



Council Meeting **Agenda**

Wednesday 19
November 2025

Commencing at 7:00pm

Wycheproof Supper Room
367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Daniel McLoughlan
Chief Executive Officer



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1 COUNCIL WELCOME AND STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WELCOME

The Mayor Cr Alan Getley will welcome all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Mayor Cr Alan Getley will acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting and pay our respects to their Elders and to the Elders from other communities who may be here today.

2 RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 and 29 October 2025.

4 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

5 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In accordance with Section 130 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* Councillors who have a conflict of interest in respect of a matter being considered at this meeting, must

- a) Disclose the conflict of interest in the manner required by the Council's Governance Rules 2022; and
- b) Exclude themselves from the decision-making process in relation to that matter, including any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting or delegated committee, and any action in relation to the matter.

Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.

6 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Question:

Can you please advise the amount spent to date on anything relating to the issues with court two at Birchip Recreation Reserve referenced on the Buloke Shire Council website as "... currently under investigation by Council. Court 2 surface condition is not safe to play on at present."

Person: Hayden Collins of Birchip

Council Response:

Buloke Shire Council has spent \$30,031.50 as of 31 October 2025. The costs incurred relate to detailed soil investigations, site inspections and obtaining specialist expert advice to assess the issues affecting netball court two at the Birchip Recreation Reserve. The investigations and specialist advice has been sought to assist in determining the cause of the court failure and what works are required to restore the court to a safe and playable condition.

Council continues to work with relevant stakeholders to seek a resolution to this matter, and further costs are expected to be incurred in the short term.

7 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

7.1 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES

Author's Title: Executive Assistant to CEO

Directorate: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/05/04

PURPOSE

To report on the Assembly of Councillors from 2 October 2025 - 5 November 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council note the Assembly of Councillors from 2 October 2025 - 5 November 2025

Date/Time	Councillor Attendees	Meeting Type
13/10/2025 5:00pm <i>Online via Teams</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Hogan, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt	Public Submission Hearing
15/10/2025 7:00pm <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt	Council Meeting
20/10/2025 6:00pm <i>Online via Teams</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt	Brief Councillors on Joint Submissions
29/10/2025 5:30pm <i>Wycheproof Senior Citizens</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt	Citizenship Ceremony
29/10/2025 7:00pm <i>Wycheproof Senior Citizens</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt	Additional Council Meeting
05/11/2025 5:00pm <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt	Councillor Briefing

Attachments: Nil

7.2 STATUS OF ACTION OF PAST COUNCIL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

Author's Title: Executive Assistant to CEO

Directorate: Office of the CEO

File No: Governance

PURPOSE

To provide Council with a list of the Status of Action (SOA) of Council Resolutions outstanding for completion of action, and the SOA for the 15, 29 October and 5 November 2025 Council Meeting Resolutions.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Status of Actions Report for Council resolutions documented in the report.

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

The *Local Government Act 2020* (The Act) Section 9(2)(i) provides that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

In accordance with the Council's Governance Rules adopted August 2022, Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured and is a fundamental principle of democratic governance.

Attached to this report for public information is a list of the SOA of Council Resolutions outstanding for completion of action and introducing the SOA for the 15, 29 October and 5 November Council Meeting Resolutions.

Attachments: 1. Attachment 7.2.1 - Council Resolution Actions - tabled 19 Nov CM

Council Resolution Action – Outstanding Items, 15 - 29 Oct and 5 Nov Council Meeting – tabled 19 November 2025

Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution	Actioning Officer/s	Status of Action	Complete or commenced
02082023	Infrastructure & Delivery	8.2.1	That Council: 1. Notes following consultation process in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy, one submission was received to the proposed nine-lot subdivision sale of land at 110 Sutcliffe Street, Sea Lake; 2. Sells nine-lot subdivision surplus land at 110 Sutcliff St, Sea Lake by private treaty or auction in accord sec 114 of the Local Gov Act 2020 and Council's Sale of Land Policy; and 3. Authorises the CEO to execute the Transfer of Land documents and any other documents required to affect the sale of the land.	Director Infrastructure & Delivery	GWM Water approval obtained, procurement for works has commenced. Civil contractor has recommended works. 290524 - Plumbing works for water, sewer and stormwater commence in June, final civil works to follow. Valuation complete to inform sale of land process to be undertaken. (MS)	Commenced
18122024	Corporate & Organisational Performance	8.1.2	Draft Governance Rules and Draft Election Period Policy. That Council: 1. Having prepared the Revised Draft Governance Rules in accordance with section 60 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> , approves and commences a 9-week process of community consultation in relation to the Revised Draft Governance Rules and Draft Election Period Policy, and makes the Revised Draft Governance Rules and Draft Election Period Policy available for Public Exhibition via Council's website; 2. Allows persons to make submissions in writing in relation to any proposal contained within the Revised Draft Governance Rules and/or Draft Election Period Policy; and 3. Allows presentations in support of written submissions to be heard at the Council Meeting on 19 March 2025 prior to the proposed adoption of the Draft Governance Rules and Draft Election Period Policy at this Meeting.	Director Corporate & Organisational Performance	Progress has been delayed due to impending legal advice that is required before returning the draft proposed rules to a Council Meeting.	Commenced

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Council Resolution Action – Outstanding Items, 15 - 29 Oct and 5 Nov Council Meeting – tabled 19 November 2025

Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution	Actioning Officer/s	Status of Action	Complete or commenced
19022025	Corporate & Organisational Performance	9.5.1	Sale of properties for recovery of unpaid rates and charges	Director Corporate & Organisational Performance	Brought to Council. Sale process underway.	Commenced
20082025	Corporate & Organisational Performance	9.1.1	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Formally acknowledges the ongoing and unacceptable delays in receiving adequate flood recovery funding from the Victorian State Government following the 2022 and 2023 flood events. Recognises that only a small portion of the required funding has been received, with the majority of flood recovery works—valued between \$60 million and \$80 million—still outstanding. Expresses concern over the deteriorating condition of local roads, which pose serious safety risks to residents, school buses, contractors, and emergency services. Calls on the Victorian Government to immediately release the full funding required to complete all outstanding flood recovery works. Directs the Mayor and CEO to write to the relevant Ministers and Departments demanding urgent action, including but not limited to; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Our disappointment of the administration of the DRFA damage assessment process across Victoria, Our requirement for the Government Departments to undertake the assessment in; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> good faith, alignment with the DRFA Guidelines and program intent a timely manner the interest of maximising the funding available to restore the local essential road network to pre event condition 	<p>CEO</p> <p>Director Corporate & Organisational Performance</p>	<p>Letters have been sent to the following:</p> <p><i>Hon Melissa Horne MP</i> <i>Danny O'Brien MP</i> <i>Jade Benham MP</i> <i>Dr Anne Webster MP</i> <i>Gannawarra Shire Council</i> <i>Swan Hill Rural City Council</i> <i>Mildura Rural City Council</i> <i>Loddon Shire Council</i> <i>Northern Grampians Shire Council</i> <i>Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)</i> <i>Australian Local Government Association (ALGA)</i> <i>Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)</i></p>	Complete

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Council Resolution Action – Outstanding Items, 15 - 29 Oct and 5 Nov Council Meeting – tabled 19 November 2025

Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution	Actioning Officer/s	Status of Action	Complete or commenced
			<p>III. Our invitation to the Minister to travel to Buloke to inspect and explain why our community is still waiting, almost 3 years after the 2022 flood event for money to be available to restore our critical assets.</p> <p>5.2 State Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety and Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Mr Danny O'Brien, urging them to take up Buloke Shire's case and hold our current day Government to account.</p> <p>5.3 State Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, to directly take up Buloke Shire's plight and lobby the Allan Labor Government to do the right thing by the rural people of Buloke and Victoria and release the necessary funding without further delay.</p> <p>5.4 Federal Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster, to directly take up Council's plight with the Federal Government regarding the ineffective and broken system implemented by the Victorian Government in the administration of the DRFA program.</p> <p>6. Directs the Mayor and CEO to write to neighbouring councils and regional advocacy bodies to seek their support.</p>			
15102025	Community Development	8.2.1	<p>Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok - Deletion of Flood Related Controls in Donald and Charlton That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Endorses draft Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok ordinance and mapping. Resolves to request authorisation to prepare amendment C47blok from the Minister for Transport and Planning. Approves that exhibition of amendment C47blok will be undertaken once authorisation from the Minister for Planning is granted. Notes that Council will be briefed after exhibition regarding any submissions made to the amendment 	Director Community Development		Complete

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Council Resolution Action – Outstanding Items, 15 - 29 Oct and 5 Nov Council Meeting – tabled 19 November 2025

Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution	Actioning Officer/s	Status of Action	Complete or commenced
			and the appointment of an independent Panel to review the submissions. 5. Delegates relevant Council officers to make administrative changes to the mapping or ordinance.			
15102025	Community Development	8.2.2	Community Grants and Sponsorships That Council: 1. Approves the officer recommendation to fund the following projects under the Community Grants Program: \$969.00 - Birchip Neighbourhood House Incorporated – Project: Wiggle & Giggle \$2,000.00 - Charlton Netball Club Inc. – Project: Charlton Netball Club: 1953-2025 A full colour Historical Publication. \$2,000.00 – Donald Learning Group Incorporated – Project: Celebrating the Donald Cultural Connection \$1000.00 – Charlton College – Project: Mental Health Awareness Month 2. Approves the officer recommendation to fund the following project under the Sustainability Grants Program: \$8,001.07 – Donald Lawn Tennis Club – Project: Returning Service	Director Community Development		Complete
15102025	Infrastructure & Delivery	8.2.3	Adjustment To Free Green Waste Period That Council: 1. Notes the Interim Chief Executive Officer, in line with the Council Resolution passed at 14 September 2022 Council Meeting, has authorised a period of Free Green Waste disposal during the month of October 2025. 2. Endorses the adjustment to the time period the Free Green Waste disposal period will remain in place, being for a period of 5 weekends	CEO		Complete

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Council Resolution Action – Outstanding Items, 15 - 29 Oct and 5 Nov Council Meeting – tabled 19 November 2025

Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution	Actioning Officer/s	Status of Action	Complete or commenced
			commencing from the first Sunday of October each calendar year. 3. Approve the continued authorisation to the Chief Executive Officer to determine an alternative period or extend the period for the disposal of green waste as deemed necessary, subject to necessary budget revenue adjustments being approved within the adopted annual budget.			
15102025	Community Development	8.2.4	Draft Building A Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision That Council: 1. Notes the revisions made to the Building Buloke 2030 Community Plan and its adaptation to be now referred to as the Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision 2. Endorses the Draft Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision to go on public exhibition from Thursday 16 October to Thursday 30 October 2025. 3. Gives public notice of the Draft Building a Better Buloke 2040: on Council's website and invites written submissions from Thursday 16 October to Thursday 30 October 2025. 4. Notes that in accordance with Section 93 and 96 (1b) of the Local Government Act 2020, consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Council's engagement policy. 5. Notes that the Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision will be considered for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 5 November.	Director Community Development		Complete
15102025	Community Development	8.4.1	Swimming Pool Season 2025/26 That Council: Receive and note the dates for the 2025/26 Swimming	Director Community Development	Council has accepted open/closure dates for the upcoming pool season.	Complete

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Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution	Actioning Officer/s	Status of Action	Complete or commenced
			Pool Season as Friday 14 November 2025 to Sunday 15 March 2026.			
29102025	Corporate & Organisational Performance	4.1.1	That Council: 1. Adopt the Procurement Policy	Director Corporate & Organisational Performance		Complete
29102025	Community Development	4.2.1	That Council: 1. That Council receives and notes the Buloke Shire Council Annual Report 2024/2025.	Director Community Development		Complete
29102025	Community Development	4.2.2	That Council: 1. Notes the draft Financial Plan 2025-35 was placed on exhibition from 18 September 2025 until 9 October 2025 and Council received one (1) written submission; 2. Adopts the Financial Plan 2025-35; 3. Notes a copy of the adopted plan will be placed on Councils website for public view; 4. Notes that the development of the document is compliant with relevant legislation; 5. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to undertake minor, administrative changes only to the document to correct errors and improve readability, if required; 6. Notes that Council will undertake an internal annual review of the document and where significant amendments are recommended, Council will be presented with a revised document for adoption where required.	Director Community Development		Complete
29102025	Infrastructure & Delivery	4.2.3	That Council: 1. Notes that the draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 was placed on public exhibition from 18 September 2025 through to 9 October 2025 and that Council received one (1) written submission.	Director Infrastructure & Delivery		Complete

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Council Resolution Action – Outstanding Items, 15 - 29 Oct and 5 Nov Council Meeting – tabled 19 November 2025

Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution	Actioning Officer/s	Status of Action	Complete or commenced
			2. Adopts the Asset Plan 2025-2035 unchanged from the exhibited version. 3. Notes that a copy of the adopted Asset Plan 2025-2035 will be placed on Council's website.			
29102025	Infrastructure & Delivery	4.2.4	That Council: 1. Notes the draft Road Management Plan 2025 was placed on exhibition from 18 September 2025 until 9 October 2025 and Council received one (1) written submission. 2. Adopts the Road Management Plan 2025, with minor administrative changes from the exhibited version. 3. Notes a copy of the adopted plan will be placed on Council's website	Director Infrastructure & Delivery		Complete
29102025	Community Development	4.2.5	That Council: 1. Adopts the Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 at attachment 1 to this report. 2. Notes the recommended changes made to the Draft Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 that are based on the public submissions and Council officer feedback received, at attachment 2 to this report. 3. Provides a written response to community members and stakeholders who provided feedback on the Draft Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035.	Director Community Development		Complete
29102025	Corporate & Organisational Performance	4.3.1	That Council in exercise of the power conferred by section 11(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> (The Act) and all other powers enabling it, delegates to the member of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the position of Chief Executive Officer, the powers, duties and functions set out in the Schedule to this Instrument of Delegation, and declares that the delegation:	Director Corporate & Organisational Performance CEO		Complete

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Council Resolution Action – Outstanding Items, 15 - 29 Oct and 5 Nov Council Meeting – tabled 19 November 2025

Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution	Actioning Officer/s	Status of Action	Complete or commenced
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor; is subject to any conditions and limitations set out in the schedule; on the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked; remains in force until Council resolves to vary or revoke it; and the duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt. 			
5112025	Community Development	4.1.1	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adopts the Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision. Notes that no changes have been made to the Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision in response to the four (4) submissions received during the public exhibition period. Provides a written response to all four (4) community members and stakeholders who submitted feedback on the Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision. 	Director Community Development		Complete

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8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

Nil.

