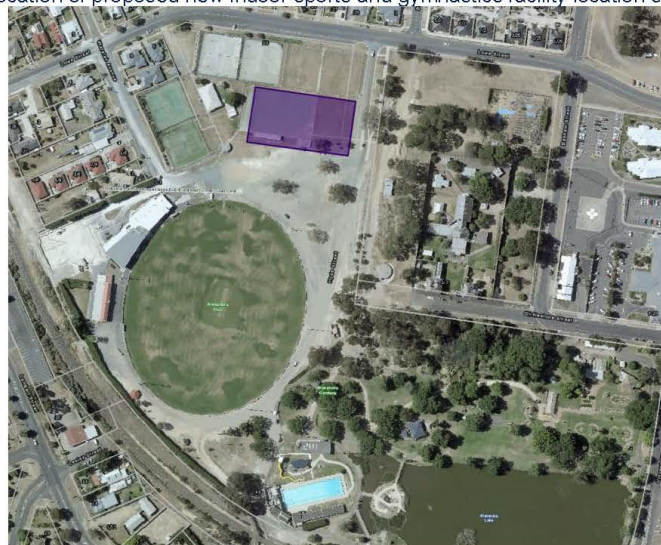
At the 30 April 2024 Council Meeting, Council endorsed the exploration and concept development of alternative site/s for the delivery of the services and facilities currently offered at the Ararat Fitness Centre. This document provides a summary of the site features, facility requirements, and access and movement considerations that were factored into the initial concepts for the proposed new facility.

### Recommended Sites at the Alexandra Oval and Gardens Precinct

The disused netball and southern lawn tennis courts (see Figure 1 below) are proposed as the site for a new indoor sports and gymnastics facility. The maximum width (east to west) possible is approx. 85 metres, after taking into account easements, footpaths and clearances from the building and road from Hyde Street. There is some flexibility with the length of the facility (north to south), however the further the length, the greater impact on the parking area. A length of 45 metres would bring the new facility as far south as the existing shelter structures at the southern end of the disused netball courts and will require the removal of a small number of trees and vegetation.

Rather than construct a new indoor aquatic facility, it is proposed that the Ararat Outdoor Pool at Alexandra Gardens be upgraded to an indoor pool with new a children's pool, hydrotherapy pool/spa and sauna. The upgraded pool could be utilised all year round, instead of only in summer. This will also save on the cost of excavation and construction of a new swimming pool and the associated pool administration and changeroom facilities, which already exist at the Ararat Outdoor Pool. This will also reduce ongoing maintenance costs which would be incurred if a new indoor aquatic facility was built in Ararat.

Figure 1. Disused netball and southern lawn tennis courts at the Alexandra Oval Precinct. Approximate location of proposed new indoor sports and gymnastics facility location shown in purple.



## Indoor Sports Centre

### Number of Multipurpose Courts

Basketball is a very popular sport in the Ararat Rural City. The Ararat Basketball Association (ABA) coordinates the games in both the winter and summer seasons at the Ararat Fitness Centre, which has two basketball courts. The last basketball summer 2023/24 season had 8 grades, totaling 30 teams, as per the table below, and was played on Mondays and Wednesdays with games starting at 4pm and continuing until close to 9pm for the Seniors grades.

The ABA also coordinates indoor futsal and netball competitions. Futsal is also a very popular sport in the Ararat Rural City. The last futsal summer 2023/24 season had 5 grades with a total of 27 teams, shown in the table below. Games were played from 4pm until 9pm.

Futsal is normally played on Fridays, netball on Tuesdays, and the new volleyball competitions played on Thursdays in winter. There is little scope to increase programming for each of the sports onto other days during the week, and stretching programming later into the evening can be challenging for families with young children or less attractive to people who already generally participate less in sport, such as women and girls, people with disabilities and/or people from culturally diverse backgrounds.

Three (3) multipurpose courts are proposed to meet local level games and alleviate scheduling pressure. This will enable increased participation for each sport, as well as the potential to have different sports played at the same time. For example, futsal competitions and social netball for parents, or competitions for one sport and training for another. This is currently not possible with the existing two courts at the Ararat Fitness Centre.

**Table 1A. Basketball Summer 2023/24 Season**

#	Grade	Teams
1	Junior Girls U14-U20	2
2	Junior Mixed U10	2
3	Junior Mixed U12	5
4	Junior Mixed U14	4
5	Junior Mixed U16	6
6	Junior Mixed U20	2
7	Senior Mixed A Grade	5
8	Senior Mixed B Grade	4
	<b>Total teams:</b>	<b>30</b>

**Table 1B. Futsal Summer 2023/24 Season**

#	Grade	Teams
1	Junior Mixed 8 &Under	9
2	Junior Mixed 10 &Under Div.1	4
3	Junior Mixed 10 &Under Div.2	4
4	Junior Mixed 12 &Under	7
5	Junior Mixed 14-18 &Under	3
	<b>Total teams:</b>	<b>27</b>

### Multipurpose Court Dimensions

Basketball Victoria's Facility Guidelines provides the minimum dimensions for duel basketball/netball courts with the required boundary clearance or run off area from the court perimeter, and player's and scorer's benches. These dimensions also meet the size requirements for futsal and volleyball.

The total dimensions per court, including boundary clearance, is 21.35m width by 36.6m length. The areas for players and scorers is 1m width and external to the court boundary clearance, and spectator areas will not be located in between the courts. Instead, spectator areas will be provided in a mezzanine area for regular use, and portable stadium seating is proposed for the future if this facility is used for major competitions or events.

### Squash Courts

There are four squash courts at the Ararat Fitness Centre. Over the 12 months from 15 April 2023 to 15 April 2024, there were 32 casual bookings to play squash, 51 gymnastics birthday parties that usually uses a squash court as a party room, and 19 classes of Stretch & Strengthen. One (1) squash court is proposed to meet existing demand for casual squash games and other activities, such as Stretch & Strengthen classes. The squash facilities will cater to casual users and will meet the minimum dimensions of an international singles squash court. Gymnastics birthday parties are proposed to be located in the cafe/lounge area adjacent the gymnastics hall.

### Other Facilities Guidelines and Requirements

The sports specifications that are yet to be determined and may be subject to available funding include ceiling height and lighting/lux levels.

Table 2. Proposed court dimensions and compliance with facility guidelines and requirement of existing sports played at the Ararat Fitness Centre.

Total Dimensions Per Court	Sport	Minimum Dimensions			Total Per Court	Comply?
		Court	Boundary Clearance	Players & Officials		
Multi-purpose courts: 22.35m width x 36.6m length	Basketball <sup>1</sup>	15m x 28m	2m	1m width	19m x 33m	✓
	Netball <sup>2</sup>	15.25m x 30.50m	3.05m	0.915m width	22.265m x 36.6m	✓
	Futsal (Local) <sup>3</sup>	16m x 25m	0.75m	Size not specified	17.5m x 26.5m	✓
	Volleyball <sup>4</sup>	9m x 18m	3m	Size not specified for seating, 3m for warm-up area	18m x 24m	✓
Squash court: 6.4m x 9.75m	Squash (Singles) <sup>5</sup>	6.4m x 9.75m	N/A	Size not specified	6.4m x 9.75m	✓

### Supporting Infrastructure and Amenities

The table below provides a summary of the supporting infrastructure and amenities based on Netball Victoria Facilities Manual for a local level facility, and based on other facility guidelines for basketball, volleyball and futsal, where facility guideline details are available.

Table 3. Summary of proposed supporting infrastructure and amenities.

Room/Item	Details
Player amenities and change rooms	2 x female friendly rooms, each with 2x toilets, 2x hand basins and 1x shower, total combined minimum 34m <sup>2</sup>
First aid room	1 x room, minimum 10m <sup>2</sup>
Umpire/gymnastics/family change rooms and amenities	2 x female friendly rooms, each with 1x toilets, 1x hand basins and 1x shower, total combined minimum 10m <sup>2</sup>
Umpire Duty Room	1 x room, size to be confirmed
Public toilets	2 x rooms (female and male), minimum 12m <sup>2</sup> each. Minimum 2 toilets and 2 hand basins in each.
Accessible toilet/ baby change area	1 x room – unisex, minimum 8m <sup>2</sup> . 1 toilet, 1 hand basin, one baby change table, no shower provided. If the use of a shower is required, the shower in the umpire/gymnastics can be used.
Spectator seating	Provided in mezzanine level, approx. 150m <sup>2</sup> area, universal access enabled via a lift. If major events or activities are hosted at the centre, expanding, portable stadium seating could be purchased to enable large events, and stored when not in use.
Club admin office	1 x office, size to be confirmed. To be shared by all clubs.
Tournament Office	Not required for local level facility
Canteen/Kiosk	Water fountain and vending machines are proposed.
Kitchen and multipurpose/ social/ function room	Not provided in this building, this is already available in the Alexandra Oval Community Centre at the Precinct.
Storage	1 x room for basketball, etc, and 1 x room for gymnastics. Sizes to be confirmed.
Media room	Not required for local level facility
Car parking	Existing parking available on site.

<sup>1</sup> Basketball Victoria Facilities Guidelines – A Snapshot

<sup>2</sup> Netball Victoria Facilities Manual (April 2017 Version 1)

<sup>3</sup> FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game 2023/2024

<sup>4</sup> Fédération Internationale de Volleyball Official Volleyball Rules 2021-2024

<sup>5</sup> World Squash Federation Specifications for Squash Courts (January 2013)



### Gymnastics

The proposed gymnastics facilities will meet the Entry Level Gymnastics Facility level, and some of the requirements of a Local Club Facility, as described in the Gymnastics Victoria Facility Guide & Strategic Plan. The Table 4 below provides the facility components and design requirements, and how the proposed facility meets these.

