

2026 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

From mid-February to late-March, Buloke Shire residents may receive a call from TKW Research, who will be conducting a Customer Satisfaction Survey on behalf of Buloke Shire Council.

This is part of a state-wide initiative across Victorian councils, to hear directly from residents, and is a chance to provide valuable feedback on council services and performance.

What is it about?

The survey covers five key areas, including council performance, engagement, advocacy, customer service, and overall direction.

Who will be called?

Residents and ratepayers aged 18+ selected at random via phone.

Responses are completely confidential.

Feedback received will help Council plan for current and future needs.

Thank you to all those that participate.

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

The land affected by the application is located at **40 McCracken Avenue, Donald VIC 3480**.

The application is for a permit for the **use and development of land to construct three (3) dwellings, subdivide land into five (5) lots and create or alter access to a road in Transport Zone 2**.

The application reference number is **PA25034**.

You may view the application and supporting documents on the Buloke Shire Council website <https://buloke.greenlightopm.com/planning> or by making contact with the office of the Responsible Authority, Buloke Shire Council, Wycheproof on 1300 520 520.

This can be done during office hours and is free of charge. Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the Responsible Authority.

An objection must be made to the Responsible Authority in writing, include the objectors name and contact details, include reasons for the objection, and state how the objector would be affected. An online submission form is available on the Planning page of the Buloke Shire Council website.

The Responsible Authority will not decide on the application before: **5 March 2026**.

If you object to the application, the Responsible Authority will tell you it's decision.

EMERGENCY SERVICES AND VOLUNTEER FUND (ESVF)

The Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund (ESVF) is a State Government tax that replaced the previous Fire Services Property Levy. It funds emergency services including CFA, Fire Rescue Victoria, VICSES, and Triple Zero Victoria.

This is NOT a Council charge. It is a mandatory levy set by the Victorian Government but is required to be collected by local councils through rates notices.

Council rates and the ESVF cannot be paid separately as State legislation requires partial payments to be automatically split proportionally between Council rates and ESVF. Accounts will show outstanding balances for both if the full amount is not paid.

Payment plans are available for ratepayers experiencing financial difficulty.

However, Council cannot enter into payment plans that exclude the ESVF component. Any payment plan must include both Council rates and ESVF.

In December 2025, the Treasurer had announced some important changes to the ESVF, as part of the 2025–26 Budget Update. The changes include providing stability for primary production properties and the delay to the implementation of the non-primary place of residence fixed charge.

This means that:

- the variable rate for primary production properties will remain at 28.7 cents per \$1,000 CIV for at least the next two financial years.
- the fixed charge for non-primary place of residence (non-PPR) properties will remain unchanged until July 2027.

For more information on the Emergency Services Volunteers Fund, visit the State Revenue Office at www.sro.vic.gov.au/esvf or call the ESVF Support Line on 1300 819 033.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH BULOKE

Council is an equal opportunity employer. Our roles are non-gender specific, and Council encourages all suitably qualified applicants to apply. For more information on equal opportunity, call Human Resources on 1300 520 520.

You can find all current employment opportunities at www.buloke.vic.gov.au/employment

Applications can be lodged by:
Mail - PO Box 1, Wycheproof
VIC 3527 or Email -
recruitment@buloke.vic.gov.au

GOVERNANCE OFFICER

Permanent (Full Time) – From \$38.73 per hour (+ superannuation)

→ Applications Close: 4 March 2026

We are seeking a Governance Officer to support strong decision-making across Council. This role provides advice and coordination across governance, risk management, compliance, FOI and privacy, working closely with senior staff, Councillors and the Audit and Risk Committee.

RECORDS ASSISTANT

Permanent (Full Time) – From \$35.04 per hour (+ superannuation)

→ Applications Close: 4 March 2026

We are looking for a Records Assistant to support the day-to-day operation of Council's Records team. The role focuses on the registration, filing and retrieval of records, mail processing and general administrative support across the organisation.

MANAGER INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Permanent (Full Time) – Salary \$120,000–\$134,000 (+ superannuation)

→ Applications Close: 4 March 2026

We are seeking an experienced Manager Innovation and Technology to lead Council's ICT function. This senior role focuses on technology strategy, innovation, cyber security and digital transformation, supporting improved services and outcomes for the community.



BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

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