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 ADOPT AND SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING FOR PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C44BLOK – PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW

Author's Title: Planning Officer

Directorate: Community Development

File No: LP/09/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Built and natural environment

Objective: Advocate and plan for, and manage community buildings, roads and transport networks

PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is for Council to resolve to adopt Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok and submit the amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval.

SUMMARY

At the Buloke Shire Council Ordinary meeting on 11 September 2024 Council resolved to seek Authorisation from the Minister to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok.

Council officers have since prepared the amendment, achieved authorization from the Minister and conducted notice requirements resulting in the amendment being ready for Council to adopt and submit to the Minister for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopt Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok
2. Seek approval from the Minister for Planning for Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok

DISCUSSION

Council adopted the Planning Scheme Review Report at the Ordinary Meeting on April 10, 2024. Regular reviews of the planning scheme are required under Section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act).

The Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok is required to implement the findings and recommendations of the Buloke Planning Scheme Review Report 2023. This amendment implements the recommendations of that review, which are administrative in nature and where the intended effect of the respective clause is not changed.

The amendment is required to ensure that land in private ownership is not within the Public Use Zone, Public Park and Recreation Zone or Public Conservation and Resource Zone, as required by the Ministerial Direction - Form and Content of Planning Schemes.

The amendment is also required to correct mapping anomalies and errors that have become apparent through the operation of the planning scheme, particularly through statutory planning processes.

The correction of these errors will contribute to the more effective operation and administration of the planning scheme to ensure it is up-to-date and provides a clear and coherent basis for decision making.

RELEVANT LAW

The Planning Scheme amendment process will be conducted in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and relevant Ministerial Directions.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok implements the recommendations of the Buloke Planning Scheme Review 2023, as adopted by Council on 10 April 2024 and forwarded to the Minister for Planning on 8 May 2024.

At the Buloke Shire Council Ordinary meeting on 11 September 2024, Council resolved to seek Authorisation from the Minister to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok.

OPTIONS

Option 1

Council could adopt the Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok and submit it to the Minister for Planning for approval. This option is recommended by officers.

Option 2

Council could resolve not to adopt Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok. This option is not recommended by officers.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok is expected to deliver positive environmental, social and economic outcomes by updating, simplifying and clarifying local policies and local schedules in the Buloke Planning Scheme, and correcting obvious mapping errors.

This will provide more certainty to users of the planning system and will ensure that land use and development outcomes are consistent with the environmental, social and economic land use objectives of planning in Buloke and Victoria.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community was informed of Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok and had 30 days to make a submission.

Notice was placed in the local newspapers, in the Government Gazette, and on the Department of Transport and Planning website. The amendment documents were available on request from the Buloke Shire Council.

Residents whose land was directly affected by a correction to a zoning or overlay anomaly received a letter to their listed address.

All notices and letters invited submissions.

Council received no written submissions from the community. A small number of phone enquiries (est. 3) were received from community members seeking further information or clarification.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The amendment contributes to the more effective operation and administration of the planning scheme to ensure it is up-to-date and provides a clear and coherent basis for decision making.

COLLABORATION

Notice of Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok has been given to:

- Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action
- Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation
- First Peoples - State Relations
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of Transport and Planning (Transport Team)
- North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Mallee Catchment Management Authority
- Wimmera Catchment Management Authority

Prescribed Ministers:

- The Hon. Lily D'Amrosio MP - Minister for Energy and Resources
- The Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP - Minister for Environment
- The Hon. Gayle Tierney MP - Minister for Water
- The Hon. Ros Spence MP - Minister for Agriculture

Responses were received from:

1. Department of Transport and Planning – no comments or requests of any changes.
2. North Central Catchment Management Authority – supports amendment as proposed.
3. Environmental Protection Agency – made a request for clarification on Ministerial Direction No. 19 and was satisfied with the clarification.
4. Wimmera Catchment Management Authority – supports amendment as proposed.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Fees associated with the amendment process will be allocated under the adopted Annual Budget 2025/26.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok will update the Municipal Planning Strategy and Planning Policy Framework to improve clarity and to comply with the Ministerial Direction - Form and Content of Planning Schemes. All proposed updates are policy neutral.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2025-2029

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

To promote transparency, Council will consider this resolution in an open meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in preparing this report have a conflict of interest in its subject matter.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.2.1.1 - Buloke C44blok Explanatory Report Authorisation
FINAL

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Buloke Planning Scheme

Amendment C44blok

Explanatory Report

Overview

This amendment implements the findings and recommendations of the Buloke Planning Scheme Review (September 2023). The review was adopted by the Buloke Shire Council on 10 April 2024 and was prepared to meet the requirements of Section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

The amendment also amends the planning scheme to correct mapping anomalies and obvious and technical errors.

Where you may inspect this amendment

The amendment can be inspected free of charge at the Buloke Shire Council website at www.buloke.vic.gov.au.

And

The amendment is available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at the following place:

- Buloke Shire Council, 367 Broadway, Wycheproof

The amendment can also be inspected free of charge at the Department of Transport and Planning website at <http://www.planning.vic.gov.au/public-inspection> or by contacting the office on 1800 789 386 to arrange a time to view the amendment documentation.

Submissions

Any person may make a submission to the planning authority about the amendment. Submissions about the amendment must be received by 8th September 2025

A submission must be sent to:

Buloke Shire Council
PO Box 1
Wycheproof, Victoria 3527

Panel hearing dates

In accordance with clause 4(2) of Ministerial Direction No.15 the following panel hearing dates have been set for this amendment:

- Directions hearing: 2nd February 2026
- Panel hearing: 2nd March 2026

Details of the amendment

Who is the planning authority?

This amendment has been prepared by the Buloke Shire Council, which is the planning authority for this amendment.

The amendment has been made at the request of the Buloke Shire Council.

Land affected by the amendment

The amendment applies to all land in the Buloke Shire.

A mapping reference table identifying properties affected by mapping changes is inserted at Attachment 1 to this Explanatory Report.

What the amendment does

This amendment implements the recommendations of the Buloke Planning Scheme Review (September 2023) (the Review), as adopted by Council on 10 April 2024 and forwarded to the Minister for Planning on 8 May 2024. The Review was prepared to meet the requirements of Section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act).

The amendment also corrects mapping anomalies and errors in the planning scheme.

Ordinance

The amendment makes the following changes to ordinance in the planning scheme:

Municipal Planning Strategy

- Amends Clause 02.01 Context in the Municipal Planning Strategy to recognise the Traditional Owners of the land in which Buloke Shire sits, update factual data and make minor corrections.
- Amends Clause 02.02 Vision in the Municipal Planning Strategy to reflect the vision and directions set out in the adopted 2021-2025 Buloke Council Plan.
- Amends Clause 02.03 Strategic Directions in the Municipal Planning Strategy to implement the adopted Buloke Council Plan, improve clarity and increase compliance with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.

Planning Policy Framework

- Amends Clause 12.01-2L Native Vegetation to improve clarity and increase compliance with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Amends Clause 13.03-1L Floodplain Management to improve clarity and increase compliance with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Amends Clause 13.07-1L-01 Amenity Protection – General to improve clarity and increase compliance with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Amends Clause 13.07-1L-02 Township Amenity Protection to improve clarity and increase compliance with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Amends Clause 14.01-1L-01 Protection of Agricultural Land to improve clarity and increase compliance with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Amends Clause 14.01-1L-02 Rural Dependent Enterprises to improve clarity and increase compliance with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Amends Clause 14.01-1L-03 Small Lot Subdivision to improve clarity and increase compliance with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Amends Clause 14.01-2L Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Industry to improve clarity and increase compliance with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Amends Clause 15.01-1L Urban Design to improve clarity and increase compliance with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Amends Clause 15.01-2L-01 Building Design to improve clarity and increase compliance with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Amends Clause 15.01-2L-02 Industrial Building Design to improve clarity and increase compliance with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Amends Clause 15.03-1L Heritage to improve clarity and increase compliance with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Amends Clause 16.01-1L Housing Diversity in Buloke to make minor changes to existing policy to reflect the adopted Buloke Council Plan and reduce policy duplication.
- Amends Clause 17.03-1L Industry to improve the language of an existing strategy.
- Amends Clause 18.01-1L Integrated Transport to reflect the adopted Buloke Council Plan.

- Amends Clause 19.03-2L Development Infrastructure to clarify the intent of an existing strategy.

Zones

- Amends the Schedule to Clause 35.07 Farming Zone to reflect the correct location of a policy and to comply with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Amends the Schedule to Clause 36.02 Public Park and Recreation Zone to include a permit exemption for use and development specified in the *Bringing Water Back to Green Lake Project Incorporated Document* (Buloke Shire Council, March 2018).

Overlays

- Amends Schedule 1 Waterway Protection to Clause 42.01 Environmental Significance Overlay to update an organisation name.
- Amends Schedule 1 Roadside and Corridor Protection Area to Clause 42.02 Vegetation Protection Overlay to reduce duplication of provisions and to ensure compliance with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Amends the Schedule to Clause 43.01 Heritage Overlay HO32 Timber House to delete a reference to the redundant heritage overlay at 40 Campbell Street, Birchip (consistent with its deletion from Map 23HO, as discussed above) and corrects spelling errors elsewhere in the schedule.
- Amends the Schedule to Clause 44.03 Floodway Overlay to comply with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Amends the Schedule to Clause 44.04 Land Subject to Inundation Overlay to comply with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.

General Provisions

- Amends the Schedule to Clause 66.04 Referral of Permit Applications to reflect changes to department names.

Operational Provisions

- Amends the Schedule to Clause 72.08 Background Documents to insert background documents referred to in Clause 19.03-2L Development Infrastructure and Schedule 1 to Clause 42.01 Environmental Significance Overlay ESO1 Waterway Protection.
- Amends the Schedule to Clause 74.01 Application of Zones, Overlays and Provisions to reflect the content of the planning scheme and to comply with the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Amends the Schedule to Clause 74.02 Further Strategic Work to update the list of further strategic work based on the findings of the Buloke Planning Scheme Review (September 2023).

Maps

Zone Maps

The amendment makes the changes to zone maps in the planning scheme, as set out in Attachment 1. The changes are summarised as follows:

Planning Scheme Map 10 (Sea Lake)

- Rezones part of the land at 75 Best Street, Sea Lake from Public Park and Recreation Zone to Commercial 1 Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 10 to reflect the private ownership of the land and the ongoing use of the land for commercial purposes.
- Rezones land at 11 Horace Street, Sea Lake from Public Park and Recreation Zone to Township Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 10 to reflect the private ownership of the land and the ongoing use of the land as a dwelling.

Planning Scheme Map 17 (Culgoa)

- Rezones land at Calder Highway, Culgoa from Township Zone to Public Use Zone 1 Service & Utility as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 17 to reflect the public ownership of the land and the ongoing use of the land by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water for utility purposes.
- Rezones land at Calder Highway, Culgoa from Public Use Zone 1 Service & Utility, Township Zone and Farming Zone to Farming Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 17 to align zoning to property boundaries.

Planning Scheme Map 21 (Curyo)

- Rezones land at 2504 Sunraysia Highway, Curyo from Public Use Zone 1 Service & Utility to Farming Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 21 to reflect the private ownership of the land and the zoning of surrounding land.

Planning Scheme Map 25 (Nullawil)

- Rezones land at 18 Birchip Road, Nullawil from Township Zone and Public Park and Recreation Zone to Public Park and Recreation Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 25 to reflect the public ownership of the land and use of the land as the Nullawil Lawn Tennis Club.
- Rezones land at 20 Quambatook Road, Nullawil from Township Zone, Farming Zone and Public Use Zone 1 Service & Utility to Public Use Zone 1 Service & Utility as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 25 to reflect the public ownership of the land and use of the land by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water for utility purposes.

Planning Scheme Maps 28 and 29 (Watchem)

- Rezones part of the land at Connellan Road, Watchem from Public Use Zone 2 Education to Farming Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 28 to reflect the private ownership of the land and ongoing use of the land as a part of a farm.
- Rezones land at 40 Morton Street, Watchem from Township Zone to Public Use Zone 6 Local Government as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 29 to

reflect public ownership of the land and ongoing use of the land as a landfill and transfer station.

Planning Scheme Map 32 (Jeruk and Glenloth)

- Rezones land at 468 Jeruk River North Road, Jeruk from Public Conservation and Resource Zone to Farming Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 32 to reflect the private ownership of the land and the use of the land for farming.
- Rezones land at Charlton-Swan Hill Road, Glenloth from Public Conservation and Resource Zone to Farming Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 32 to reflect the private ownership of the land.
- Rezones land at 101 Glenloth Road, Glenloth from Public Conservation and Resource Zone to Farming Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 32 to reflect the private ownership of the land.