Table 4. The Gymnastics Victoria facility components and design requirements for an Entry Level Gymnastics Facility, and how the proposed new facility meets those requirements.

Excerpts from the Gymnastics Victoria Facility Guide & Strategic Plan	How the Proposed Facility Meets the Requirements for Entry Level and Part of Local Club Level
<p><b>8.2 Local Club Facility</b></p> <p>Key requirements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum size of venue for training and basic competitions is a program space of 700m<sup>2</sup> configured approximately as 35m x 19m for WAG and GG only, with limited capacity for Trampolining. The floor area can be adapted for use of cheer-leading, basic RG and Sport Aerobics</li> <li>• Minimum size of venue for Acrobatics and Tumbling training and basic competitions is a program space of 320m<sup>2</sup> configured approximately as 20m x 16m</li> <li>• Approximately 50m<sup>2</sup> of amenity space is required for training and programs. Key amenity spaces are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• change rooms with showers</li> <li>• storage areas</li> <li>• toilets (uni sex)</li> <li>• spectator viewing areas</li> <li>• reception area and circulation space</li> <li>• kitchen and canteen</li> <li>• Multi-function spaces for first-aid, meetings, coaches and other personnel, social and event administration, officials and control room.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Access to additional amenity space of 50m<sup>2</sup>, excluding spectator seating, is required for the conduct of basic level competitions and events. There should be space externally to locate temporary marquees and parking/ circulation space for at least 70 cars. During events if spectator space is in the same area as the program space, spectator circulation areas should be well clear of gymnasts and officials. Configuration of space should enable gymnasts to move from change/ marshalling areas to competition assembly space without circulating with spectators.</p>	<p>The total venue size for gymnastics related activities is expected to be approx. 720m<sup>2</sup>, configured as 16m x 45m.</p> <p>This includes the gymnastics hall, which is proposed to have a program space of 320m<sup>2</sup> configured as 20m x 16m.</p> <p>Amenity spaces such as change rooms with showers, storage, toilets, reception area and circulation space, vending machines as canteen and café/lounge as a spectator viewing area will be shared with the other sports users.</p> <p>This 720m<sup>2</sup> area does not include a basketball court for sport aerobics, this would add a further 420m<sup>2</sup> to the total gymnastics program space.</p> <p>First-aid, coaches and other personnel, social and event administration, and officials and control rooms are available in the multipurpose court area and not included in the 720m<sup>2</sup> area.</p> <p>Amenity space for meetings, training and programs, such as a meeting/ conference room, is not provided. This is available at the Alexandra Oval Community Centre. An informal meeting area for training or other activities can be set up in the café/lounge area adjacent to the gymnastics hall with temporary partitions.</p>
<p><b>8.3 Entry Level Gymnastics Facility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum size of venue for training for entry level gymnastics is 400 m<sup>2</sup>, preferably configured approximately 25m x 16m</li> <li>• Approximately 40m<sup>2</sup> of amenity space is required for training and programs. Key amenity spaces are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ change rooms with showers</li> <li>○ storage areas</li> <li>○ toilets (uni sex)</li> <li>○ reception area and circulation space</li> <li>○ kitchen and canteen</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Large parking area is already available on site.</p>

<b>Attachment 1 Training and Competition Venue Requirements</b>		
Table 4.1. Minimum size of venue for training and basic competitions for the following disciplines.		
<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Program Space</b>	<b>Preferred Configuration</b>
<i>Acrobatic Gymnastics</i>	320m <sup>2</sup>	20m x 16m
<i>Cheer-leading</i>	320m <sup>2</sup>	20m x 16m (min width)
<i>Gymnastics for All</i>	320m <sup>2</sup>	20m x 16m
<i>Sport Aerobics</i>	400m <sup>2</sup>	Not specified. Can be adapted to be held on basketball court sprung floorboards
<i>Rhythmic Gymnastics</i>	480m <sup>2</sup>	30m x 16m
<i>Trampoline Sports</i>	500m <sup>2</sup>	Not specified
<i>Men's Gymnastics</i>	1350m <sup>2</sup>	45m x 30m
<i>Women's Gymnastics</i>	1200m <sup>2</sup>	40m x 30m
<i>Both Men's &amp; Women's Gymnastics</i>	1500m <sup>2</sup>	Not specified

The program space in the gymnastics hall is proposed to have 320m<sup>2</sup> configured as 20m x 16m.

This will meet the venue requirements for training and basic competitions for:

- Acrobatic Gymnastics
- Cheer-leading
- Gymnastics for All

The proposed gymnastics hall will not meet the venue requirements for Sports Aerobics. The proposed multipurpose courts will be sprung wooden floors to comply with Basketball Victoria requirements and can be used for this discipline.

The proposed gymnastics hall will not meet the venue requirements for the below disciplines, however the existing gymnastics hall also does not currently meet these venue requirements:

- Rhythmic Gymnastics
- Trampoline Sports
- Men's Gymnastics
- Women's Gymnastics
- Both Men's and Women's Gymnastics

**External Access, Movement and Amenity.**

People will approach the new facility from Lowe Street, the direction of Alexandra Gardens, the outdoor volleyball courts on the northern side of the building, or from the carpark areas on the southern side of the building (see Figure 2, next page). People may also enter the Alexandra Oval Precinct and head towards the new facility from form the rail underpass or via Alexandra Gardens.

The facility users from the outdoor volleyball courts will include players and spectators who will primarily remain outdoors until they use the changerooms or public amenities, and therefore may enter and exit the building multiple times during their activities. Facility users who use the indoor multipurpose courts of gymnastics hall will generally enter the building and remain inside until the end of their program.

The entrance to the building is proposed on the north eastern corner of the building, via an entrance on a "clipped corner" (see red line Figure 2, next page). This diagonal entrance provides a welcoming sense of arrival for facility users approaching the building from any of the likely directions, and also gives facility users a small covered outdoor area to improve their experience on entering or exiting the building. The corner feature also improves the external amenity of the building for the residents on Lowe Street and for potential sports participants.

Providing the main entrance on the north-east side of the building and a second access door to the outdoor volleyball courts enables ticketed competitions to occur on the outdoor volleyball courts. This provides a means to support the financial viability of the volleyball competition if they choose to utilise this method to raise funds.

Figure 2. Likely direction of approach to the new facility by users (yellow arrows).  
Proposed entrance shown in red.



#### **Upgrade of the Ararat Outdoor Pool**

The Ararat Outdoor Pool is a seasonal outdoor facility. The main pool is 50m in length and varies in depth from 0.9m to 3m. There is a waterslide, splash park, shaded grassed areas, and the Gardens Lake Cafe. The Outdoor Pool is proposed to be converted into an indoor pool with the construction of a sunroom style structure over the pool facility. Additional facilities are also proposed to deliver the options available at the existing indoor pool, including a children's pool suitable for toddlers and kids beginners swimming lessons. A spa/hydrotherapy pool and sauna are proposed to be constructed at the location of the disused, former entry building on the south-west side of the pool.

### 3.3 VICTORIAN CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES CHARTER

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** STRATEGIC PROJECT LEAD & SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP FACILITATOR/PRE-PREP PROJECT COORDINATOR  
**DEPARTMENT:** CEO'S OFFICE  
**REFERENCE:** 16243

**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.

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report proposes that the Ararat Rural City Council becomes a signatory to the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities (CFCC) Charter.

Council already implements and demonstrates the principles of the Charter in its operations and projects. Becoming a signatory will affirm Council's commitment to the principles of the Charter and conveys our continuing resolve to strive towards a city and community where our children can thrive.

To support Council's status as a signatory to the Charter, this report also proposes the establishment of a Working Group to support the Ararat Rural City community to continue to uphold and to advance the principles of the Charter.

#### DISCUSSION

The Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities (CFCC) Charter is a statement of principles that underpin actions that support communities to be child friendly. The Charter was launched in 2013 by Bernie Geary, Victoria's former Children's Commissioner. In 2022, an extensive review was undertaken to re-fresh the Charter to ensure alignment with current protocols and practices.

The updated Charter aligns with State, Federal and international protocols and embraces the universal rights of children from birth to 17 years of age as defined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990), United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2016) and the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities (2006).

The principles of the Charter are to:

- Act in the best interests of the child
- Freedom for children to express their individual opinions and right to have these considered in decisions that affect them
- Create equity for all children based on their needs

The Ararat Rural City Council already demonstrates the principles of the Charter in its development and target outcomes of key strategic documents, such as in our Community Vision 2030, Council Plan, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, and our various other plans and policies. This is also demonstrated in the community facilities and infrastructure priorities, such as the Ararat Library refurbishment project that is underway, the new pavilion, sports fields and facilities, and ninja course at the Gordon Street Recreation Reserve, the recent playground upgrades in Ararat and Lake Bolac.

Becoming a signatory will affirm Council's commitment to the principles of the Charter and conveys our continuing resolve to strive towards a city and community where children can thrive. It also complements Council's other activities to support the critically important early childhood education and care sector with the challenges and

opportunities presented with the roll out of Pre-Prep in the municipality in 2025 and creates the mandate for increased attention on the best interests of children in any future plans and strategies.

Adoption of the recommendations of this report will make the Ararat Rural City Council the first small rural council to become a signatory to the Charter.