Planning Scheme Map 33 (Wycheproof)

- Rezones land at 6 Corack Road, Wycheproof from Public Use Zone 6 Local Government and Township Zone to Township Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 33 to reflect the private ownership of the land and to align the zoning with the property boundary.
- Rezones land at Corack Road, Wycheproof from Township Zone and Public Use Zone 6 Local Government to Public Use Zone 1 Service & Utility as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 33 to reflect public ownership of the land and ongoing use of the land by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water.
- Rezones land at 6 Mill Street, Wycheproof from Township Zone to Public Use Zone 6 Local Government as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 33 to reflect public ownership of the land and the ongoing use of the land by local government.

Planning Scheme Maps 37 and 43 (Donald)

- Rezones land at 150 Woods Street, Donald from Township Zone and Public Park and Recreation Zone to Public Park and Recreation Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 37 to align zoning with the property boundary and to reflect public ownership of the land and the ongoing use of the land as a municipal recreation facility.
- Rezones land at 20 Camp Street and 22 Camp Street, Donald from Public Use Zone 3 Health & Community to Township Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 37 to reflect the private ownership of the land and the ongoing use of the land as an aged care facility.
- Rezones land at 27-29 McCulloch Street, Donald from Public Use Zone 6 Local Government to Township Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 37 to reflect the private ownership of the land.
- Rezones land at Depot Road, Donald from Public Conservation and Resource Zone and Farming Zone to Public Use Zone 6 Local Government as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 43 to reflect public ownership of the land and the use of the land as a landfill and transfer station.

- Rezones land at Sunraysia Highway, Donald from Farming Zone to Public Use Zone 5 Cemetery/Crematorium as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 43 to reflect the public ownership of the land and the ongoing use of the land as the Donald Cemetery.

Planning Scheme Maps 39 and 40 (Charlton)

- Rezones land at Charlton Airport, Charlton-St Arnaud Road, Charlton from Farming Zone to Transport Zone 4 Other Transport Use as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 39 to reflect the use of the land as an airport.
- Rezones land at Back St Arnaud Road, Charlton from Public Use Zone 2 Education to Public Park and Recreation Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map Nos. 39 and 40 to reflect the ongoing use of the land as the Harness Racing Training Facility, Charlton.
- Rezones land at 6 Arundell Square, Charlton from Public Park and Recreation Zone to Township Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 40 to reflect the private ownership of the land and use of the land as an existing residential property.
- Rezones land at 8 Arundell Square, Charlton from Public Park and Recreation Zone to Township Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 40 to reflect the private ownership of the land and use of the land as an existing residential property.
- Rezones land at 7 Donald Road, Charlton from Commercial 1 Zone to Township Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 40 to reflect the ongoing use of the land as a private dwelling.
- Rezones part of the land at Mildura Way, Charlton from Commercial 2 Zone to Public Park and Recreation Zone as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 40 to align zoning with the property boundary, reflect public ownership and ongoing use of the land as a public park and reserve.

Overlay Maps

The amendment makes changes to Heritage Overlay maps in the planning scheme, as set out in Attachment 1. The changes are summarised as follows:

Planning Scheme Map 11HO (Berriwillock)

- Applies the Heritage Overlay HO155 Shop, 'Mill's General Store' to land at 27 Taverner Street, Berriwillock and deletes this overlay from land at 35 Taverner Street, Berriwillock as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 11HO to correctly reflect the location of the heritage place identified in the Schedule to Clause 43.01 of the planning scheme and the place citation report prepared for the *Buloke Heritage Study 2* (2011).

Planning Scheme Map 23HO (Birchip)

- Deletes part of Heritage Overlay HO49 Uniting Church from land at 18 Johnson Street, Birchip as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 23HO to accurately reflect the extent of the heritage place identified in the Schedule to Clause 43.01 of the planning scheme (part of HO49 is being deleted but part will remain).

- Deletes Heritage Overlay HO32 Timber House from land at 40 Campbell Street, Birchip as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 23HO as the heritage place is no longer on the property.

Planning Scheme Map 29HO (Watchem)

- Applies Heritage Overlay HO256 Cemetery to the land known as Watchem Cemetery, Ryan Street, Watchem and deletes this overlay from land at 16 Hoban Street, Watchem as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 29HO to correctly reflect the location of the heritage place identified in the Schedule to Clause 43.01 of the planning scheme and as identified in the place citation report prepared for the *Buloke Heritage Study 2* (2011).

Planning Scheme Map 46HO (Yeungroon)

- Applies Heritage Overlay HO270 Yeungroon Public Hall to land at Lot 1 TP917921, known as part of 364 Cossars Road, Yeungroon and deletes this overlay from land at CA 7 Sec 5 Parish of Yeungroon, known as 364 Cossars Road, Yeungroon as shown on Planning Scheme Map No. 46HO to correctly reflect the location of the heritage place as identified in the place citation report prepared for the *Buloke Heritage Study 2* (2011).

Strategic assessment of the amendment

Why is the amendment required?

Section 12B of the Act requires a planning authority to carry out regular reviews of its planning scheme to enhance that scheme's effectiveness and efficiency in achieving the objectives of planning in Victoria and the objectives of the planning framework established by the Act.

The Buloke Planning Scheme Review Report (September 2023), adopted by Buloke Shire Council in April 2024, makes various recommendations to improve the overall performance of the planning scheme. The amendment implements the recommendations of that review, where the changes are administrative in nature and the intended effect of the respective clause is not changed.

The amendment also ensures that land in private ownership is not within the Public Use Zone, Public Park and Recreation Zone or Public Conservation and Resource Zone, as required by the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.

In addition, the amendment corrects mapping anomalies and errors that have become apparent through the operation of the planning scheme, particularly through statutory planning processes. The correction of these errors will contribute to the more effective operation and administration of the planning scheme to ensure it is up-to-date and provides a clear and coherent basis for decision making.

How does the amendment implement the objectives of planning in Victoria?

The amendment implements the following objectives of planning in Victoria as outlined in section 4 (1) of the Act:

- a) To provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use, and development of land*
- b) To provide for the protection of natural and man-made resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity*
- c) To secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Victorians and visitors to Victoria*
- d) To conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value*
- e) to protect public utilities and other assets and enable the orderly provision and co-ordination of public utilities and other facilities for the benefit of the community*
- f) to facilitate development in accordance with the objectives set out in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e)*
- g) To balance the present and future interests of all Victorians.*

The amendment implements the above objectives by providing clear strategic direction for future land use and development in Buloke Shire.

The amendment ensures that local policy and controls have been drafted to encourage land use planning and development to occur in a manner that is consistent with all the above objectives.

The amendment ensures that planning scheme provisions are correctly applied to land so that land can be used and developed in accordance with these objectives.

How does the amendment address any environmental, social and economic effects?

The amendment is expected to deliver positive environmental, social and economic outcomes by updating, simplifying and clarifying local policies and local schedules in the planning scheme, and by correcting mapping anomalies and errors. This will provide more certainty to users of the planning system and will ensure that land use and development outcomes are consistent with the environmental, social and economic land use objectives of planning in Victoria and Buloke.

Specifically, the amendment proposes to:

- Improve the clarity of local policy content in the Municipal Planning Strategy, Planning Policy Framework and local schedules to provide greater certainty for users of the planning system.
- Improve the accuracy of planning scheme maps by correcting mapping anomalies and errors.
- Reduce unnecessary costs to applicants and councils from unclear planning requirements.

Does the amendment address relevant bushfire risk?

The amendment is consistent with state bushfire planning policy in Clause 13.02 of the planning scheme because it will not result in increased risk to life, property or community infrastructure from bushfire.

The amendment does not alter any existing planning controls or policies that relate to the management of bushfire risk and does not seek to introduce any new controls or policies that would pose or create any new bushfire risk.

The amendment also corrects zoning anomalies to reflect existing use and ownership arrangements. Although it may be possible to apply for a dwelling on land being rezoned to Farming Zone, this is not the intent of the amendment, which does not seek to direct residential development to these locations. It is appropriate that privately owned agricultural land is rezoned to Farming Zone consistent with its existing and intended ongoing use for that purpose.

Does the amendment comply with the requirements of any other Minister's Direction applicable to the amendment?

In accordance with *Ministerial Direction No. 1 – Potentially Contaminated Land*, Buloke Shire Council as the planning authority for this amendment has determined that the land subject to rezoning by this amendment is not potentially contaminated.

The amendment complies with *Ministerial Direction No. 11 - Strategic Assessment of Amendments* under section 12 of the Act. The amendment is consistent with this direction which ensures a comprehensive strategic evaluation of a planning scheme amendment and the outcomes it produces.

The amendment complies with the requirements of the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes* under section 7(5) of the Act. The amendment seeks to ensure that the planning scheme has been drafted in accordance with the requirements of this direction.

How does the amendment support or implement the Planning Policy Framework and any adopted State policy?

The amendment will reinforce the alignment between state and local policy in the Planning Policy Framework by ensuring that the directions for environmental and landscape values, environmental risks and amenity, natural resource management, built environment and heritage, housing, economic development, transport and infrastructure are consistently written and appropriately placed within the planning scheme.

The amendment facilitates land use and development in accordance with the Planning Policy Framework by correcting anomalies and errors in the application of zoning, overlay controls and the application of local schedules in the planning scheme.

How does the amendment support or implement the Municipal Planning Strategy?

The amendment will support the Municipal Planning Strategy by ensuring that its content is up-to-date and clearly articulates Council's overarching vision for sustainably managing land use and development in the municipality.

The amendment facilitates land use and development in accordance with the Municipal Planning Strategy by correcting anomalies and errors in the planning scheme. The correction of errors and removal of redundant provisions improves the operation and clarity of the planning scheme to facilitate appropriate land use and development outcomes.

Does the amendment make proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions?

The amendment makes proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions by utilising schedules that are appropriate to local circumstances and updating their content to ensure consistency with the principles set out in *A Practitioner's Guide to Victorian Planning Schemes* and the requirements of the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.

The amendment ensures that planning provisions are appropriately applied to land by correcting zoning and overlay mapping errors.

The amendment is consistent with *Planning Practice Note 1 – Applying the Heritage Overlay* (PPN01). It corrects errors in the application of the Heritage Overlay and deletes a heritage place where the building has been demolished.

The amendment also updates the schedule to Clause 74.02 Further Strategic Work to prioritise the work that council intends to undertake before the next planning scheme review and to remove any work that has already been completed or is no longer required. The updated Schedule to Clause 74.02 Further Strategic Work reflects the Council endorsed list of further strategic work items prepared as part of the Buloke Planning Scheme Review (September 2023).

How does the amendment address the views of any relevant agency?

The views of relevant agencies will be sought during the amendment exhibition process.

Does the amendment address relevant requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010?

The requirements of the *Transport Integration Act 2010* apply where a planning scheme amendment is likely to have a significant impact on the transport system.

The amendment will ensure that Charlton Airport is in the most appropriate zone.

The amendment is not expected to have a significant impact on the transport system as defined by the *Transport Integration Act 2010*, as it corrects zone mapping anomalies and errors rather than seeking to facilitate development.

Resource and administrative costs

What impact will the new planning provisions have on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority?

The amendment will not impose additional resource or administrative costs on the responsible authority.

The amendment corrects anomalies and errors in the planning scheme to reduce the resource and administrative costs associated with statutory planning processes.

Attachment 1 – Mapping reference table

Location	Land /Area Affected	Mapping Reference	Proposed changes		
			Zone	Overlay	Deletion
Berriwillock	35 Taverner Street & part 27 Taverner Street	Buloke C44blok 019d-hoMap11 Exhibition	-	-	HO155
Berriwillock	27 Taverner Street	Buloke C44blok 022-hoMap11 Exhibition	-	HO155	-
Birchip	Lot 14 LP3886 & Lot 1 TP176755 Collectively known as 40 Campbell Street	Buloke C44blok 018-hoMap23 Exhibition	-	-	HO32
Birchip	18 Johnson Street	Buloke C44blok 018-hoMap23 Exhibition	-	-	HO49
Charlton	6 Arundell Square	Buloke C44blok 006znMap40 Exhibition	Rezone from PPRZ to TZ	-	-
Charlton	8 Arundell Square	Buloke C44blok 006znMap40 Exhibition	Rezone from PPRZ to TZ	-	-
Charlton	CA 2004 Township of Charlton, known as Back St Arnaud Road	Buloke C44blok 005znMaps39_40 Exhibition	Rezone from PUZ2 to PPRZ	-	-
Charlton	CA 3 Sec 14 Township of Charlton, known as Back St Arnaud Road	Buloke C44blok 005znMaps39_40 Exhibition	Rezone from PUZ2 to PPRZ	-	-
Charlton	CA 17 Sec A, Township of Charlton	Buloke C44blok, 006znMap40 Exhibition	Rezone from C2Z to PPRZ	-	-
Charlton	Charlton Airport, CA 2005 Parish of Charlton East, known as Charlton Airport Charlton-St Arnaud Road	Buloke C44blok 004znMap39 Exhibition	Rezone from FZ to TRZ4	-	-
Charlton	Lots 1 & 2 TP215798 and Lots 1 & 2 TP235223, known as 7 Donald Road	Buloke C44blok 006znMap40 Exhibition	Rezone from C1Z to TZ	-	-

Location	Land /Area Affected	Mapping Reference	Proposed changes		
			Zone	Overlay	Deletion
Culgoa	CA 42D Parish of Toort, known as Calder Highway CA 42B Parish of Toort, known as Calder Highway (Part) CA 38B Parish of Toort, known as Calder Highway (Part) CA 29A Parish of Kaneira, known as Baths Road	Buloke C44blok 014znMap17 Exhibition	Rezone from TZ to PUZ1	-	-
Culgoa	Lot 1 TP117794, known as Calder Highway	Buloke C44blok 014znMap17 Exhibition	Rezone from PUZ1, TZ to FZ	-	-
Curyo	2504 Sunraysia Highway	Buloke C44blok 012znMap21 Exhibition	Rezone from PUZ1 to FZ	-	-
Donald	20 & 22 Camp Street	Buloke C44blok 003znMap37 Exhibition	Rezone from PUZ3 to TZ	-	-
Donald	Donald Landfill and Transfer Station CA 5E Sec D Parish of Laen & Lot 1\TP83388, Depot Road	Buloke C44blok 001znMap43 Exhibition	Rezone from PCRZ & FZ to PUZ6	-	-
Donald	27-29 McCulloch Street	Buloke C44blok 003znMap37 Exhibition	Rezone from PUZ6 to TZ	-	-
Donald	Donald Cemetery, CA 2F Parish of Donald, known as Sunraysia Highway	Buloke C44blok 002znMap43 Exhibition	Rezone from FZ to PUZ5	-	-
Donald	Swimming Pool, 150 Woods Street	Buloke C44blok 003znMap37 Exhibition	Rezone from TZ to PPRZ	-	-
Glenloth	CA 5A SEC 2 Parish of Wycheproof, known as Charlton-Swan Hill Road	Buloke C44blok 008znMap32 Exhibition	Rezone from PCRZ to FZ	-	-

Location	Land /Area Affected	Mapping Reference	Proposed changes		
			Zone	Overlay	Deletion
Glenloth	CA 23A SEC 1 Parish of Wycheproof, known as Charlton-Swan Hill Road	Buloke C44blok 008znMap32 Exhibition	Rezone from PCRZ to FZ	-	-
Glenloth	101 Glenloth Road	Buloke C44blok 008znMap32 Exhibition	Rezone from PCRZ to FZ	-	-
Jeruk	468 Jeruk River North Road	Buloke C44blok 011znMap32 Exhibition	Rezone from PCRZ to FZ	-	-
Nullawil	Nullawil Lawn Tennis Club, 18 Birchip Road	Buloke C44blok 013znMap25 Exhibition	Rezone from TZ to PPRZ	-	-
Nullawil	20 Quambatook Road	Buloke C44blok 013znMap25 Exhibition	Rezone from TZ & FZ to PUZ1	-	-
Sea Lake	75 Best Street	Buloke C44blok 015znMap10 Exhibition	Rezone from PPRZ to C1Z	-	-
Sea Lake	11 Horace Street	Buloke C44blok 015znMap10 Exhibition	Rezone from PPRZ to TZ	-	-
Watchem	CA 42B Parish of Warmur known as Connellan Road	Buloke C44blok 009znMap28 Exhibition	Rezone from PUZ2 to FZ	-	-
Watchem	16 Hoban Street	Buloke C44blok 017d-hoMap29 Exhibition	-	-	HO256
Watchem	40 Morton Street	Buloke C44blok 007znMap29 Exhibition	Rezone from TZ to PUZ6	-	-
Watchem	Watchem Cemetery CA 6A Sec. 6 Township of Watchem, known as Ryan Street	Buloke C44blok 021hoMap29 Exhibition	-	HO256	-
Wycheproof	Lot 1 TP424407, known as Corack Road	Buloke C44blok 010znMap33 Exhibition	Rezone from TZ to PUZ1	-	-
Wycheproof	6 Corack Road	Buloke C44blok 010znMap33 Exhibition	Rezone from PUZ6 to TZ	-	-

Location	Land /Area Affected	Mapping Reference	Proposed changes		
			Zone	Overlay	Deletion
Wycheproof	6 Mill Street	Buloke C44blok 010zMap33 Exhibition	Rezone from TZ to PUZ6	-	-
Yeungroon	Lot 1 TP917921, known as 364 Cossars Road	Buloke C44blok 020hoMap46 Exhibition	-	HO270	-
Yeungroon	CA 7 Sec 5 Parish of Yeungroon, known as 364 Cossars Road	Buloke C44blok 016d-hoMap46 Exhibition	-	-	<u>HO270</u>

8.2.2 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Author's Title: Coordinator Community Development and Facilities

Directorate: Community Development

File No: GS/09/42

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Objective: Vibrant and connected communities
Strengthen community activity and connections
Empower and support organisations to make a difference in their communities

PURPOSE

To present to Council the applications recommended for funding under the Community Grants Program.

SUMMARY

Council allocates funds in its Annual Budget to support community initiatives that align with Council priorities and the Community Vision as outlined in the Council Plan.

The purpose of the grant categories are:

- **Community Grants** – to support the strengthening of the capacity and capability of local organisations, assist with the organisation and management of events, or help with the purchase of small capital items.
- **Sustainability Grants** – to assist projects that contribute to reducing the community's carbon footprint, improving the environment, or effectively conserving resource usage.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approves the officer recommendation to fund the following projects under the Community Grants Program:
\$2,000.00 – Charlton Bowling Club Inc – Project: Sun Smart Shades / Rollout Tarps

DISCUSSION

Since the Ordinary Meeting of Council in September 2025, 1 grant application has been assessed under the Community Grants category.

In accordance with the Community Grant Program Guidelines, the application was reviewed by an Assessment Panel consisting of three Council officers from across the Community Development Directorate. Based on their assessment against the selection criteria, the Panel recommends that the following application is funded:

Name of Organisation	Charlton Bowling Club Inc
-----------------------------	---------------------------

Project Title	Sun Smart Shades / Rollout Tarps
Grant Type	Project Support Grant - Up to \$2,000
Total Amount Requested	\$2,000
Funding Amount Recommended	\$2,000
Full project cost	\$8,790
Project Description	The Charlton Bowls Club is seeking funding to replace redundant sunshades with rollout tarps.
What will the project/ event achieve	Replacement of redundant infrastructure with rollout tarps and improvements to the supporting steel structures will improve amenity at the Charlton bowling greens. These improvements will better protect bowlers from the sun and offer spectators shelter at the railway track end of the green. The new shades are also larger in size.
Assessment Panel Scoring:	17 + 18 + 16 = 51
Average Score:	17 out of 20

Council officers are currently working with one additional applicant to assist them with the requirements to meet the Community Grant Program eligibility criteria and three Sustainability Grant Program applicants. These will be presented at a future Council Meeting for consideration.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable to this report.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable to this report.

OPTIONS

Option 1

Council can approve the officers' recommended project to receive community grants.

Option 2

Council can choose not to allocate the funds as recommended by the Assessment Panel. However, officers' do not recommend this option as such amendments to the proposed funding recommendations may undermine the integrity and fairness of the assessment process.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Applicants were contacted by a Council officer if their application required additional information or clarification. The Community Grants Program is regularly promoted through the Council's website and social media channels, local radio and printed media.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Community Grants Program is consistently assessed to identify any opportunities for continuous improvement and to ensure it reflects the needs of the community.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The allocation of funds for the applications recommended for funding will come under the adopted Community Grants Program (\$20,000) and the Community Sustainability Grants (\$50,000) in Council's Annual Budget 2025-26.

There is currently \$3,508 available in the Community Support Grants Program budget and \$29,829 available in the Community Sustainability Grants budget for the 2025-26 financial year.

If the recommendation is supported in full by Council, the remaining budget available for the Community Support Grants Program for rest of this financial year will be:

Community Grant program = **\$1,508**

Previous Grants awarded for the 2025-26 financial year include:

Grant Amount	Community Group and Project Name	Type of Grant
\$8,001	Donald Lawn Tennis Club Returning Service	Sustainability Grant
\$1,000	Charlton College Mental Health Awareness Month	Project Support Grant
\$2,000	Donald Learning Group Incorporated Celebrating the Donald Cultural Connection	Project Support Grant
\$2,000	Charlton Netball Club Inc. Charlton Netball Club: 1953-2025 A full colour Historical Publication	Project Support Grant
\$969	Birchip Neighbourhood House Incorporated Wiggle & Giggle	Project Support Grant
\$1,000	Wheels on A79 (Auspiced by Charlton Neighbourhood House Inc) Project: Wheels on A79 Show & Shine	Project Support Grant
\$400	Charlton Golden Grains Museum Project: Victorian Collections Training	Organisation Support Grant
\$10,000	Calder United Football Netball Hockey Club Project: Make King of the Mount Sustainable	Sustainability Grant
\$2,000	Granite Community Church/ Donald Youth Group Project: Storage cupboard used for Youth Group	Project Support Grant
\$2,169	Donald Men's Shed Project: Beating the Blues	Sustainability Grant
\$1,273	Charlton Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc Project: Level up! - Gaming Events	Project Support Grant
\$350	Combined Probus Club of Wycheproof Inc.	Project Support Grant

	Project: Probus Wycheproof Christmas Lunch	
\$1,000	Donald Pastoral & Agricultural Society Inc. Project: Donald Show Photo Board Project	Small Capital Equipment
\$1,000	Mallee Creatives (Auspice by Charlton Neighbourhood House) Project: Charlton Weekend Coffee Stop – Volunteer Training & Equipment Initiative	Small Capital Equipment
\$1,000	Charlton Neighbourhood House Project: Pickleball for all: Serving Community Connection Across the Court	Small Capital Equipment
\$2,000	Birchip Playgroup Project: Strong Start Active Play for Birchip's Future	Project Support Grant
\$500	Donald Pastoral & Agricultural Society Inc Project: 2025 Donald Show	Sponsorship

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable to this report.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Buloke Shire Council Plan 2025-2029

Community Grant Guidelines 2025

Community Engagement Policy

Community Support Policy

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

To promote transparency, Council will consider this resolution in an open meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has declared a conflict of interest.

Attachments: Nil

8.2.3 SPORT AND RECREATION VICTORIA – LOCAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND – WYCHEPROOF NETBALL COURT

Author's Title: Director Community Development

Directorate: Community Development

File No: GS/09/49

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Built and natural environment

Objective: Advocate and plan for, and manage community buildings, roads and transport networks

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval to allocate \$200,000 across FY26 and FY27 budgets as a co-contribution toward an application to Sport and Recreation Victoria's 2025–26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.

The proposed project involves the construction of a compliant netball court and lighting at the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve.

Council endorsement is also sought to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to underwrite a community contribution to the effect of \$200,000.

Council endorsement is also sought to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to submit the funding application.

SUMMARY

The 2025–26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSIF) is a competitive Victorian Government program open to Local Government Authorities and Alpine Resorts Victoria. The Fund supports the delivery of new and upgraded community sports infrastructure across three streams:

- Community Facilities
- Community Sports Lighting
- Planning

The Fund aligns with the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions' (DJSIR) priorities to create more opportunities for people through skills and jobs, help businesses and industries to thrive, and build vibrant communities and regions.

This report recommends that Council utilise this funding opportunity to progress a priority project identified within the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Masterplan—the construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting.

The proposed project will ensure that the netball facilities in Wycheproof meet current compliance and safety standards, providing a high-quality playing surface that supports participation, gender equity, and community connection.

The upgraded facilities will strengthen the long-term sustainability of local sport by providing a safe, accessible, and inclusive environment for players, officials, and spectators.

Delivery of this project will not only enhance the experience for netball participants but also contribute to the broader activation of the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve, supporting continued community use and encouraging greater engagement in sport and active recreation across the district.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Commit \$200,000 over FY2026/27 Annual Budgets for the purposes of submitting an application to the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund for the construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting; and
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to apply for the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund; and
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to underwrite a community contribution to the effect of \$200,000; and
4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the funding agreement on behalf of the Council should the application be successful.

DISCUSSION

The Wycheproof Recreation Reserve and Racecourse Reserve Masterplan 2021-2033 highlights that sport and active recreation plays a major role in the lives of those residing within and visiting the Wycheproof community, providing opportunities for physical fitness, social interaction, enjoyment, and creation of town pride.

The Masterplan established a series of key issues which are relevant in this project:

- Ageing Infrastructure
- Safety and Risk Management
- Governance
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Rationalisation
- Volunteers
- Parking and Signage

The Masterplan also outlines opportunities identified throughout the process as:

- Increased usage
- Facility improvements
- Environmental sustainability
- Accessibility
- Reduction in cost to deliver sport and active recreation
- Facility development requirements
- Partnership development

The construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting project would provide one court which complies with Netball Australia guidelines and uses current construction techniques.

The current existing netball court has concrete joins on the playing surface which are prone to movement and cracking which creates a safety issue. Games were abandoned in 2024 due to this issue.

Repairs were made to allow games to resume in 2025; however, due to the nature of the fault there is no guarantee how long the repairs will hold. For these reasons, if built today, this court would be non-compliant.

The construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting at Wycheproof is a priority project identified in the master plan and has been supported by Council in previous funding applications. It forms part of a larger project scope which aims to provide modern facilities for netball, hockey, bowls, croquet, cricket and football participants.

Detailed netball court designs have been developed to enable project costings to be reviewed to ensure the draft costs attached are accurate.

Council has supported applications to two previous funding opportunities for this project:

- *Australian Governments Growing Regions Program (2023)* - An expression of interest was submitted which included the netball court and multi-use pavilion. The application did not progress as there were no matching Victorian Government funding rounds available to support the large financial commitment.
- *Victorian Governments Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund (2024)* - An application was submitted which included the multi-use pavilion only. The application was unsuccessful however received positive feedback from SRV.

RELEVANT LAW

The *Building Act 1993* and regulations, the *National Construction Code 2019* and all other applicable laws and standards will apply to the proposed project, including compliance with the *Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The implementation of the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve and Racecourse Reserve Masterplan 2021-2033 has been identified within the Buloke Shire Council Advocacy Strategy 2022-23.