This report also proposes that a new Working Group with Council, child-related sector, and community representatives be established to support the Ararat Rural City community to continue to uphold and to advance the principles of the Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter. The Working Group may wish to include youth or young adults aged 18 and over in their scope, depending on the areas of interest and expertise of its members. This proposed Working Group will act in an advisory and reference role to the Council and CEO, with the full terms of reference to be developed and agreed by the Working Group.

The Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) is the auspice agency for the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter and the CFCC Advisory Group, who can provide support to Council to embed the Charter into policy, plans and practice. Council can also send a representative to CFCC Network Meetings to connect with other CFCC signatories and share ideas, resources and collaborate on initiatives.

#### **UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Initiative**

The Victorian CFCC Charter closely aligns with the global Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI). This Initiative was launched by UNICEF and UN-Habitat in 1996 to act on the resolutions passed during the second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), which declared that the well-being of children is the ultimate indicator of a healthy habitat, a democratic society and good governance.

UNICEF provide a large range of online resources via the website: [www.childfriendlycities.org](http://www.childfriendlycities.org) to support cities and communities that are building child friendly cities and communities. Before UNICEF can formally recognise a city or a community as child friendly, a range of minimum criteria are required to be met. The recommendations of this report to become a signatory to the Charter and the establishment of the Working Group will contribute to the Ararat Rural City becoming recognised as a Child Friendly City by UNICEF, if we decide to seek recognition in the future.

#### **KEY CONSIDERATIONS**

##### ***Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives***

The recommendations of this report will contribute towards achieving the following 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.**

- 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.

##### **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***

Becoming a signatory to the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter does not have any direct budget implications. The establishment and administration of the proposed Working Group will be undertaken by existing staff resources. Any future budget implications will be considered as part of the Council's annual budget development and business-as-usual processes.

***Policy/Relevant Law***

N/A

***Sustainability Implications***

It is expected that increased attention to the best interest of children will result in improved sustainability outcomes for the Ararat Rural City.

***Risk Assessment***

No risks identified with becoming a signatory to the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter. Risks associated with the operational requirements of the proposed Working Group will be managed in accordance with the Council's Risk Management Framework.

***Innovation and Continuous Improvement***

If the recommendations of this report are adopted, the Ararat Rural City Council will be the first 'small shire' council (group category according to the Essential Services Commission) to become a signatory to the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter.

***Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement***

During the engagement and consultation process for the development of the Ararat Rural City's Early Childhood Education Workforce Plan (currently in draft), it was identified that a whole of community approach would be beneficial not only to support the staff in their efforts to educate and care for young children, but also for the health and wellbeing of the children themselves. Easy access to suitable natural environments, intergenerational interactions, sports facilities, and other venues and activities would contribute toward enabling a highly satisfying career for early childhood education and care workers, as well as provide engaging and stimulating educational opportunities for young children. It was also recognised that the Ararat Rural City Council and the local community were either already partnering and collaborating with the early years services to achieve this, or there was strong support to do so.

Becoming a signatory to the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter is a way to acknowledge what we already do and is in the draft Early Childhood Education Workforce Plan as a strategy to help increase recognition of the importance and value of the early childhood education and care sector and workforce in the community.

Further stakeholder collaboration and engagement will occur through the establishment of the proposed Working Group, and the activities that may occur via this group.

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That:*

- 1. The Ararat Rural City Council becomes a Signatory to the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter*
- 2. A new Working Group be established to support the Ararat Rural City community to continue to uphold and to advance the principles of the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter*
- 3. A report be provided to Council at the March 2025 Council Meeting on the progress of the establishment of the Working Group and its terms of reference.*

**MOVED CR WATERSTON  
SECONDED CR ALLGOOD**

- 1. The Ararat Rural City Council becomes a Signatory to the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter**
- 2. A new Working Group be established to support the Ararat Rural City community to continue to uphold and to advance the principles of the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter**
- 3. A report be provided to Council at the March 2025 Council Meeting on the progress of the establishment of the Working Group and its terms of reference.**

**CARRIED 5020/24**

**ATTACHMENTS**

The Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter is provided as Attachment 3.3



## The Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities CHARTER

The Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter is a statement of principles that underpin actions that support communities to be child friendly.

This Charter is consistent with Victorian, Australian and international protocols and embraces the universal rights of children aged from birth to 17 years as defined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990) and the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities (2006).

Fundamental to positive health and wellbeing is the right for children to experience environments that consider their needs. Because children are valued members of communities, we commit to these principles:

- Act in the best interests of the child
- Freedom for children to express their individual opinions and right to have these considered in decisions that affect them
- Create equity for all children based on their needs

This Charter guides all organisations and individuals with a mandate to respond to the needs of children to:

- Uplift Child Safety and Child Friendly organisational culture
- Improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of initiatives that support children to participate in civic life
- Amplify the voice of the child in decision-making forums



### 3.4 SAFE LOCAL ROADS AND STREETS PROGRAM

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** CIVIL ENGINEERS  
**DEPARTMENT:** INFRASTRUCTURE  
**REFERENCE:** 16244

#### **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.

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Safe Local Roads and Streets Program (SLRSP) is a collaborative effort between Victoria's Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and the Transport Accident Commission (TAC). The program aims to support Victorian Councils in planning and implementing safe system infrastructure improvements across their local networks.

Under this program, each council can apply for an initial funding amount of \$2 million from a total pool of \$200 million. There is also the possibility of securing additional funding for high-value or innovative projects. Notably, there is no co-contribution requirement from the Council. Councils are encouraged to propose projects slightly exceeding the preliminary funding amount, as well-conceived projects are likely to receive approval.

The program offers assistance in project scoping and design, with pre-assigned consulting partners for each council. For Ararat Rural City Council, SMEC has been designated as the consulting partner. The costs for SMEC's consultation services are partially covered by the allocated \$2 million and partially funded through other TAC streams.

This report provides detailed information about the funding project and seeks the Council's approval for the nominated projects.

#### **DISCUSSION**

A project commencement workshop was hosted by the Council in late May 2024, where preliminary project concepts were proposed by our engineering team, and the program's scope was discussed. Since then, the Council's team has worked with SMEC to develop a suite of projects that address key areas of concern and complies with program constraints, notably the restriction that no works be carried out on VicRoads managed roads.

Designs and funding applications are to be finalised within six months of the initial workshop, by November 2024. The delivery timeframe for all funded projects is 18 months from the date of approval, being May, 2026.

#### **PROPOSALS**


Projects proposed by the Council's engineering team are presented in the table below, and in greater detail on subsequent pages. All projects are supported or supported in principle by the funding body. The diagrams shown are preliminary concepts, final designs will consider additional factors including community feedback and road safety audit findings (audits will be carried by the TAC at no cost to Council).

Project	Location	Description	Cost (estimate)
1	Queen St/Moore St, Ararat	Raised roundabout	\$ 541,000
2	View Point St/High St, Ararat	Intersection safety improvements	\$ 113,000
3	Vincent St/Alexandra Ave, Ararat	Raised crossing	\$ 288,000
4	Buangor-Ben Nevis Rd/Mount Cole Rd/Warrak Rd, Warrak	Intersection realignment and speed zone changes	\$ 789,000
5	Moore St & Princes St, Ararat	Wombat crossings	\$ 116,000
6	Ingor St, Ararat	Wombat crossing	\$ 85,000
7	King St, Ararat	Wombat crossing	\$ 92,000
8	View Point St/Tobin St/Taylor St, Ararat	Intersection safety improvements	\$ 169,000
<b>Total Estimated Investment (TEI)</b>			<b>\$2,193,000+</b>

**PROJECT DETAILS**

	Status	Location	Description	Cost (estimate)	Diagram
<b>Project 1</b>	Supported (In-principle)	Queen St/Moore St, Ararat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raised intersection with mountable roundabout</li> <li>• Addresses severe side impact crash risk (3 recorded in last 5 years)</li> <li>• Maintains truck accessibility</li> <li>• Potential for pedestrian priority crossings</li> </ul>	\$541,000	
<b>Project 2</b>	Supported	View Point St/High St, Ararat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-align kerb and install splitter islands</li> <li>• Speed cushions on View Point</li> <li>• Removes see-through effect of intersection</li> </ul>	\$113,000	

<p><b>Project 3</b></p>	<p>Supported (in principle)</p>	<p>Vincent St/Alexandra Ave, Ararat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raised Intersection</li> <li>• Pedestrian priority crossing between Alexandra Avenue &amp; Gardens</li> </ul>	<p>\$288,000</p>	
<p><b>Project 4</b></p>	<p>Supported</p>	<p>Buangor-Ben Nevis Rd/Mount Cole Rd/Warrak Rd, Warrak</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-alignment of intersections in Warrak</li> <li>• Re-prioritisation of Buangor-Ben Nevis Road</li> <li>• 60km/h speed zone introduction in Warrak township (community request)</li> </ul>	<p>\$789,000</p>	

<p><b>Project 5</b></p>	<p>Supported</p>	<p>Moore St &amp; Princes St, Ararat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wombat Crossings to provide pedestrian priority between schools and on Moore St</li> </ul>	<p>\$116,000</p>	
<p><b>Project 6</b></p>	<p>Supported (in principle)</p>	<p>Ingor St, Ararat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wombat Crossing to provide pedestrian priority between post office and CBD</li> </ul>	<p>\$85,000</p>	

Project 7	Supported (in principle)	King St, Ararat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wombat Crossing to provide pedestrian priority across King St to high school</li> </ul>	\$92,000	
Project 8	Supported (in principle)	View Point St/Tobin St/Taylor St, Ararat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wombat crossing across View Point St to provide pedestrian priority crossing</li> <li>Realignment of Tobin St intersection to increase sight lines and discourage high intersection speeds</li> <li>Pedestrian refuge splitter island on Tobin St, maintains PTV bus route accessibility</li> </ul>	\$169,000	
		<b>Total Estimated Investment (TEI)</b>		\$2,193,000+	

This report requests the Council's approval for the proposed projects to enable the continued progress of this project

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

### *Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives*

#### 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.

#### *Budget Implications*

There are no budget implications for this program, as there is no co-contribution requirement from the Council. The program is fully funded by Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and the Transport Accident Commission (TAC).