OPTIONS

The Council may elect not to support the officers' recommendations.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed project supports both environmental and social sustainability outcomes. The installation of new energy-efficient LED sports lighting will significantly reduce power consumption and maintenance requirements compared with traditional halogen systems, contributing to lower long-term operating costs and a smaller environmental footprint. In addition, the development of a modern, compliant netball facility will enhance social sustainability by encouraging greater community participation, promoting gender equity in sport, and providing a safe, accessible space that supports ongoing community connection and wellbeing.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In the preparation of the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve and Racecourse Reserve Masterplan 2021-2033 a variety of community engagement sessions were held including:

- Phone calls with 17 user groups and key stakeholders
- 1 user group workshop with 17 attendees
- 2 Council staff workshop with 10 attendees in each
- 2 listening posts with 40 participants
- 1 user group survey filled out by 3 user groups
- 1 community survey filled out by 114 people (on behalf of 258 people)
- 1 meeting with Sport and Recreation Victoria and Regional Development Victoria staff (2 participants)

Since this time, Council has received various requests for updates of progress upon the actions of the Masterplan from local community groups.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting project demonstrates innovation through the use of modern design principles and construction techniques that align with Netball Australia's facility design guidelines.

By incorporating contemporary standards for court layout, surfacing, drainage, and lighting, the project will deliver a high-quality, compliant facility that enhances player safety and performance.

The inclusion of LED lighting technology and durable, low-maintenance materials reflects Council's commitment to continuous improvement in the delivery of sustainable community infrastructure. This approach ensures the facility remains fit-for-purpose, adaptable to future needs, and reflective of best practice in community sport facility design.

COLLABORATION

Landowners consent will be required from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to undertake the proposed works.

Governing bodies of the sporting codes who will utilise the facility and the user groups will be given the opportunity to review the design and confirm their support of the development.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The Wycheproof Recreation Reserve and Racecourse Reserve Masterplan 2021-2033 provides a strategic framework to guide the development, management, maintenance, and renewal of recreation facilities within the reserve. This includes ensuring that proposed upgrades, such as the development of new compliant netball courts and lighting, are financially sustainable and deliver long-term community benefit.

The construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting project will replace the existing ageing netball infrastructure, which is approaching the end of its serviceable life. Investment in a modern, compliant facility will reduce ongoing maintenance liabilities, improve safety, and ensure the continuation of local netball competitions within Wycheproof.

Under the 2025–26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund, the project is eligible for up to \$500,000 in State Government funding toward the total estimated project cost of \$900,000. The remaining \$400,000 funding gap will be met through a shared commitment between Council and the community, with each contributing \$200,000.

Council's financial contribution will be allocated from available capital works funds in the 2026/27 financial year. Ongoing maintenance and operational costs for the new facility will be incorporated into Council's existing operational budget to ensure sustainable asset management into the future.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Key plans the project takes into consideration:

- Fair Play Code
- Fair Access Roadmap
- Female Friendly Sport Infrastructure Guidelines
- Guidelines for Preventing Violence against Women
- AFL Central Victoria Facilities Strategy
- Active Victoria
- VicHealth Physical Activity Strategy
- Victorian Integrity in Sport Action Plan
- Design for Everyone Guide

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting at the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve aligns strongly with key priorities and actions outlined in the Buloke Shire Council Plan, Recreation and Open Space Strategy, and the Buloke Shire Inclusiveness Plan.

The project supports Council's commitment to fostering inclusive, accessible, and high-quality recreation opportunities for all residents. By delivering modern, compliant facilities, the project will ensure equitable participation across genders and age groups, aligning with Council's focus on gender equality, community wellbeing, and active lifestyles.

The proposed works also complement the objectives of the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve and Racecourse Reserve Masterplan 2021-2033, which identifies the replacement of the existing netball court as a priority project to ensure the long-term sustainability and safety of sport and recreation within the community.

Importantly, the project reflects a collaborative approach between Council, the Wycheproof sporting community, and local user groups, demonstrating a shared commitment to improving facilities that benefit the broader Buloke community.

Once complete, the upgraded courts and lighting will enhance opportunities for community events, competitions, and social participation, supporting inclusive use of public open space and encouraging active, connected, and resilient communities across the Shire.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council has met its transparency obligations by ensuring consultation has been undertaken with relevant stakeholders within the Wycheproof community.

Council officers have engaged with Wyche Alive, Committee members of the Wycheproof Narraport Football, Netball, Hockey Club, Cricket Club, Wycheproof Bowling Club and Croquet clubs to seek support and feedback regarding the project proposal.

If Council resolve to accept the recommendations to access the required Council funds and apply for this Local Sports Infrastructure Fund, officers will:

- Establish a formal project advisory group for the project; and
- Undertake a proactive media engagement strategy to explain the rationale for Council's decision, the application process, and long-term benefits for the community if successful.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The following officers have declared conflicts of interest due to their involvement in the Calder United Football, Netball and Hockey Club, respectively and will complete conflict management plans with Executive Officers:

Trevor Rumbold – Senior Engineer Buildings and Open Spaces

Rory White – Acting Manager of Community Development

Jenna Allan – Acting Chief Executive Officer

No other officer involved in the development of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.2.3.1 - 2025-26- Local- Sports- Infrastructure- Fund- Guidelines

2025-26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund

Guidelines

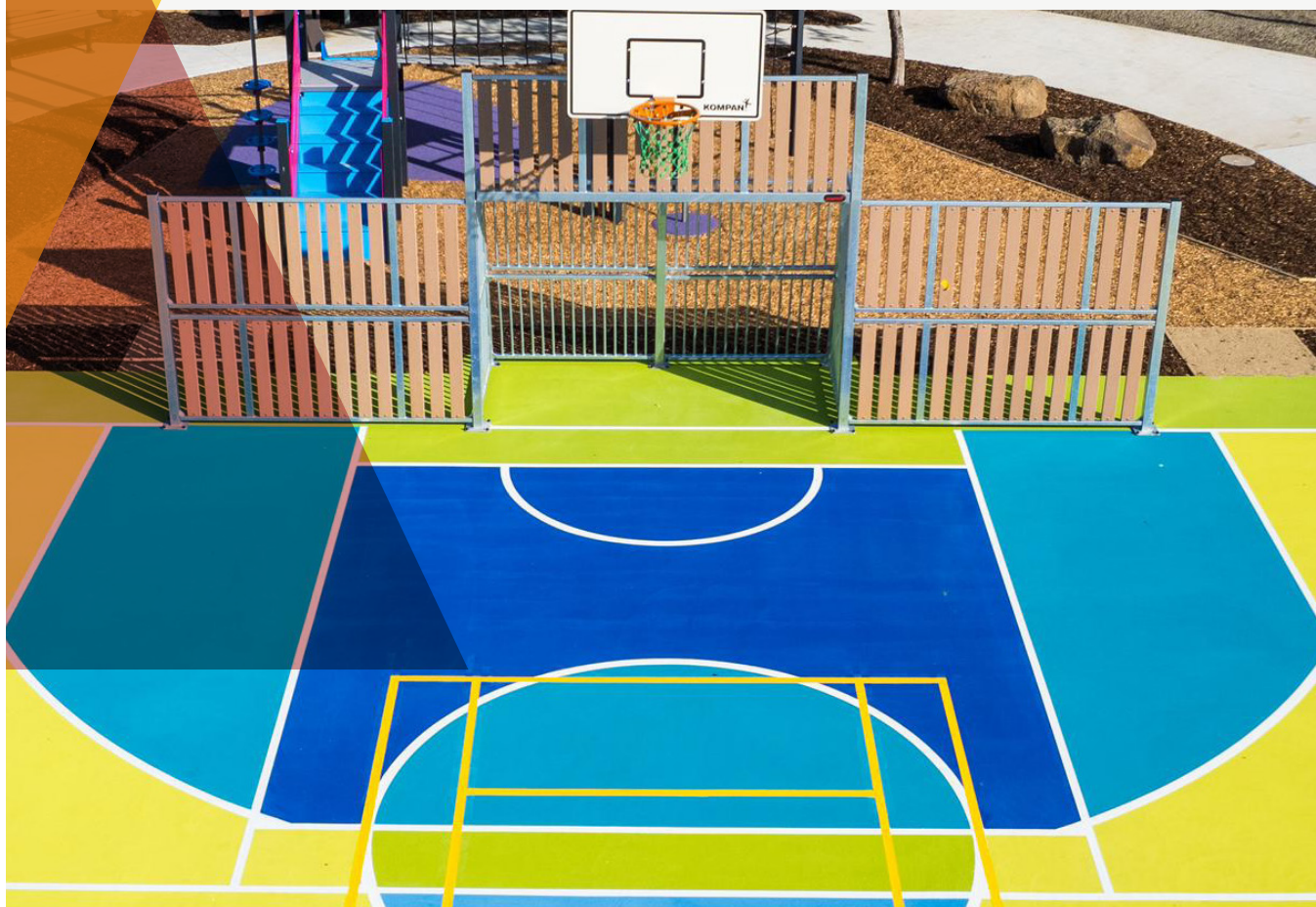


Image credit: Noble Court Reserve (Brimbank City Council)

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of country throughout Victoria, their ongoing connection to this land and we pay our respects to their culture and their Elders past, present and future.

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Message from the Minister

To encourage even more Victorians to get active and participate in sport and active recreation, the Victorian Government is supporting Victorian communities by investing in even more local sport and active recreation infrastructure.

As the Minister for Community Sport, I'm pleased to announce applications are now open for the 2025-26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund – backed by funding from the Victorian Budget 2025-26.

With overwhelming demand for more modern and accessible sport and active recreation facilities across the state, the fund supports projects across 3 funding streams with grants of up to \$500,000 for Community Facilities, up to \$250,000 for Community Sports Lighting and up to \$40,000 for Planning.

Better infrastructure will allow sports clubs, facility managers and community organisations to accommodate more people, create more participation opportunities and draw more interest, creating a real buzz in the community and boosting local economies.

In this round all Victorian Local Government Authorities and Alpine Resorts Victoria are eligible to apply for funds towards a range of community sports infrastructure and active recreation developments including change rooms, sports fields, play spaces, sports lighting, skate parks, planning projects and more to benefit local clubs and communities.

Since 2018, the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund has invested more than \$99.4 million into more than 375 community projects.

This is part of the more than \$2.4 billion invested by the Victorian Government in community sport and active recreation infrastructure since 2014.

These investments are backed by the *Fair Access Policy Roadmap* – a Victorian Government initiative ensuring women and girls get equal access to community sport facilities across the state.

They also support local economies by creating economic activity and hundreds of jobs for planners, architects, engineers, project managers, builders, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, facility managers and operational staff. Sourcing local materials will enable many more Victorian businesses to thrive.

I look forward to seeing new and exciting projects supported through the 2025-26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.



The Hon. Ros Spence MP
Minister for Community Sport



2025-26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund

1.1 About the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund

The 2025-26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund (the Fund) is a statewide competitive Victorian Government investment program. It provides funding to develop high-quality, accessible community sport and active recreation infrastructure.

The Fund promotes partnerships between the Victorian Government, Local Government Authorities (LGAs), Alpine Resorts Victoria (ARV), sporting clubs and associations, schools, educational institutions, and community organisations.

The Fund aims to increase and promote opportunities so Victorians can participate in ways that suit them and is targeted towards individuals and communities who participate less. This aligns with the strategic directions identified in [Active Victoria 2022-2026: A strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria](#).

Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) administers the Fund, which is underpinned by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions' (DJSIR) priorities of driving a strong and resilient economy that benefits all Victorians. It does this by creating more opportunities for people through jobs and skills, supporting businesses and industries to grow and prosper, and building vibrant communities and regions.

1.2 Outcomes

The Fund reflects the Victorian Government's commitment to securing the many benefits of participating in sport and active recreation. This includes supporting Victorians, particularly those individuals and communities who participate less to achieve better health, wellbeing, social, and economic outcomes through the construction, programming and activation of community sport and active recreation infrastructure.

The Fund will invest in proposals that can demonstrate commitment to the following outcomes:

- provides additional participation opportunities through the development of multi-use community sport and active recreation infrastructure
- increased participation opportunities for individuals and groups who participate less, including socio-economically disadvantaged communities
- provides equitable and inclusive participation opportunities for women and girls in community sport and active recreation
- improved sustainable design and planning to ensure infrastructure investment is building better and more liveable communities
- increased local economic activity through the planning, building, management, and activation of redeveloped or new infrastructure.

1.3 Investment priorities

Priority will be given to projects that:

- provide the strongest participation outcomes, including supporting existing participation, for groups that participate less in community sport and active recreation including women and girls, Aboriginal Victorians, people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, people from LGBTIQ+ communities, and economically disadvantaged communities as identified in [Active Victoria 2022-2026: A strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria](#)
- support communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, particularly projects that support suburbs and towns within the 2 most disadvantaged deciles in Victoria as per the [Australian Bureau of Statistics Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, 2021](#)
- support communities in areas of need that have experienced natural disasters (for example, drought affected areas, floods, bushfires) or communities experiencing strong population growth or significant change in circumstances (for example, economic challenges)
- demonstrate multi-use, shared and integrated facilities including those on school land that can ensure long-term community access. Please see [Section 3.6](#) for information regarding facilities on school land
- provide a confirmed active recreation benefit through improved facility availability, scheduling, public access, and policy development (for projects with **lighting** elements)
- demonstrate economic uplift in the form of job creation during construction and operation, non-government investment and local event attraction.

2.



Image credit: Lara Recreation Reserve Baseball Pavilion (Greater Geelong City Council)

Eligibility

2.1 Eligible applicants

Only **Victorian LGAs and ARV** are eligible to apply to the Fund.

In line with the Victorian Government's [Fair Access Policy Roadmap](#), all Victorian LGAs must continue to have an acceptable gender equitable access and use policy (or equivalent) in place to be considered eligible for funding from the Program.

LGAs/ARV must discuss potential project/s with their SRV representatives to receive feedback on eligible projects before submitting their application/s.

Sport and recreation clubs, sporting associations and leagues, educational institutions, not-for-profit community organisations, businesses and individuals cannot directly apply to the Fund.