#### *Policy/Relevant Law*

- Road Safety Act 1986
- Safe Local Roads and Street Funding

#### *Sustainability Implications*

Sustainable road safety developments offer a comprehensive way to protect the environment, enhance social well-being, and drive economic growth. By focusing on these initiatives, communities can build safer, more efficient, and equitable transportation systems for everyone.

#### *Risk Assessment*

Risks will be managed through project planning and management procedures and project administration.

#### *Innovation and Continuous Improvement*

The policies and procedures at the Council's Transfer Stations will be reviewed and improved to ensure ongoing compliance to the EPA registration conditions and requirements.

#### *Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement*

- Extensive stakeholder engagement has been undertaken between the Council and the DTP, TAC and design consultants SMEC to provide the proposed program of works.
- Community stakeholder engagement will continue to be undertaken following approval of the proposed works by Council.

## RECOMMENDATION

*That:*

*Council approve the program as detailed in this report for the Safe Local Road and Streets Funding.*

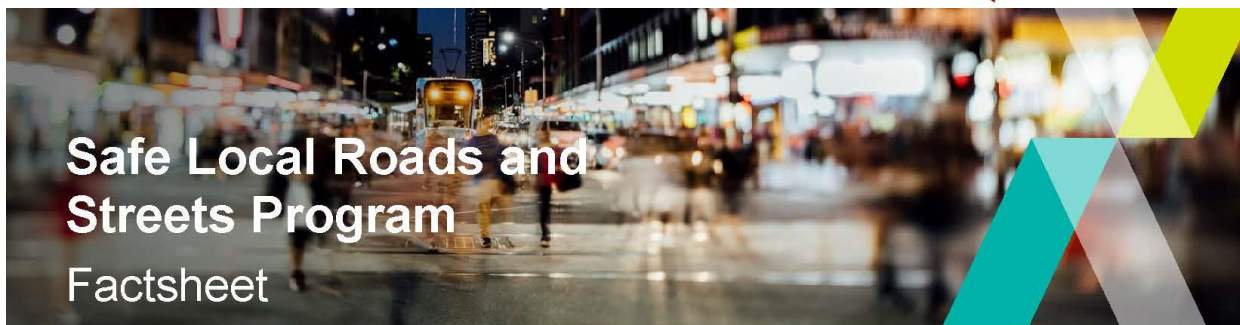
**MOVED CR R ARMSTRONG  
SECONDED CR WATERSTON**

**Council approve the program as detailed in this report for the Safe Local Road and Streets Funding.**

**CARRIED 5021/24**

## ATTACHMENTS

The Safe Local Roads and Streets Program Fact Sheet is provided as Attachment 3.4



## The \$200 million Safe Local Roads and Streets Program will support councils to plan for, and invest in, strategic infrastructure improvements that will make our local roads safer.

### About the Program

The Safe Local Roads and Streets Program recognises the barriers councils face when delivering road safety improvements. That's why the Program is supporting councils to build capacity and capability to deliver safer local roads.

From **July 2023 to June 2027**, we'll work with all Victorian councils to plan, design and deliver safety improvements on the highest risk local roads, intersections and precincts. Each council will be allocated up to \$2 million to deliver prioritised road safety projects, through a non-competitive process.

An additional \$10 million will be invested in developing the frameworks, tools and local capacity to support councils to sustainably implement Safe System aligned improvements.

### What we're doing

The Safe Local Roads and Streets Program will be delivered over seven rounds of engagement with councils.

The first round began in mid-2023 and saw us work with eleven councils to understand their needs and begin planning and project development.

From early 2024 to mid-2025 we will start to work with all remaining Victorian councils. A full timeline of these engagement rounds is provided on the following page.

We've established the Safe Local Roads and Streets Program Reference Group to help develop the planning framework, investment guidelines, tools and resources that will support councils throughout the Program.

Members of the Reference Group were selected via an expression of interest process in 2023 and include representatives from 15 councils and the Municipal Association of Victoria.

### Why we're improving safety on local roads

The Victorian Government is committed to reducing road trauma, with a target to halve deaths on our roads by 2030 and put us on a strong path to eliminate all road deaths by 2050.

We all have a part to play in achieving these targets.

Councils manage 87 per cent of Victoria's road network. A significant proportion of road trauma occurs on these roads, accounting for some 40 per cent of serious injury, and 41 per cent of claims of life costs made to the Transport Accident Commission (TAC).

The Safe Local Roads and Streets Program acknowledges that councils have different capabilities and capacities to plan and deliver road safety improvements, with access to funding a particular barrier to implementing change.

By working with councils to build their capacity to plan, fund and deliver their priority projects, the Program takes a collaborative approach to reducing road trauma and improving road safety outcomes for all Victorians.



### Safe Local Roads and Streets Program timeline

Round	FY	No. of LGAs	2023-24				2024-25				2025-26				2026-27				Program End							
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4								
			J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
1*	11				Workshop				Project Development																	
2	11							Workshop		Project Development																
3	11								Workshop		Project Development															
4	12									Workshop		Project Development														
5	12										Workshop		Project Development													
6	11											Workshop		Project Development												
7	11													Workshop		Project Development										

\*Round 1 has already commenced.

#### Key

- Workshop:** Initial workshops to be hosted over a two-month period
- Project Development:** Up to Six-month project development period
- Project Delivery:** Up to 18-month project delivery period

### What’s involved for Local Government

Councils will be advised of which round they will be invited to participate in.

The rounds begin with a kick-off period of approximately two months, during which a risk workshop will be held with each council. Councils will learn about road safety programs available in Victoria, discuss local road safety priorities, assess and analyse road safety risk on their network and begin to prioritise projects for potential funding.

Six-months of project development will see councils refine and finalise a project or pipeline of projects to be funded through the Program.

This is followed by an 18-month period for project delivery.

#### A Safe System approach

The Safe Local Roads and Streets Program is designed to integrate local priorities with a Safe System approach.

A Safe System approach requires roads to be designed and managed so that death and serious injury are avoidable. It acknowledges that the road environment plays a vital role in preventing serious crashes and to reduce the severity of crashes when they happen.

The Safe System recognises that humans make mistakes and our bodies are vulnerable in the event of a crash. That’s why we need to build more forgiving roads so that when a mistake does happen, it doesn’t cost a life.

#### Which treatments are eligible

All treatments funded through the Program must take a Safe System approach and will be considered according to their suitability for the road environment.

The Safe Local Roads and Street Program will target improving safety at low speed and mixed-use roads and streets, intersections and high speed local roads.

#### Further questions

For any further enquiries about the Program, get in touch with Road Safety Victoria at the Department of Transport and Planning via [roadsafetyvictoria@roads.vic.gov.au](mailto:roadsafetyvictoria@roads.vic.gov.au).

### Need more information?

Find out more about the government’s initiatives at [dtp.vic.gov.au](http://dtp.vic.gov.au)

### 3.5 LANDFILL CLOSURE AND REMEDIATION WORKS – STREATHAM, TATYOON AND ELMHURST

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** QUALITY SERVICES COORDINATOR  
**DEPARTMENT:** INFRASTRUCTURE  
**REFERENCE:** 16245

#### **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.

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

During the Council meeting on 27 February 2024, the Council approved the closure of the Tatyoon and Streatham Landfill sites and modification of the Elmhurst site to a transfer station following the issuance of Environmental Action Notices (EANs) by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) in February 2024.

Consequently, the Tatyoon and Streatham Landfill sites were closed on 13 April 2024, with sufficient notice provided to the community and the supervising Council employee.

Remediation efforts began at the Tatyoon Landfill site during the week of 15 April 2024, with works at Streatham and Elmhurst Landfills following and concluding in early June 2024.

The Council has met EPA's deadline and received subsequent compliance to the notices.

This report provides an overview of the works completed to comply with the EAN's and the associated costs.

#### **DISCUSSION**

At the Council meeting of 27 February 2024 Council approved the closure of the Tatyoon and Streatham Landfill sites and modification of the Elmhurst Landfill site to a new transfer station, due to the EPA Environmental Action Notices (EAN) placed on each site in February 2024.

The EAN's for the Elmhurst, Streatham and Tatyoon Landfill sites had the following requirements:

1. Immediately cease accepting waste at the premises where it cannot be lawfully accepted.
2. Take the waste to a place or premises that may lawfully accept that waste by 28 June 2024.
3. Provide a report to the EPA by 05 July 2024 that shows that the waste has been taken to a place which may lawfully accept it.

The Tatyoon and Streatham Landfill sites were closed effective 13 April 2024, providing adequate notice to the community and the Council employee who supervised the sites on a weekly basis.

Works commenced at the Tatyoon Landfill site during the week commencing 15 April 2024, using a 30 tonne excavator to remove waste from the site into 30m<sup>3</sup> skips that were put on site. Skips proved to slow down the works and truck and trailer was used to move waste directly to the Cleanaway Landfill at Stawell. The same process has now been used to also complete works at the Streatham and Elmhurst Landfills concluding in early June 2024.

Tatyoan Before & After



Streatham Before & After



**Elmhurst Before & After**



Removal of waste from all landfills has been completed. This includes removal of all disposed waste and debris and the removal of drums, mobile garbage bins and small structures which have been returned to the Ararat Transfer Station.

In total 258 tonnes has been removed from the Tatyoon site, 1524 tonnes removed from the Streatham site and 146 tonnes removed from the Elmhurst site and taken to the Cleanaway landfill in Stawell.

Complying with the EANs and its requirements have had budget implications to Council. The relocation of the unlawful waste to Stawell Landfill has incurred transport costs and disposal costs. However, failure to comply with the EANs as provided would have likely resulted in financial penalties to the Council.

The costs to Council for the works are detailed below:

	<b>Tatyoon Landfill</b>	<b>Streatham Landfill</b>	<b>Elmhurst Landfill</b>
<b>Employee Costs</b>	\$844	\$2,850	\$1,059
<b>Equipment Hire and Fuel</b>	\$19337	\$57,453	\$15,195
<b>Landfill Fees/Skip Hire</b>	\$65,733	\$355,728	\$33,685
	<b>\$85,914</b>	<b>\$416,031</b>	<b>\$49,939</b>

These urgent works were not budgeted for in the 2023/24 budget, it is requested that Council approve, the expenses will be covered by the Waste Reserve.

Notification of completed works to the EPA has been completed and compliance certification has been received. Long term rehabilitation of each site will need to be undertaken to EPA standards.

**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.**

***Budget Implications***

Complying with the EANs and its requirements have had budget implications to Council. The relocation of the unlawful waste to Stawell Landfill has incurred transport costs as well as disposal costs. However, failure to comply with the EANs as provided would have likely to resulted in financial penalties to the Council.

These urgent works were not budgeted for in the 2023/24 budget, it is requested that Council approve, the expenses will be covered by the Waste Reserve.

***Policy/Relevant Law***

- Environment Protection Act 1977

***Sustainability Implications***

Compliance with the EPA Environmental Action Notices will ensure that Council meet the requirements of the Environment Protection Act 1977 with regard to landfills and waste facilities, and has positive implications on the environment.

***Risk Assessment***

Risks were managed through project planning and management procedures and project administration.

***Innovation and Continuous Improvement***

The policies and procedures at the Council's Transfer Stations will be reviewed and improved to ensure ongoing compliance to the EPA registration conditions and requirements.

***Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement***

- Internal stakeholder engagement and collaboration has occurred through the review and response the EANs.
- Community engagement occurred with relation to the closure of the Streatham and Tatyoon Landfills and the modification of the Elmhurst Transfer Station.

***RECOMMENDATION***

*That:*

*Council approve the payment for the works at the Tatyoon, Streatham and Elmhurst Landfills with up to \$551,884 provided through the waste reserve.*

**MOVED CR BEALES  
SECONDED CR J ARMSTRONG**

**Council approve the payment for the works at the Tatyoon, Streatham and Elmhurst Landfills with up to \$551,884 provided through the waste reserve.**

**CARRIED 5022/24**

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments relating to this item.

### 3.6 RATE COLLECTION POLICY

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
**DEPARTMENT:** CEO'S OFFICE  
**REFERENCE:** 16246

#### **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.

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Rate Collection Policy provides Council with a policy framework for the collection and administration of rates and charges. The policy aims to provide ratepayers with a clear and transparent understanding of options and assistance available for the repayment of rates and charges.

#### **DISCUSSION**

##### **Payment Options**

In accordance with section 167(1) of the Local Government Act 1989 ratepayers must be allowed to pay rates and charges by way of four instalments. Council also allows payments in a lump sum on 15 February each year. Council offers a wide range of payment options including in person at Council offices, direct debit, BPay, Australia Post, by mail, or online via eNotices or on Councils website.

##### **Interest on Arrears and Overdue Rates**

Interest is charged on all overdue rates in accordance with Section 172 of the Local Government Act 1989. The maximum interest rate applied is determined by the Minister and published by notice in the Government Gazette. Council may exempt any person from paying the whole or part of any interest amount generally or specifically under Section 172 (3).

To assist ratepayers further in the payment of rates and charges Council will allow a grace period of 30 days before interest is applied to late instalments and late lump sum payments. This will allow reminder notices to be sent free of interest which will assist in the administration of payments.

Council officers have the authority to write off property balances of \$10 or less if the balance is related to interest now being calculated daily.

##### **Debt Recovery**

If an account becomes overdue, Council will issue an overdue reminder notice. If the account remains unpaid, and a payment plan has not been established, Council may take legal action without further notice to recover the overdue amount. All fees and court costs incurred will be recoverable from the ratepayer.

If an amount payable by way of rates in respect to land has been in arrears for three years or more, Council may take action to sell the property in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 Section 181.

##### **Payment Plans**

Any Ratepayer who is experiencing financial difficulties is advised that Council is sympathetic to their financial situation and that flexible payment plans can be developed based on their ability to pay.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 171B of the Local Government Act 1989, Council may enter into a payment plan with a ratepayer for the payment of a rate or charge. Ratepayers wishing to establish a payment plan are required to make application.

Council will consider all reasonable payment plan applications. However, efforts should be made to negotiate full payment of overdue debts by the end of the current financial year, or before the issuance of the next annual rates and valuation notices. A payment plan for overdue rates older than one financial year should aim to settle all outstanding balances, including current and arrears, within a maximum period of four (4) years. Council Officers can provide assistance in calculating appropriate payment amounts to achieve this objective.

After agreeing to a suitable payment plan, Council will send an acceptance letter to the applicant outlining the terms of the arrangement. A waiver of interest will then apply to the account. If rates remain outstanding or if there is a default in an agreed payment plan, interest will be reinstated, and the account may be referred to the Council's debt collection agency for further action.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

### *Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives*

#### 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*

Council's acceptance of a suitable payment plan will result in a reduction in interest income.

### *Policy/Relevant Law*

The Local Government Act 1989 provides for payment plans for unpaid rates or charges. Council may also exempt any person from paying the whole or part of any interest either generally or specifically.

### *Sustainability Implications*

This report does not raise any sustainability implications.

### *Risk Assessment*

The development of the Rate Collection Policy provides a clear and transparent understanding of options and assistance available for the repayment of rates and charges.

### *Innovation and Continuous Improvement*

The availability of a payment plan, coupled with the waiver of interest, alleviates the financial hardship faced by applicants, enabling them to review their financial situation and potentially meet future rate payments promptly.

### *Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement*

Nil.

## RECOMMENDATION

*That Council:*

1. *Adopt the Rate Collection Policy; and*
2. *Place the Rate Collection Policy on the Council website.*

## MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG

## SECONDED CR BEALES

1. **Adopt the Rate Collection Policy; and**
2. **Place the Rate Collection Policy on the Council website.**

**CARRIED 5023/24**

**ATTACHMENTS**

The Rate Collection Policy is provided as attachment 3.6



# Rate Collection Policy

**DOCUMENT CONTROL**

Category Type: Policy  
Type: Council  
Responsible Officer: Rates & Valuations Officer

Last Review Date: N/A  
Date Approved:  
Next Review Date:

Revision No: New

Stakeholder Engagement:  
Councillors  
Chief Executive Officer  
Financial Services Coordinator



## Rate Collection Policy



### 1 INTENT

Ararat Rural City Council is committed to providing the most flexible, fair, and equitable approach to the collection of rates and charges that is reasonably possible.

Council fees and charges are a secure and reliable source of revenue that Council uses to deliver services to the community. It is important to remember that Council still requires cashflow to deliver critical services to the community, however, it is also recognised that Council can provide assistance in certain circumstances.

### 2 POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to provide Council with a policy framework for the collection and administration of rates and charges. The policy aims to provide ratepayers with a clear and transparent understanding of options and assistance available for the repayment of rates and charges.

### 3 PAYMENT OPTIONS

In accordance with section 167(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* ratepayers must be allowed to pay rates and charges by way of four instalments. Payments are due on the prescribed dates below:

- 1st Instalment: 30 September
- 2nd Instalment: 30 November
- 3rd Instalment: 28 February
- 4th Instalment: 31 May

Council also allows payments in a lump sum on 15 February each year.

Should any person pay an amount equivalent to their first instalment before 30 October each year Council will consider the payment as an instalment payment. Should any person pay an amount equivalent to their first instalment after 30 October each year Council will consider the payment as an amount towards the lump sum option and the rates will then be due by 15 February next.

Council offers a range of payment options including:

- in person at Council offices (cheques, money orders, EFTPOS, credit/debit cards and cash),
- direct debit (Ratepayers have the option to pay rates and charges by monthly, fortnightly or weekly payments, free of interest. Ratepayers can also pay by lump sum or by instalments,
- BPAY,
- Australia Post (over the counter, over the phone via credit card and on the internet),
- by mail (cheques and money orders only)
- online, directly from eNotices emails or using the QR Code on rate notices,
- online, on Councils website - [ararat.vic.gov.au](http://ararat.vic.gov.au).

## Rate Collection Policy



### 4 INTEREST ON ARREARS AND OVERDUE RATES

Interest is charged on all overdue rates in accordance with Section 172 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The maximum interest rate applied is determined by the Minister and published by notice in the Government Gazette.

Council may exempt any person from paying the whole or part of any interest amount generally or specifically under Section 172 (3).

To assist ratepayers further in the payment of rates and charges Council will allow a grace period of 30 days before interest is applied to late instalments and late lump sum payments. This will allow reminder notices to be sent free of interest which will assist in the administration of payments.

Council officers have the authority to write off property balances of \$10 or less if the balance is related to interest now being calculated daily.