Local clubs, committees of management and organisations are advised to contact their LGA/ARV if they wish to express interest, seek support or be involved as a partner in applications to the Fund.

2.2 Eligible applications

Only eligible applications will be assessed and considered for funding by SRV.

To be eligible for funding, applications must:

- ensure the project scope and funding request adhere to the relevant funding stream requirements
- be able to demonstrate that the infrastructure project will be completed within 24 months of execution of a Grant Agreement with the DJSIR (for successful projects)
- exclude activities listed in [Section 7](#)
- be submitted (including all supporting documentation) by **5:00 pm on Tuesday 2 December 2025**.

Each individual infrastructure project requires a separate application. Bundled projects will be deemed ineligible.

Stages of a larger facility development may seek support from the Fund, providing the stage addresses the assessment criteria and meets all other eligibility requirements. For a staged project, please provide information on the delivery of any future stages, including timelines.

3.



Funding opportunities

3.1 Funding streams

Funding is available under the following streams:

Stream	Community Facilities	Community Sports Lighting	Planning
Number of applications	Unlimited but cannot exceed \$500,000 in total across all applications per LGA/ARV	Unlimited but cannot exceed \$250,000 in total across all applications per LGA/ARV	One Facility Planning or One Municipal Planning application per LGA/ARV
Maximum total grant amount per applicant	Up to \$500,000	Up to \$250,000	Up to \$40,000
Project types eligible for funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing new or redeveloping change rooms and pavilions to increase capacity, inclusion and safety new and/or redeveloped sports fields and sports courts multi-sport training facilities that are publicly accessible active recreation spaces such as multi-activity facilities, outdoor exercise equipment or redevelopment of indoor spaces, such as appropriate flooring for fitness classes projects that result in improved facility carrying capacity, such as new drainage, irrigation and grass installations playspaces, skate parks, pump tracks, BMX tracks, and outdoor splash parks. 	<p>Funding can only be sought for LED lighting infrastructure through this stream.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new lighting that provides capacity for sports fields, sports courts or playing areas to host activities redeveloped or additional lighting to extend capacity (usage times and coverage) of sports fields, sports courts or playing areas new, redeveloped or additional lighting to extend availability and capacity of active recreation facilities. 	<p>The stream provides support to undertake a range of specific facility and strategic planning projects that contribute to infrastructure readiness and/or the long-term direction of facility and open space.</p> <p>Facility Planning (single site facility planning only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> facility planning activities supporting project readiness. This may include Designs (minimum schematic) and/or Quantity Surveyor and/or Technical or Specialised Reports (for example, Geotech, Turf analysis, Sustainability Report)

Stream	Community Facilities	Community Sports Lighting	Planning
Project types eligible for funding (cont)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> installation of new LED or redeveloping lighting that benefits community sport and active recreation spaces when forming part of a larger project. Replacement of non-LED lamps with LED Lighting Infrastructure to enable lighting standards to be met will be permitted redevelopment/upgrade to outdoor aquatic facilities that improve accessibility and participation such as leisure water, change rooms and energy or water efficiency upgrades, for example, heating of water spaces re-purposing indoor sport or recreation spaces to create new participation opportunities redeveloping or complementing sports facilities to include new active recreation infrastructure accessibility improvements for facilities where Senior Victorians participate such as ramps and change rooms LED electronic scoreboards and fixed equipment including but not limited to sports field behind goal safety netting and player/coaches' boxes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> replacement of non-LED lighting with LED lamps to permit lighting standards to be met. Should existing lighting poles and arms be retained, a report from an engineer or other suitable expert confirming that they are structurally sound must be provided projects that also provide active recreation benefits by facilitating use of sports facilities outside of formal sport usage or lighting adjacent spaces to facilitate active recreation usage by the community (please refer to the Lighting outdoor sports facilities for active recreation: Research summary for further information). <p>Priority will be given to sports lighting applications that also provide a confirmed active recreation benefit through improved facility availability, scheduling, public access, and policy development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> proposed facilities should be strategically significant and evidenced by master plans or strategic plans single site planning only. <p>Municipal Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strategic planning for specific facility type/s such as playspaces, aquatic facilities, indoor stadiums, etc. master planning across 3 or more sites infrastructure and participation strategies for specific sports and/or active recreation activities feasibility studies for one or more significant projects.

3.2 Timelines

Applications open	Applications close	Outcomes announced	Grant Agreements executed	Project completion
2 September 2025	2 December 2025	From April 2026	From April 2026	April 2028 No later than 24 months from execution of the Grant Agreement

3.3 Funding ratios

Funding ratios apply to the Fund as outlined in the table below.

Applicants must confirm matched funding consistent with the funding ratios for the applicable stream. Ratios are calculated using total project cost (**exclusive of GST**).

Applications may include project management fees of up to 7.5% of the total project cost (**exclusive of GST**).

Applications must include contingency that is a minimum 10% of the total project cost (**exclusive of GST**).

Applicants cannot use other State Government funding, such as funding from the Growing Suburbs Fund, as part of their local contribution throughout the delivery of the project.

Local contributions may comprise of funding from other organisations including LGAs/ARV, sport and recreation clubs, state sporting associations, schools, educational institutions, Federal Government, community organisations or in-kind support (limits apply to in-kind support).

Location	Community Facilities	Community Sports Lighting	Planning
Metropolitan Melbourne	SRV = \$1 Local = \$1	SRV = \$1 Local = \$1	SRV = \$1 Local = \$1
Metropolitan Interface*	SRV = \$1.5 Local = \$1	SRV = \$1.5 Local = \$1	SRV = \$1.5 Local = \$1
Ballarat, Greater Bendigo, Greater Geelong	SRV = \$1.5 Local = \$1	SRV = \$1.5 Local = \$1	SRV = \$1.5 Local = \$1
Regional and Rural Victoria/ARV	SRV = \$3 Local = \$1	SRV = \$3 Local = \$1	SRV = \$3 Local = \$1

* Cardinia, Casey, Hume, Melton, Mornington Peninsula, Nillumbik, Whittlesea, Wyndham and Yarra Ranges

3.4 In-kind contributions

An in-kind contribution is a contribution of a good or service other than money. Applications for infrastructure projects can claim in-kind expenses up to a maximum of 50% of the local contribution.

LGAs/ARV must approve and underwrite any in-kind contribution from third parties for each applicable application. Examples include voluntary labour, donated goods and donated services.

Applications that include in-kind contributions must provide:

- a completed [in-kind and voluntary support form](#)
- a letter from the LGA/ARV Chief Executive Officer that approves and underwrites any in-kind contributions.

3.5 Fair Access Policy Roadmap

All Victorian LGAs must continue to have an acceptable gender equitable access and use policy (or equivalent) in place to be considered eligible to receive community sport infrastructure funding, reflecting the Victorian Government's [Fair Access Policy Roadmap](#) (the Roadmap). The Roadmap is embedding a statewide foundation to improve the access to, and use of, community sports infrastructure for women and girls.

Policies ensure that women and girls can fully participate in and enjoy the benefits of community sport, with fair opportunity and access to their local community sport facilities.

3.6 Facilities on school land

LGAs are eligible to apply to the Fund for projects located on school land.

For projects on school land, applicants must provide a Community Joint Use Proposal which is completed by the applicant and the school and a letter from the Department of Education central office that endorses the project.

Projects on non-government school land are also eligible for funding and require a similar demonstration of commitment from both parties to ensure long-term community access is achieved under agreed terms.

3.7 Facilities on Crown land

LGAs are eligible to apply to the Fund for projects located on Crown land. Partnerships between LGAs, committees of management and other land managers for projects that support community sport and active recreation outcomes on Crown land are encouraged.

4.



Funding streams

4.1 Community Facilities Stream

The Community Facilities Stream supports the development of a broad range of new, or redevelopment of existing, community sport and active recreation infrastructure ensuring all infrastructure is high-quality, multi-use and accessible to all. Refer to [Section 3.1](#) for a list of eligible projects under the Community Facilities Stream.

4.1.1 Application details

As per [Section 3.1](#), applicants may submit an unlimited number of applications but cannot exceed \$500,000 in total across all applications per LGA/ARV.

Applicants must respond to assessment criteria for the Community Facilities stream outlined in [Section 4.1.2](#) and provide all the mandatory supporting documentation in [Section 5](#). The quality of supporting documentation provided will also be considered during assessment.

Priority will be given to projects that can demonstrate alignment with the Investment Priorities as outlined in [Section 1.3](#).

Each project requires a separate application under this stream. Bundled projects will be deemed ineligible.

4.1.2 Assessment criteria

Criteria	Weighting	Questions
Project Need and Readiness	40%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is the project needed? What participation issue/s is the project seeking to address? 2. Describe the project scope, including all components. Detail any Universal Design principles and Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) initiatives. 3. What project planning has been done to date? Outline what steps will be taken to finish the works within 24 months. <p>Note: the suburb where the project is located is also considered as part of the assessment of this criterion, in accordance with the Australian Bureau of Statistics Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, 2021 and in-line with the Investment Priorities (as per Section 1.3).</p>

Criteria	Weighting	Questions
Project Outcomes	40%	<p>4. This question does not apply to Scoreboards and Fixed Equipment projects.</p> <p>4a. Explain how the project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase participation and/or support existing participation in community sport and active recreation, including achievement of multi-use outcomes. Please detail any current and future activities, programs and activations that will result from the project. improve participation for those individuals and communities that participate less in community sport and active recreation (as per Section 1.3) support existing and proposed initiatives, policies and practices that support gender equity (this does not apply to active recreation projects). <p>This question applies to Scoreboards and Fixed Equipment projects only.</p> <p>4b. Explain how the project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support volunteer efforts, participant safety, participant or visitor experiences support under-represented groups and/or disadvantaged communities.
Community and Stakeholder Engagement	20%	<p>5. Detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the consultation and engagement that has occurred with the local community and other stakeholders for the project any further consultation and engagement that will occur for the project. <p>Evidence must be provided of community consultation and its findings and/or outcomes where there is any impact of the proposed project on residential or community amenity.</p> <p>Evidence must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> how the local community has been consulted/informed about the proposed project (for example, on site consultation, letter box drop, social media posts) local community consultation findings and outcomes of any engagement (community consultation report, summary of resident feedback, recent master plan). <p>A further guidance note related to this requirement is available at the SRV Website.</p>

4.2 Community Sports Lighting Stream

This Community Sports Lighting stream supports the installation of LED sports lighting infrastructure that increases facility capacity and participation opportunities. Refer to [Section 3.1](#) for a list of eligible projects under the Community Sports Lighting Stream.

4.2.1 Application details

As per [Section 3.1](#), applicants may submit an unlimited number of applications but cannot exceed \$250,000 in total across all applications per LGA/ARV.

Applicants must respond to assessment criteria for the Community Sports Lighting Stream outlined in [Section 4.2.2](#) and provide all the mandatory supporting documentation listed in [Section 5](#). The quality of supporting documentation provided will also be considered during assessment.

Priority will be given to applications that clearly demonstrate a commitment to lighting that supports community sport and active recreation usage. For example, extending lighting hours beyond training sessions or on days where training is not held, for broader community and active recreation use (refer to the [Lighting outdoor sports facilities for active recreation: Research summary](#) for further information). Priority will also be given to projects that can demonstrate alignment with the Investment Priorities as outlined in [Section 1.3](#).

Applications should also advise whether a power upgrade will be required onsite, or if the current power is suitable for the new lighting.

Each project requires a separate application under this stream. Bundled projects will be deemed ineligible.

4.2.2 Assessment criteria

Criteria	Weighting	Questions
Project Need and Readiness	40%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is the project needed? What participation issue/s is the project seeking to address? 2. Describe the project scope, including all components. Detail any Universal Design principles and Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) initiatives. 3. What project planning has been done to date? Outline what steps will be taken to finish the works within 24 months. <p>Note: the suburb where the project is located is also considered as part of the assessment of this criterion, in accordance with the Australian Bureau of Statistics Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, 2021 and in-line with the Investment Priorities (as per Section 1.3).</p>
Project Outcomes	40%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Explain how the project will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase participation and/or support existing participation in community sport and active recreation, including achievement of multi-use outcomes. Please detail any current and future activities, programs and activations that will result from the project. • improve participation for those individuals and communities that participate less in community sport and active recreation (as per Section 1.3) • support existing and proposed initiatives, policies and practices that support gender equity.

Criteria	Weighting	Questions
Community and Stakeholder Engagement	20%	<p>5. Detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the consultation and engagement that has occurred with the local community and other stakeholders for the project any further consultation and engagement that will occur for the project. <p>Evidence must be provided of community consultation and its findings and/or outcomes where there is any impact of the proposed project on residential or community amenity.</p> <p>Evidence must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> how the local community has been consulted/informed about the proposed project (for example, on site consultation, letter box drop, social media posts) local community consultation findings and outcomes of any engagement (community consultation report, summary of resident feedback, recent master plan). <p>A further guidance note related to this requirement is available at the SRV Website.</p>

4.3 Planning Stream

The Planning Stream provides support to undertake a range of specific facility and strategic planning projects that contribute to infrastructure readiness and/or the long-term direction of facility and open space. These projects are independent, consultative and improve sport and active recreation coordination to meet demand.

Refer to [Section 1.3](#) for a list of eligible projects under the Planning Stream. **Projects that deliver concept plans will not be supported and deemed ineligible (refer to the Glossary).**

4.3.1 Application details

As per [Section 3.1](#), applicants may submit one Facility Planning or one Municipal Planning project per LGA/ARV up to \$40,000.

Applicants must respond to relevant assessment criteria for the Planning stream outlined in [Section 4.3.2](#) and provide all the mandatory documentation listed in [Section 5](#). The quality of supporting documentation provided will also be considered during assessment.