### 5 DEBT RECOVERY

Council makes every effort to contact ratepayers at their correct address, but it is the ratepayers' responsibility to properly advise Council of their contact details. The Local Government Act 2020 Section 122 requires the purchaser of property, or their agents (e.g., solicitors and or conveyancers), to notify Council by way of notice of acquisition of an interest in land.

If an account becomes overdue, Council will issue an overdue reminder notice. If the account remains unpaid, and a payment plan has not been established, Council may take legal action without further notice to recover the overdue amount. All fees and court costs incurred will be recoverable from the ratepayer.

If an amount payable by way of rates in respect to land has been in arrears for three years or more, Council may take action to sell the property in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 Section 181.

### 6 PAYMENT PLANS

Any ratepayer who is experiencing financial difficulty are advised that Council is sympathetic to their financial situation and that flexible payment plans can be developed based on their ability to pay.

Ratepayers wishing to make a payment plan are required to make application [Appendix 1].

Council will consider all reasonable payment plan applications. However, efforts should be made to negotiate full payment of overdue debts by the end of the current financial year or before the issuance of the next annual rates and valuation notices.

## Rate Collection Policy



A payment plan for overdue rates older than one financial year should aim to settle all outstanding balances, including current and arrears, within a maximum period of four (4) years. Council Officers can provide assistance in calculating appropriate payment amounts to achieve this objective.

After agreeing to a suitable payment plan, Council will send an acceptance letter to the applicant outlining the terms of the arrangement. A waiver of interest will then apply to the account.

If rates remain outstanding or if there is a default in an agreed payment plan, interest will be reinstated, and the account may be referred to the Council's debt collection agency for further action.

### 7 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 171A of the Local Government Act 1989, a person who is suffering financial hardship or would suffer financial hardship if that person had to pay the full rate may apply to Council for the waiver of the whole or part of the rates or interest charged for late payment. Refer to Council's Financial Hardship Policy.

### 8 ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Council department, a change to the name of a Federal or State department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by resolution of Council.

The Victorian Government has introduced the Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Bill 2022 into Parliament on 8 June 2022. This Bill seeks to empower the Minister for Local Government to make Ministerial Guidelines on unpaid rates and charges and hardship to ensure greater consistency across councils in how they deal with ratepayers experiencing financial hardship. Further review and updates will be made to the Financial Hardship Policy once new legislation and ministerial guidelines are issued.

### 9 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCES

Financial Hardship Policy  
Revenue and Rating Strategy 2021-2025  
Local Government Act 1989  
Local Government Act 2020

## Rate Collection Policy



### 10 DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
<i>Council</i>	Ararat Rural City Council, being a body corporate constituted as a municipal Council under the Local Government Act 1989
<i>Financial Hardship</i>	A circumstance of experiencing a lack of financial means, which may be either ongoing or temporary
<i>Ratepayer</i>	The individual, organisation or other party that is liable to pay Rates and Charges as defined by the Local Government Act 1989 s156

## Rate Collection Policy



### APPENDIX 1 PAYMENT PLAN APPLICATION

#### Person Responsible for Payment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Property Details

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Balance Outstanding: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as at \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned, hereby apply to make the following commitment in order to clear the above account of all outstanding debt. I hereby agree to pay the Ararat Rural City Council the following:

Payment Amount	Payment Frequency	Start Date
\$.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Fortnightly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	...../...../.....

I fully understand and acknowledge that if at any time I am in default of this agreement the Ararat Rural City Council may initiate legal proceedings against me immediately and without notice, at my expense, in order to recover the total amount of the debt outstanding.

I acknowledge that interest will recommence accruing daily at the rate of 10% per annum, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*, if at any time I am in default of this agreement.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed form to Ararat Rural City Council, PO Box 246 Ararat Vic 3377  
Or email to [rates@ararat.vic.gov.au](mailto:rates@ararat.vic.gov.au). For any enquiries, please call 03 5355 0209

### 3.7 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
**DEPARTMENT:** CEO'S OFFICE  
**REFERENCE:** 16247

#### **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.

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 171A of the Local Government Act 1989, a person who is suffering financial hardship, or would suffer financial hardship if that person had to pay the full amount of a rate or charge, may apply to Council for the waiver of the whole or part of the rates or interest charged for late payment.

The Financial Hardship Policy provides Council with a policy framework to provide financial relief to ratepayers who need assistance to pay their rate arrears within a practical, reasonable time frame. The policy aims to provide ratepayers with a clear and transparent understanding of options and assistance available if facing financial hardship.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Council fees and charges are a secure and reliable source of revenue that Council uses to deliver services to the community. It is important to remember that Council still requires cashflow to deliver critical services to the community, however, it is also recognised that Council can provide assistance in certain circumstances.

Financial hardship is a circumstance of experiencing a lack of financial means, which may be either ongoing or temporary. It is acknowledged at the outset that ratepayers may experience financial hardship for a whole range of issues and that meeting rate obligations constitutes just one element of several difficulties that may be faced. The simplest description of hardship is "a customer or ratepayer who wants to pay but cannot".

Ratepayers experiencing financial difficulties are advised that Council is sympathetic to their financial situation and that flexible repayment plans can be developed based on their ability to pay. A person who is suffering financial hardship or would suffer financial hardship if that person had to pay the full rate, may apply to Council for the waiver of the whole or part of the rates or interest charged for late payment.

An application form to facilitate consideration of a request for deferral or waiver of rates is required to be completed. Council may require the person to give further details or to verify particulars.

Applications for the waiver of rates will only be considered based on genuine hardship, supported by another government agency, welfare group or financial counsellor. The intent of providing a waiver will be to allow the ratepayer to overcome immediate financial difficulties with a supported financial plan to ensure that future commitments to rates and other household payments can be accommodated.

Waiver of rates will only apply to rates on the ratepayer's primary residence. This excludes commercial properties, industrial properties, residential investment properties and in most cases farm properties. Applications for waiver will be considered as a confidential report to Council.

Applications for the deferral of rates will be considered based on genuine hardship. The deferred payment option means rates, charges and interest are still charged, but the ratepayer does not have to pay the amount until Council considers the payment will not cause the ratepayer financial hardship, or the ratepayer no longer owns or occupies the land. Deferral of rates will apply to all classes of property.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

### *Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives*

#### 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***

Any waiver of rates will result in a reduction in income. Deferring rates will not result in a reduction in income. If the property is exempted from payment of interest, then this would result in a reduction in interest income.

#### ***Policy/Relevant Law***

The Local Government Act 1989 provides for the deferral or waiver of rates and charges. Council may also exempt any person from paying the whole or part of any interest either generally or specifically.

#### ***Sustainability Implications***

This report does not raise any sustainability implications.

#### ***Risk Assessment***

Granting any waiver could establish a precedent; however, the legislation exists to offer individuals experiencing financial hardship, or who would face financial hardship upon full payment, an opportunity to apply to Council for a waiver of all or part of any rate, charge, or interest imposed for late payment.

#### ***Innovation and Continuous Improvement***

Waiving the interest will relieve the financial hardship the applicant is experiencing and allow them to reassess their financial position so they may be able to pay rates on time.

#### ***Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement***

Nil.

## RECOMMENDATION

*That Council:*

1. *Adopt the Financial Hardship Policy; and*
2. *Place the Financial Hardship Policy on the Council website.*

## MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG SECONDED CR BEALES

1. **Adopt the Financial Hardship Policy; and**
2. **Place the Financial Hardship Policy on the Council website.**

**CARRIED 5024/24**

**ATTACHMENTS**

The Financial Hardship Policy is provided as attachment 3.7



# Financial Hardship Policy

**DOCUMENT CONTROL**

Category Type: Policy  
Type: Council  
Responsible Officer: Rates & Valuations Officer

Last Review Date: N/A  
Date Approved:  
Next Review Date:

Revision No: New

Stakeholder Engagement:  
Councillors  
Chief Executive Officer  
Financial Services Coordinator



## Financial Hardship Policy



### 1 INTENT

Ararat Rural City Council is committed to providing the most flexible, fair, and equitable approach to the collection of rates and charges that is reasonably possible.

Council fees and charges are a secure and reliable source of revenue that Council uses to deliver services to the community. It is important to remember that Council still requires cashflow to deliver critical services to the community, however, it is also recognised that Council can provide assistance in certain circumstances.

### 2 POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to provide Council with a policy framework to provide financial relief to ratepayers who need assistance to pay their rate arrears within a practical, reasonable time frame. The policy aims to provide ratepayers with a clear and transparent understanding of options and assistance available if facing financial hardship.

### 3 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Financial hardship is a circumstance of experiencing a lack of financial means, which may be either ongoing or temporary. It is acknowledged at the outset that ratepayers may experience financial hardship for a whole range of issues and that meeting rate obligations constitutes just one element of several difficulties that may be faced. The simplest description of hardship is “a customer or ratepayer who wants to pay but cannot”.

Any ratepayer who is experiencing financial difficulty are advised that Council is sympathetic to their financial situation and that flexible repayment plans can be developed based on their ability to pay

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 171A of the Local Government Act 1989, a person who is suffering financial hardship or would suffer financial hardship if that person had to pay the full rate may apply to Council for the waiver of the whole or part of the rates or interest charged for late payment.

Council may require the person to give further details or to verify particulars. An application form to facilitate consideration of a request for deferral or waiver of rates is required to be completed [Appendix 1].

Applications for the waiver of rates will only be considered based on genuine hardship, supported by another government agency, welfare group or financial counsellor. The intent of providing a waiver will be to allow the ratepayer to overcome immediate financial difficulties with a supported financial plan to ensure that future commitments to rates and other household payments can be accommodated.

Waiver of rates will only apply to rates on the ratepayer’s primary residence. This excludes commercial properties, industrial properties, residential investment properties and in most cases farm properties. Applications for waiver will be considered as a confidential report to Council.

Applications for the deferral of rates will be considered based on genuine hardship. The deferred payment option means rates, charges and interest are still charged, but the ratepayer does not have to pay the amount

## Financial Hardship Policy



until Council considers the payment will not cause the ratepayer financial hardship, or the ratepayer no longer owns or occupies the land. Deferral of rates will apply to all classes of property.

### 4 ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Council department, a change to the name of a Federal or State department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by resolution of Council.

The Victorian Government has introduced the Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Bill 2022 into Parliament on 8 June 2022. This Bill seeks to empower the Minister for Local Government to make Ministerial Guidelines on unpaid rates and charges and hardship to ensure greater consistency across councils in how they deal with ratepayers experiencing financial hardship. Further review and updates will be made to the Financial Hardship Policy once new legislation and ministerial guidelines are issued.

### 5 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCES

Rate Collection Policy  
Revenue and Rating Strategy 2021-2025  
Local Government Act 1989  
Local Government Act 2020

### 6 DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
<b><i>Council</i></b>	Ararat Rural City Council, being a body corporate constituted as a municipal Council under the Local Government Act 1989
<b><i>Financial Hardship</i></b>	A circumstance of experiencing a lack of financial means, which may be either ongoing or temporary
<b><i>Ratepayer</i></b>	The individual, organisation or other party that is liable to pay Rates and Charges as defined by the Local Government Act 1989 s156

## Financial Hardship Policy



### APPENDIX 1 APPLICATION FOR WAIVER/DEFERRAL OF RATES AND INTEREST

The Local Government Act 1989 specifies council's obligations for deferring payment of rates and the waiver of rates and interest:

#### Section 170. Deferred payment

1. A Council may defer in whole or in part the payment by a person of any rate or charge which is due and payable for a specified period and subject to any conditions determined by the Council if it considers that an application by that person shows that the payment would cause hardship to the person.
2. On deferral of the payment the person who is liable to make the payment is not liable until the Council sends the person a notice under sub-section (3).
3. A Council may by a notice sent to a person—
  - (a) require that person to pay the whole or part of any deferred rate or charge by a specified date if—
    - (i) it considers that the person's circumstances have so changed that the payment would no longer cause hardship to the person; or
    - (ii) the person no longer owns or occupies the land in relation to which the rate or charge was levied; and
  - (b) requires the payment of interest for the late payment of the rate or charge, as if the deferral had not occurred.

**Note:** The deferred payment option means rates, charges and interest are still charged, but the ratepayer does not have to pay the amount until Council considers the payment will not cause the ratepayer financial hardship, or the ratepayer no longer owns or occupies the land.

#### Section 171A. Waiver

1. A person who—
  - (a) is suffering financial hardship; or
  - (b) would suffer financial hardship if that person paid the full amount of a rate or charge for which he or she is liable— may apply to a Council for the waiver of the whole or part of any rate or charge or of any interest imposed for late payment.
2. The Council may require the applicant—
  - (a) to give further particulars; or
  - (b) to verify particulars— in relation to the application.
3. The Council may waive the whole or part of any rate or charge or interest.

**Note:** The waiver option means Council reduces the whole or part of any rate, charge, or interest.

External resources that may assist ratepayers who cannot afford to pay their rates include:

- Consumer Action Law Centre - <https://consumeraction.org.au/>
- Financial Counselling Australia - <https://www.debtselphelp.org.au/>
- CAFS - <https://www.cafs.org.au/Listing/Category/financial-counselling>

## Financial Hardship Policy



If you are a ratepayer and you wish to have your rates deferred or waived could you please complete the following questions:

	Questions	Answers
1	What is the amount of rates-interest you owe?	
2	What is the amount of rates-arrears you owe?	
3	What is the amount of rates-current you owe?	
4	Are you seeking a waiver of rates & interest, if so, how much? (a waiver means Council reduces the whole or part of any rate, charge or interest and the ratepayer does not need to pay the amount waived)	
5	Are you seeking a deferral of rates, if so, until when? (a deferral of rates means rates, charges and interest are still charged, but the ratepayer does not have to pay the amount until Council determines a time in the future)	
6	What is your full name?	
7	What is your phone number?	
8	What is the address of the property you want a waiver/deferral of rates on?	
9	Is the property used exclusively for residential purposes and your sole or principal place of residence?	
<b>Financial Assessment</b>		
10	What income do you receive each month?	
11	What expenses do you have each month?	
12	What is the difference between income and expenses each month?	
13	Can you provide a financial statement that details your monthly income and expenses if we require this?	
14	How much money do you have in the bank, including any investments?	
15	Do you have any other assets? e.g., investment properties	
16	Are you owed any money? If yes, give details	
17	What other moneys do you owe, not previously mentioned? E.g., mortgage, car loans	

## Financial Hardship Policy



	Questions	Answers
18	Please provide the reason/s why you cannot pay your rates	
19	Do you have an offer to pay this debt?	
20	Do you believe you would suffer financial hardship if you had to pay the full amount of the rates for which you are liable? Hardship does not generally apply to ratepayers who have short term cash flows problems.	
Signature of applicant:		Dated:
Signature of witness:		Dated:
<p><b>Privacy Notification</b>  <i>The personal information requested on this form is being collected by Council for the purposes of processing your application for waiver/deferral of rates and interest. The personal information will be used solely by Council for that primary purpose or directly related purposes. The applicant understands that the personal information provided is for the processing of your application and that they may apply to Council for access to and/or amendment of the information.</i></p> <p>If you wish to discuss information privacy further please call 53550200 and ask to speak to the Privacy Officer.</p>		

External resources that may assist ratepayers who cannot afford to pay their rates include:

- Consumer Action Law Centre - <https://consumeraction.org.au/>
- Financial Counselling Australia - <https://www.debtselfhelp.org.au/>
- CAFS - <https://www.cafs.org.au/Listing/Category/financial-counselling>

## SECTION 4 – INFORMATION REPORTS

### 4.1 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
**DEPARTMENT:** CEO'S OFFICE  
**REFERENCE:** 16249

#### **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.

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has approved its 2024/2025 Capital Works Program as a pivotal component of the current budget. With a substantial capital works investment totaling \$15.513 million, the budget primarily targets infrastructure enhancements.

Key initiatives include:

- Mount William Road Stage Two Construction - supported by Federal Government funding.
- Buangor Ben Nevis Road Stage One Construction - beginning from the Western Highway section.
- Urban Gravel to Seal Road Upgrades continuing to upgrade accessibility across urban areas.
- Maintenance of Footpaths, Drainage, and Kerb and Channel

These projects underscore the Council's commitment to improving local infrastructure and fostering community development in the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

### DISCUSSION

Council's 2024/2025 Capital Works Program marks a significant shift from previous years, reintroducing larger road and bridge construction projects post-pandemic. The program's budget has increased by \$6 million, with substantial state and federal funding, alongside smaller targeted works.

The focus for 2024/2025 remains on renewing and updating Council assets, leveraging in-house capabilities, and supporting local employment and contractors.

Key areas include:

- Enhanced road reseal program
- Urban drainage improvements
- Footpath network upgrades
- Major urban road gravel to seal program
- Stage two of Mt William Road Reconstruction
- Three Roads to Recovery funded projects (Churchill Avenue, Webb Street, Buangor Ben Nevis Road bridge)

Budget Status:

As of July 24, 2024, 2% of the budget is spent, with end-of-month invoices pending. Some new project tendering has commenced and continuing projects from the previous financial year, including Mt William Road.

Works are due to commence on the Resurfacing of Pomonal Tennis Courts in the near future, and Buangor Ben Nevis Road plans are complete, pending cultural heritage and flora and fauna reports before commencement.

	Budget	Committed/ Contracted	Expended	%	Notes
<b><u>PROPERTY - CAPITAL</u></b>					
Property Capital	\$270,000	\$105,226	\$9143	20%	Works have been committed for resurfacing of the Pomonal Tennis Courts and replacement of windows at the Town Hall in the Arts & Crafts Room.
Ararat Library Upgrade	\$200,000				Scoping works are progressing with for quotations to be finalised for the internal fitout requirements. With extensive lead times this will need to undertaken in the coming months.
Tatyoan Oval, Drainage, Irrigation & Resurfacing	\$80,000				Full funding for this project is \$330,000 with money from the Country Football/Netball Grants Program.  A preferred contractor has been nominated and presented to the July 2024 Council Meeting.
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY</b>		<b>\$105,226</b>	<b>\$9,143</b>	<b>20%</b>	
<b><u>PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</u></b>					
Book stock - Library Book Replacement	\$40,000	-	-	-	
<b>TOTAL PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>					
<b><u>ROADS</u></b>					
Gravel Road Sheeting & Gravel Road Widening	\$1,800,000		\$3,914	<1%	Isolated Road Resheeting works have commenced.
Reseal Program	\$1,000,000				The reseal program is expected to be provided to the contractor in the coming weeks.
Mt William Road (24/25 HSVPP Funding)	\$6,250,000				These works will commence on completion of the current works on Mt William Road.
Buangor Ben Nevis Road	\$2,143,000		\$1178	<1%	Plans and technical reporting have been completed. Council is working with Australian Cultural Heritage Services to