Priority will be given to projects that can demonstrate alignment with the Investment Priorities as outlined in [Section 1.3](#).

4.3.2 Assessment criteria

Criteria	Weighting	Questions
Project Need and Readiness	50%	<p>1. Why is the planning project needed? What participation issue/s is the project seeking to address?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facility Planning projects: will need to address how the proposed facility addresses a gap in single or multi-use infrastructure provision and the planning supports project readiness. Confirm the project scope can be delivered within budget and the programs timeframe. <p>Note: the suburb where the project is located is considered as part of the assessment of this criterion, in accordance with the Australian Bureau of Statistics Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, 2021 and in-line with the Investment Priorities (as per Section 1.3).</p>
Project Outcomes	30%	<p>2. How will the planning project result in infrastructure delivery, system improvements, investment prioritisation, policy, management, or programmatic changes that improve the health, social and economic wellbeing of the community?</p> <p>Note: Facility Planning applications will specifically need to identify how the proposed works will develop documentation to ensure infrastructure project readiness.</p> <p>3. Explain how participation of those individuals and communities who participate less will be benefit through the completed planning project.</p>
Community and Stakeholder Engagement	20%	<p>4. Detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the consultation and engagement that has occurred with the local community and other stakeholders for the project any further consultation and engagement that will occur for the project. Facility Planning projects: will need to detail all relevant consultation in the Project Management Framework including for individuals and communities who participate less. Municipal Planning projects: will need to detail consultation and engagement in the draft project brief methodology. This should include reference to those individuals and communities who participate less, stakeholders and project partners.

5.



Supporting documentation

The table below outlines the mandatory and desired supporting documentation for each funding stream. Please submit all mandatory documentation with your application to ensure eligibility and demonstrate project readiness. Desired supporting documentation is not a requirement however it will further demonstrate project readiness, if applicable.

Please also refer to the **Supporting Documents Checklist** on the [SRV website](#) to assist with the development of your application and supporting documentation. This checklist can also be submitted with your application if you wish to provide any additional comments.

The quality of the documentation will be assessed in conjunction with LGA/ARV responses to the assessment criteria for the funding stream. Refer to [Section 6](#) for instructions about how to submit supporting documentation for your application.

Supporting documentation	Community Facilities	Community Sports Lighting	Planning
Project Management Framework	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Site specific plan/aerial map clearly showing the location of proposed facilities.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory for Master Plans only
Site specific schematic plans developed with stakeholder input including clear dimensions, measurements and scale. The plans should support compliance against relevant State Sporting Association Facility Guidelines. (Not applicable for modular construction projects). Irrigation and drainage projects should include clearly labelled drainage plans. Note: High level concept plans, hand drawn plans, generic plans or plans from previous projects will not be accepted. Scoreboards and Fixed Equipment projects should provide a minimum of clear product specifications and a concept plan.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Not applicable
For prefabricated/modular construction projects: Detailed area schedule.	Mandatory if applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Supporting documentation	Community Facilities	Community Sports Lighting	Planning
<p>Lighting plans including lux charts (field of play), pole locations, height and footings that are site specific (where lighting is requested in the project scope).</p> <p>Where a project is proposing to retain existing lighting poles, a report from an independent engineer or other suitable expert evidencing that these poles and arms are structurally sound must be provided.</p> <p>Applications should also advise whether a power upgrade will be required onsite, or if the current power is suitable for the new lighting.</p>	Mandatory if applicable	Mandatory	Not applicable
<p>Project costings:</p> <p>All costings provided should detail and match the scope outlined in the application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If total project cost is \$1 million or over (excluding GST): Quantity survey, tender price or independent qualified expert report that clearly identifies all items within the project scope (no more than 6 months old). If total project cost is under \$1 million (excluding GST): Quotes or internal cost estimates (no more than 6 months old). <p>Note: Where multiple quotes are provided, please provide a cover page/costings summary of the quotes/costings that equals the total project cost.</p>	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory Internal Estimate or other costings if available
<p>Evidence confirming funding required to finish the project::</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter from Chief Executive Officer confirming the applicant's funding for the project and commitment to deliver the scope outlined in the application. Please also provide a Council Resolution if available. <p>Note: The Grant Agreement requires recipients to remain responsible for cost over runs to deliver the scope proposed.</p> <p>In addition to the above, SRV also requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> where funding is from another government department, evidence of this funding via letter or funding agreement must be provided where funding from clubs/organisations is indicated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a letter from that organisation's authorised officer, stating the funding amount committed current bank statement/s demonstrating the funding amount is held by the organisation. 	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
<p>Attach evidence that the Aboriginal Heritage Planning Tool (<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i>) has been completed to determine if a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is required for the project.</p>	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory if applicable
<p>In-kind and voluntary labour support form</p>	Mandatory if applicable	Mandatory if applicable	Mandatory if applicable

Supporting documentation	Community Facilities	Community Sports Lighting	Planning
<u>Schedule of Use</u>	Mandatory except for active recreation projects	Mandatory	Not applicable
<u>Fair Play Code Form for Tenants</u> from all clubs and/or associations that are tenants of the facility and benefiting from the project.	Mandatory except for active recreation projects	Mandatory	Not applicable
Letters of support from organisations that clearly indicate how the group is involved with or benefits from the project.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Evidence of community and stakeholder consultation where there is any impact of the proposed project on residential or community amenity. Evidence must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> how the local community has been consulted/informed about the proposed project (for example, on site consultation, letter box drop, social media posts) consultation findings and outcomes of any engagement (community consultation report, summary of resident feedback, recent master plan). 	Mandatory	Mandatory	Not applicable
For projects on private land: A legally binding land-use agreement.	Mandatory if applicable	Mandatory if applicable	For Facility Planning: Mandatory if applicable
For projects on school land: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed Joint Use Agreement, or a Community Joint Use Proposal to enter into a Community Joint Use Agreement; letter from the Department of Education central office that indicates endorsement of the project. Applicants requesting this letter should email Department of Education. 	Mandatory if applicable	Mandatory if applicable	For Facility Planning: Mandatory if applicable (letter only)
For projects on Crown land: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> letter of support from the land owner. 	Desired	Desired	For Facility Planning: Desired
For Planning Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facility Planning: a Request for Quote and/or Project Proposal Municipal Planning: a Comprehensive Draft Project Brief outlining the scope, methodology and key deliverables 	Not applicable	Not applicable	Mandatory
<u>Project Governance Framework</u>	Desired	Desired	Mandatory
Evidence of current facility condition (e.g. photographs of current facility, facility condition audit, lighting audit demonstrating current lux lighting levels).	Desired	Desired	Desired

Supporting documentation	Community Facilities	Community Sports Lighting	Planning
Gender Impact Assessment	Desired	Desired	Desired
Business or feasibility planning documents	Desired	Desired	Desired
Environmentally Sustainable Design report(s) and associated budget	Desired	Desired	Not applicable
Facility Management Plan	Desired	Desired	Not applicable
Access audit	Desired	Desired	Not applicable
Soil/Geotechnical assessments	Desired	Desired	Not applicable



Application Process and Closing Date

Step	Action required
1. Confirm eligibility	<p>Confirm you are an eligible applicant and meet other eligibility requirements (as per Section 2).</p> <p>Confirm your project is eligible under a Local Sports Infrastructure Fund funding stream (as per Section 3.1).</p> <p>Confirm grant amount sought is within the SRV funding limits (as per Section 3.1).</p> <p>Confirm the funding ratio for the relevant stream (as per Section 3.3).</p>
2. Contact SRV	<p>LGAs/ARV must discuss project ideas with their SRV representative/s prior to applying.</p> <p>LGAs/ARV will be provided with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high-level design feedback including alignment with relevant sporting guidelines • guidance on the development of proposals that have merit, that align with the Fund objectives and that are ready to proceed. <p>Applicants should seek independent advice before signing a Grant Agreement.</p>
3. Prepare Application and Supporting Documents	<p>LGAs/ARV to prepare applications by addressing all assessment criteria and submitting all mandatory supporting documents for the relevant stream.</p> <p>The preparation and submission of applications are at the cost of the applicant.</p> <p>Please only use whole dollar amounts (e.g. \$250,000) in your requested amounts and total project values when completing application. Do not include cents or decimal points.</p>

Step	Action required
4. Submit application by closing date	<p>Eligible applicants must complete the application form (including responses to the assessment criteria for the relevant stream) via the SRV website by 5:00 pm on Tuesday 2 December 2025.</p> <p>An application must address all assessment criteria as per the relevant stream. Claims made against each criterion must be substantiated with evidence.</p> <p>Applications submitted after the closing date may not be considered eligible unless an extension has been requested and approved in writing by SRV before the closing date. Approval will only be granted under exceptional circumstances (for example, significant technology disruptions or impacts from natural disasters).</p>
5. Submit supporting documents by closing date	<p>Email all supporting documents to: communityinfrastructure@sport.vic.gov.au by 5:00 pm on Tuesday 2 December 2025. Please ensure all supporting documents are clearly named (for example, Plans – Project Name, Costs – Project Name).</p> <p>Zip all supporting documents into one compressed folder. Please see instructions below on how to zip files into a compressed folder. Quote your project name in the subject line of your email.</p> <p>If documentation is not provided at the time of application, SRV reserves the right to deem the application ineligible.</p> <p>Please email communityinfrastructure@sport.vic.gov.au if you experience any issues with emailing your supporting documentation.</p> <p>Compressing files into a compressed folder: Select all files using your mouse, then right click, select Send to and then select Compressed (zipped) folder. This will prompt a Save window allowing you to save all selected files into one compressed folder.</p> <p>The size limit of an email varies between 20mb to 30mb. If your documents combined exceed this, you will need to split them into separate compressed folders and email them separately (for example, Part 1 – Project Name, Part 2 – Project Name).</p>

7.



Types of activities that will not be funded

- Facilities where little or no public access is available.
- Facilities without a primary purpose of community sport or active recreation.
- Projects that do not meet relevant sport or Australian Standards (for example, lighting projects). Facilities that do not comply with the relevant sport standard must seek exemption from the relevant sporting organisation and supply appropriate evidence to be supported by the Fund.
- The replacement of like-for-like surfaces (for example, synthetic surface replaced by a similar synthetic surface) are ineligible for funding. To be eligible for funding the application will need to demonstrate that additional uses are proposed and/or a multi-purpose element is being introduced. Exceptional circumstances may be considered where significant safety or compliance issues are evident, and an activity will not continue to be conducted as a result. Applicants will need to provide a condition audit or other technical evidence demonstrating the safety or compliance issue.
- The purchase of land (in general, the land on which the facility development is proposed will be municipal property, a Crown reserve, land owned by a public authority, private land with public access rights or land held for public purposes by trustees).
- Requests for retrospective funding, where projects have started construction or are finished prior to the execution of a Grant Agreement (construction includes, but is not limited to demolition, site clearing, earthworks, building works and any form of early works).
- Buildings or equipment considered temporary or not permanent in nature or intended use for projects funded through the infrastructure streams.
- Metal halide lighting (only LED lighting systems will be funded).
- Upgrading or redeveloping kitchens or public toilet facilities, except as part of a larger project that meets the objectives of the relevant Fund stream.
- Requests for ongoing operational costs such as, but not limited to, salaries, electricity, water, asset maintenance and other utilities.
- Routine or cyclical maintenance works.
- Purchasing or maintaining recreation, entertainment, sporting, lifesaving or any other equipment (except as part of facility fit out).
- Projects previously funded by SRV, unless applicants can demonstrate additional or new uses resulting in increased participation/programming outcomes.
- Repair of facilities damaged by vandalism, fire or other natural disasters where the damage can be fully covered by insurance. The Fund may consider supporting applications where the scope includes elements that are not covered by insurance, or for amounts exceeding the value insured.
- In general, areas designated as licensed areas within a proposed facility will not be eligible for funding. DJSIR may consider applications where a restricted club license is proposed or in place, provided that the restricted license does not interfere with the facility's other amenities or services, such as childcare or access by young people.

- Tenant clubs that have failed to resolve a breach of the Fair Play Code.
- Applications for bundled projects where the one single application proposes to deliver multiple projects that will occur at different sites.
- Applications where the project beneficiary receives revenue directly from Electronic Gaming Machines will not be prioritised.
- **For Municipal Planning:** single site master plans.
- **For Facility Planning:** other pre-planning documents (for example, Cultural Heritage Management Plan, Facility Asset Audits) or specific facility business case, advocacy documents or management plans. Projects that deliver concept plans (please refer to the Glossary).

8.



Assessment Process

Only eligible applications submitted by eligible applicants will be assessed and considered for funding by SRV. Please refer to [Section 2](#) for eligibility requirements and [Section 6](#) for details about the application process.

SRV reserves the right to not assess an application should insufficient information be provided, including responses to assessment criteria and mandatory supporting documentation. SRV reserves the right to negotiate a lower than requested funding amount for submitted applications.

Applications will be considered against the assessment criteria by SRV staff and then reviewed by a Moderation Panel. The Moderation Panel will also consider the Investment Priorities outlined at [Section 1.3](#) and in each stream before making recommendations to the Minister. Consideration will also be given to ensuring an equitable distribution of funding across Victorian regions.

SRV will also consider an applicant's past performance and the organisation's capacity to deliver projects on time. Compliance with past Grant Agreements and the number and duration of overdue milestones (including final acquittal and outcomes reports) for existing projects will also be considered, along with live projects with significant budget shortfalls.

Decisions regarding funding by the Minister for Community Sport are final and no further correspondence shall be entered into regarding such decisions.

LGAs/ARV are invited to seek feedback from SRV on unsuccessful applications.

9.



Conditions that apply to funding

9.1 Grant Agreements

Successful applicants must enter a Grant Agreement with DJSIR with initial project payments made in the 2025–26 financial year.