					complete CHMP Due Diligence and plan requirements. This is expected to be undertaken by October for the full section of road. Construction in segmented areas should be able to progress once that area has been documented and approved.
Weighbridge Place, Lake Bolac		\$74,900			Asphalting works at Weighbridge Place have been committed to be complete by 31 October 24 before the commencement of grain season.  The intersection with Mortlake Ararat Road is in poor condition and require the upgrade to withstand the heavy vehicle that use the area.
Churchill Avenue, Ararat	\$800,000	\$8,750	\$280	1%	Design works have commenced.
Webb Street, Ararat	\$700,000	\$8,750	\$446	1%	Design works have commenced.
Buangor Ben Nevis Road Bridge (1)	\$1,100,000	\$8,580	\$3,967	<1%	Level three bridge reporting has been undertaken on the bridge. In conjunction with the Buangor Ben Nevis Road Cultural Heritage Assessment this area will also be prioritised. This project will be tendered as a design and construct project.
Urban Road Gravel to Seal	\$700,00	\$169,649	\$3,003	24%	Works are currently being completed at various urban locations with kerb and channel and drainage being installed.  Works in Baileys Lane have been contracted with works due to be complete by 31 October 2024.
Major Patching	\$100,000				Works have not commenced.
Bridges	\$80,000		\$25		This is to be used for bridge replacement planning works.
Footpath Program Renewal	\$400,000	\$15,500	\$1,699	4%	Council's footpath program has commenced with a footpath section in Elizabeth Street being completed in relation to a customer request.  Tenders for Asphalt Path in Barkly Street and Queen Street are currently out and due to close on 1 August 2024.
Urban Drainage Works	\$750,000	\$30,287	\$4,879	4%	Drainage works have commenced with the purchase of pipe and required reporting for specific works.



					Ararat Cemetery Drainage is expected to be complete by the end of August 2024.
Kerb and Channel	\$239,000	\$3,700	\$202	1%	Project plans for the replacement of kerb and channel are being scoped with plans for a section of George Road opposite the Ararat West Primary School nominated as a preference.
<b>TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE</b>		<b>\$320,116</b>	<b>\$19,593</b>	<b>2%</b>	
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS</b>		<b>\$425,342</b>	<b>\$28,736</b>	<b>2%</b>	

There are also projects that were funded in the 2023/2024 budget that have extended beyond the single financial year. The committed expenditure includes contracts entered for construction of various elements of the projects. The table below provides a summary of these projects:

	Budget	Previously Expended Funds	Committed/Contracted	Expended	%	Notes
Mt William Road	\$1,000,000	\$274,143		\$58,442.68	33%	Work commenced in late May 2024.  The works have been set out, tree and stabilising works have been completed. There was significant soft spots found within the area and these have been remedied. Stone is currently being installed on site and pavement works commencing.
Buangor Recreation Reserve Kitchen Extension		\$53,849				The project has been out to the market and came in with a significant price difference between the cost plan and the pricing received from the tenderers.  Funding has been received as part of the Tiny Towns Funding Program which will help progress Stage 1 of this project.

## 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 2024/2025 Capital Works Program represents a significant element of Council's 2024/2025 Budget. In the current civil construction market, it is essential that Council manages capital works expenditure carefully to ensure budget outcomes are met.

### ***Policy/Relevant Law***

The 2024/2025 Capital Works Program complies with the program funded in the 2024/2025 Budget.

### ***Sustainability Implications***

There are no environmental sustainability implications. Council is mindful of considering new innovative approaches to improve its sustainability and environmental footprint as a part of the Capital Works program.

### ***Risk Assessment***

The 2024/2025 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 2024/2025 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 2024/2025 Capital Works Program has been developed as an element of the 2024/2025 Budget. There was extensive community engagement undertaken prior to adoption.

## RECOMMENDATION

*That*

*Council receive this information report.*

## MOVED CR ALLGOOD SECONDED CR WATERSTON

**That Council receive the information report of the Capital Works Program.**

**CARRIED 5025/24**

**SECTION 5 – COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS**

No Committee Minutes/Reports received

**SECTION 6 – INFORMAL MEETINGS**

## 6.1 COUNCIL BRIEFINGS

**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.

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### 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 16 July 2024

#### Issues discussed at the briefing:

- Safe Local Roads and Streets Program
- Leisure Centre Development
- Landfill remediation
- Rates arrears recovery
- Year 4 Annual Plan
- CEO Leave 2024
- CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Independent Chair Appointment
- Building and Planning Reports
- Audit & Risk Committee – appointment of new independent member
- Banking changes
- Innovation and Economic Development Strategy
- Compliance issues
- Commercial vacancies
- Child Safe City program

### KEY CONSIDERATIONS

#### ***Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives***

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

## 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.

***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.*

**MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG**

**SECONDED CR R ARMSTRONG**

**That the Informal Meetings of Councillors Report be received.**

**CARRIED 5026/24**

**ATTACHMENTS**

The Summary of Council Briefings are provided as Attachment 6.1.

## Councillor Briefing



Date: Tuesday 16 July 2024  
Commencement: 5.00 pm  
Location: Council Chamber, Shire Offices

**Present**  
**Councillors:** Cr Jo Armstrong  
Cr Rob Armstrong  
Cr Gwenda Allgood  
Cr Peter Beales  
Cr Henry Burridge  
Cr Bob Sanders  
Cr Bill Waterston

**Officers:** CEO, Dr Tim Harrison

### Disclosure of Conflict of Interests

Disclosure of Interests are to be made immediately prior to any relevant item being discussed (*Local Government Act 2020 - Section 131 and Chapter 5, Section 6 of the Governance Rules*).

### Matters Considered:

1	Mayor's roundup
2	Safe Local Roads and Streets Program
3	Leisure centre development
4	Landfill remediation
5	Rates arrears recovery
6	Hardship policy
7	Rates Recovery Policy
8	Year 4 Annual Plan
9	CEO Leave 2024
10	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Independent Chair Appointment
11	Building and planning reports
12	Audit and Risk Committee – appointment of new independent member
13	Banking changes
14	Innovation and Economic Development strategy
15	Compliance issues
16	Commercial vacancies
17	Child Safe City program

**Dr Tim Harrison**

## SECTION 7 – 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*.

**There were no Notices of Motions received.**

#### SECTION 8 – 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*.

**There were no Urgent Business matters arising.**



## SECTION 9 – 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 9.1 – CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Independent Chair Appointment
- Item 9.2 – Contract No. 727 – Tatyoon Oval – Drainage, Irrigation and Resurfacing

## 6:33PM 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.*

### MOVED CR BEALES

### SECONDED CR J ARMSTRONG

**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.**

**CARRIED 5027/24**

## 6:45PM OPEN COUNCIL MEETING RECOMMENCEMENT

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the Open Council Meeting recommence.*

### MOVED CR ALLGOOD

### SECONDED CR BEALES

**That the Open Council Meeting recommence.**

**CARRIED 5031/24**

**Gallery invited to return to Council Chamber.**

## LIFTING OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTIONS

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the:*

1. *Decision in relation to Confidential Agenda Item 9.1 and 9.2 be lifted on adoption of the motion; and*
2. *The Report of Confidential Agenda Item 9.1 and 9.2 not be lifted on adoption of the motion*

**MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG**  
**SECONDED CR ALLGOOD**

**That the:**

- 1. Decision in relation to Confidential Agenda Item 9.1 and 9.2 be lifted on adoption of the motion; and**
- 2. The Report of Confidential Agenda Item 9.1 and 9.2 not be lifted on adoption of the motion**

**CARRIED 5032/24**

#### **9.1 CEO EMPLOYMENT AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE INDEPENDENT CHAIR APPOINTMENT**

*RECOMMENDATION*

*That:*

- 1. Council appoints Ms Zoe Allan as Independent Chair of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee.*
- 2. The confidentiality of the report not be lifted on adoption of the motion.*
- 3. The confidentiality of the decision be lifted on adoption of the motion.*

**MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG**  
**SECONDED CR BEALES**

**AMENDMENT**

- 1. Council appoints Ms Zoe Allan as Independent Chair of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee for a term of 2 years.**

**CARRIED 5028/24**

**MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG**  
**SECONDED CR BEALES**

**That:**

- 2. The confidentiality of the report not be lifted on adoption of the motion.**
- 3. The confidentiality of the decision be lifted on adoption of the motion.**

**CARRIED 5029/24**

#### **9.2 CONTRACT No. 727 – TATYOON OVAL – DRAINAGE, IRRIGATION AND RESURFACING**

*RECOMMENDATION*

*That:*

- 1. Council award Contract No. 727 – Tatyoon Oval – Drainage, Irrigation and Resurfacing to Aqualines Irrigation Pty Ltd for the conforming tender price of \$299,002 (ex. GST).*
- 2. The Chief Executive Officer and Mayor Sign and Seal the Contract Deed.*
- 3. The confidentiality of the report not be lifted on adoption of the motion.*
- 4. The confidentiality of the decision be lifted on adoption of the motion.*

**MOVED CR BEALES  
SECONDED CR J ARMSTRONG**

**That:**

- 1. Council award Contract No. 727 – Tatyoon Oval – Drainage, Irrigation and Resurfacing to Aqualines Irrigation Pty Ltd for the conforming tender price of \$299,002 (ex. GST).**
- 2. The Chief Executive Officer and Mayor Sign and Seal the Contract Deed.**
- 3. The confidentiality of the report not be lifted on adoption of the motion.**
- 4. The confidentiality of the decision be lifted on adoption of the motion.**

**CARRIED 5030/24**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT PAGES 9178 - 9259 INCLUDING PAGES 711 - 718 OF THE CLOSED SESSION ARE CONFIRMED AND ARE TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

**MAYOR – CR BOB SANDERS**

**Meeting closed at 6:46pm**