The Grant Agreement will include reference to the following:

- recipients are responsible for all Project cost overruns
- the facility tenant club/s are expected to adhere to the Fair Play Code or related state sporting association Code of Conduct. More information can be found at [Fair Play Code](#)
- recipients may seek timing and/or scope variations for funded projects. Consideration of variations may lead to changes in deliverables, milestones, grant amount and payments
- LGAs/ARV must inform the participating organisation/s, where applicable, of all funding arrangements and obligations in relation to the grant allocation. This includes ensuring the funded project does not start prior to the execution of the Grant Agreement
- acknowledgement and Ministerial event requirements.

An LGA/ARV Officer must be designated to manage the project and provide information to DJSIR according to the following key reporting requirements:

- a Project Management Framework must be completed and submitted for all applications. Dates within the Project Management Framework will inform Grant Agreement milestones for successful projects.
- LGAs/ARV must secure SRV's endorsement of key documents such as schematic plans and architectural/planning briefs prior to works commencing. Projects must not start or be tendered until endorsement is provided. SRV may not make milestone payments if endorsement is not secured in a timely manner
- LGAs/ARV must provide project acquittal documentation as required
- LGAs/ARV are expected to guarantee the cash flow payments towards works where a community organisation is providing funding contributions for a project
- LGAs/ARV must contribute information on activity outcomes for use in outcomes reporting, program evaluation reviews or DJSIR publications, 12 months after project acquittal.

A participation plan may be required for some applications funded. This will form part of the Grant Agreement. This will include details on how groups that participate less will be engaged and their participation facilitated.

9.2 Acknowledging the Victorian Government's support and promoting success

Successful applicants are required to acknowledge the Victorian Government's support through the Fund. Acknowledgement guidelines form part of the Grant Agreement and include the requirement that all activities acknowledge Victorian Government support through logo presentation on any activity-related publications, media releases, social media posts, and promotional material, and/or placing a Victorian Government endorsed sign at the site of infrastructure activities.

Details of requirements for funded projects are available in the [SRV: Infrastructure Grants Acknowledgement and Publicity Guidelines](#).

Successful applicants may be required to contribute information on activity outcomes for use in program evaluation reviews or DJSIR's marketing materials.

9.3 Payments

Payments will be made conditional upon:

- the Grant Agreement having been signed by both parties
- milestones having been achieved to the DJSIR's satisfaction including provision of required/ requested information and reports to the satisfaction of the DJSIR.
- other terms and conditions of funding continue to be met.

A minimum of 5% of the grant will be paid upon financial acquittal of the project.

Payments advanced prior to completion are subject to refund if the Project is not performed in accordance with the Grant Agreement.

9.4 Privacy

DJSIR is committed to protecting your privacy. Any personal information about you or a third party in your application will be collected for the purposes of administering your grant application and informing the public of successful applications.

To be able to administer your grant application effectively and efficiently, we may need to disclose your personal information to State and Commonwealth Government departments and external experts, such as members of assessment panels, for the purposes of assessment, consultation, and reporting. If there is an intention to include personal information about third parties in your application, please ensure they are aware of, and consent to the contents of this privacy statement.

Any personal information about you or a third party will be collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* (Vic) and other applicable laws.

DJSIR is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information. Enquiries about access to personal information, or for other concerns regarding the privacy of personal information, can be emailed to [DJSIR Privacy Unit](#).

10.



Resources and additional information

SRV has consolidated several helpful guidelines, tools and resources to assist with project and application development that can be found on the [SRV website](#).

Resource	Supporting Information
Aboriginal Victorians Resources	<p>The Maggolee website was developed by Reconciliation Victoria which provides guidance on and supports engagement and partnerships between local government and Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>The Municipal Association of Victoria website Australia's First Peoples, MAV provides information and a number of resources on Closing the Gap and identifies a number of priorities.</p> <p>Other key resources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Watch – Changing the picture • Australian Sports Commission – First Nations Australians • Department of Health – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural safety framework • Racism it Stops with Me • Commission for Children and Young People – Child Safe Standards • Vicsport – First Nations Initiatives
Cultural Heritage Management Plans (Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018)	<p>This tool is used and completed to determine if a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is required for the project.</p>
Environmentally Sustainable Design	<p>Projects are encouraged to consider Environmentally Sustainable Design. This should be demonstrated with a specific Environmentally Sustainable Design budget in the application. It is good practice to incorporate Environmentally Sustainable Design initiatives in all projects where possible.</p> <p>A fact sheet on Environmentally Sustainable Design Guidelines is available.</p>

Resource	Supporting Information
Fair Access Policy Roadmap	The Fair Access Policy Roadmap aims to develop a statewide foundation to improve the access to, and use of, community sports infrastructure for women and girls. In line with the Victorian Government's Fair Access Policy Roadmap , all Victorian LGAs must continue to have an acceptable gender equitable access and use policy (or equivalent) in place to be considered eligible for funding from the Program. These policies will ensure that women and girls can fully participate in and enjoy the benefits of community sport, with fair opportunity and access to their local facilities.
Fair Play Code	All facility tenant club(s) are expected to adhere to the Fair Play Code or related state sporting association Code of Conduct. A Fair Play Code Form for Tenants should be completed by all tenant organisations.
Female Friendly Sport Infrastructure Guidelines	The Female Friendly Sport Infrastructure Guidelines provide information and advice on how to deliver more gender equitable environments. The Guidelines have relevance to all funding streams.
Future proofing community sport and recreation facilities: a road map for climate change management for the sport and recreation facilities sector	The Guide is designed to support community sports clubs in understanding their impact on the environment and to empower, equip and motivate them to take action and change behaviours within their clubs.
Gender Impact Assessments	<i>The Gender Equality Act 2020</i> requires certain organisations, including LGAs, to do Gender Impact Assessments so that all new policies, programs and services and those up for review, that directly and significantly impact the public, benefit all Victorians. Further information to help understand if a Gender Impact Assessments is required, can be found at Gender Equality Commission .
Healthy Choices	Healthy Choices is a framework for improving availability and promotion of healthier foods and drinks in community settings. Healthy Choices is part of the Victorian Government's commitment to promote healthy food and drink options in a range of public settings including sport and recreation. Sport and recreation organisations can use the framework to provide consistent health promoting messages.
Safe and Inclusive Sport: Preventing gender-based violence Sport and Recreation Victoria	<p>The Guide provides a range of resources, tools and case studies to support sporting organisations and clubs to embed gender equity and ensure their sport is safe and inclusive.</p> <p>The Gender Equity Audit and Gender Equity Action Plan templates can be used with local clubs to ensure they are taking steps to ensure their clubs and facilities are inclusive for people of all genders.</p>
Supporting documentation, forms and templates	Templates, forms and factsheets to support applications can be found on the SRV website . These include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule of Use • Project Management Framework • Project Governance Framework
Universal Design	The concept of Universal Design is to make the built environment more usable to as many people as possible, at little or no additional cost. SRV's Design for Everyone Guide incorporates the Universal Design principles approach to best practice facility design.

11.



Glossary

Term	Definition
Access audit	An access audit is an assessment that rates a building for useability and accessibility for a wide range of users, including people with a disability. It identifies barriers or potential barriers to people with a disability accessing a building and using services inside and around the building.
Authorised Officer for Incorporated Clubs/ Organisations	An authorised officer for Clubs/Organisations is a designated individual/s with authority to act on behalf of the organisation in accordance with the Rules of Incorporation. This includes office bearers like President, Secretary or Treasurer.
Commencement of Works	The undertaking of any project activities that contribute to the physical construction of new infrastructure or upgrades, improvements, refurbishment of existing infrastructure as outlined in the application and supporting information. This includes, but is not limited to, site clearing, earthworks, building works and any form of early works.
Concept Plan	A concept plan serves as a starting point in the site development process. It provides preliminary drawings that convey the concept of the project but with insufficient detail to provide a basis for project costing.
Geotechnical Report	A geotechnical report is a site-specific sub-surface investigation undertaken by a geotechnical engineer. The document communicates ground conditions including soil, rock and groundwater which may inform earth works and construction
Lux Charts/ Lighting Plans	Site specific detailed plans that outline the lux (illumination) that will be exhibited across the court/field/pitch. Lighting plans including lux charts, pole locations, height and footings. These requirements are sport specific.
Master Plan	A master plan guides the development of a specific area, outlining the location of land uses, infrastructure, and community facilities. It is a high-level strategic document that informs future development and provides a list of priorities.
Participation	Participation is defined as engaging, coaching, officiating or volunteering in a sport or active recreation activity.
Participation Plan	A document populated prior to project finish demonstrating how participants, including under-represented groups will be engaged and their participation facilitated.

Term	Definition
Project Completion	Includes delivery of the approved project scope and submission of all milestone deliverables as per the Project Completion milestone within the Grant Agreement.
Quantity Surveyor (QS) Report	A Quantity Surveyor report is a cost plan estimating construction costs completed by a qualified Quantity Surveyor and based on schematic plans at a minimum.
Schematic Plan	For the purposes of this program, refers to scaled and labelled drawings produced by a professional designer or architect of an agreed development option. These will be site specific, include dimensions and measurement and spatial relationships. The plans are used to identify the project scope in sufficient detail to enable accurate project costings.

**These guidelines are subject to changes
at the discretion of the Minister
for Community Sport.**

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Government, 1 Spring Street, Melbourne.

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Available at the SRV [website](#).

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Nil.

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

Nil.

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Monthly Report

Name: Cr Stephen Barratt

Month/year: October 2025

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
20/10/25	Joint Submission Briefing – Via Teams
22/10/25	Birchip Recreational Forum
27/10/25	Buloke Tourism Wycheproof Senior Citizens
29/10/25	Buloke Shire Council Citizenship Ceremony
29/10/25	Council Meeting
30/10/25	Meeting with Brad Robinson East Wimmera Health
5/11/25	Councillor Briefing
5/11/25	Council Meeting (additional)
12/11/25	Wycheproof Resource Centre drop in 9.30/11.30
12/11/25	Transmission Forum – Via Teams

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1.2 NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES FUNDING - KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN CAMPAIGN

Author's Title: Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Directorate: Corporate and Organisational Performance

File No: GO/09/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Council leadership and engagement
Advocacy and partnering to deliver priorities

PURPOSE

The following Notice of Motion has been put forth by Councillor Alan Getley and is for the purpose of the action of Council to acknowledge and write to the relevant Ministers and Departments regarding Neighbourhood Houses funding and the 'Keep our Doors Open' campaign.

SUMMARY

Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria are facing unprecedented financial and operational pressures. Rising costs, increased community need driven by cost-of-living challenges, and long-term erosion of core funding has resulted in almost half of all Neighbourhood Houses operating in deficit. According to Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, without urgent government action, up to 200 Neighbourhood Houses are at risk of closure.

Neighbourhood Houses deliver vital community infrastructure and support, particularly in rural and regional communities such as Buloke and our own Mallee Network. Each week, more than 185,000 Victorians rely on these services, including social connection, adult education, digital inclusion, emergency relief, community strengthening programs, and pathways into employment and volunteering.

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria analysis shows that every \$1 in core funding generates \$21.94 million in community benefit, demonstrating exceptional value for public investment. The sector contributes an estimated \$922 million per year in benefits statewide. The closure of Neighbourhood Houses would significantly diminish local resilience, wellbeing, and access to support services.

Council has a strong role in advocating equitable access to community services. Ensuring sustainable funding for Neighbourhood Houses is critical to maintaining their ability to respond to growing demand and continue delivering substantial social and economic benefits to the Victorian community.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Advocates to the Victorian Government for urgent increased funding for Neighbourhood Houses, consistent with the Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHV) call for an additional \$11.7 million per annum to ensure the sustainability of the sector and prevent the potential closure of up to 200 Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria.
2. Directs the Mayor and CEO to write to the relevant Ministers for Health, Ageing, Mental Health, Carers and Volunteers, Youth, Equality and Public and Active Transport, local Members of Parliament, and Neighbourhood Houses Victoria expressing Council's strong support for:
 - I. increased ongoing core funding to reflect rising operating costs, increased community demand, and years of funding erosion;
 - II. investment in the 25 currently unfunded Neighbourhood Houses across the state; and
 - III. a commitment to establishing 20 new Neighbourhood Houses in outer metropolitan and regional growth areas.
3. Highlights within the correspondence to the Minister and Members of Parliament the demonstrated community benefit delivered by Neighbourhood Houses, including that:
 - I. more than 185,000 Victorians access programs and local supports through the 400+ Neighbourhood Houses each week;
 - II. every \$1 invested in Neighbourhood House funding generates \$21.94 in community benefit;
 - III. neighbourhood house participation results in 94% of visitors reporting improved physical wellbeing and 96% reporting improved emotional wellbeing; and
 - IV. the sector contributes an estimated \$922 million per year in overall benefits to the Victorian community.
4. Continues to closely engage with local Neighbourhood Houses within the Buloke Shire Council to understand current service pressures, the impacts of insufficient funding, and opportunities to strengthen Council's advocacy messaging.
5. Requests in writing, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) reinforce statewide advocacy for a sustainable, indexed, and contemporary funding model for Neighbourhood Houses.

Attachments:

Nil

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

The Meeting may be closed to members of the public to consider confidential matters.

RECOMMENDATION

That pursuant to section 66(1) and (2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the following reports that are considered to contain confidential information on the grounds provided in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 as indicated below:

No.	Title	Confidential Reason
9.5.1	Draft Organisational Performance Report - Quarter 1 FY2025-26	(h) confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a)
9.5.2	Quarterly Financial Performance Report – Quarter 1 FY2025-26	(h) confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a)
9.5.3	Excess Animals Permit Application	(f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs

10 MEETING CLOSE