



Council Meeting **Agenda**

Wednesday 20
August 2025

Commencing at 7:00 pm

Wycheproof Supper Room
367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Wayne O'Toole
Chief Executive Officer



ORDER OF BUSINESS

1	COUNCIL WELCOME AND STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	3
2	RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES	3
3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	3
4	REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE	3
5	DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	3
6	QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC	4
7	PROCEDURAL ITEMS.....	5
	7.1 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES.....	5
	7.2 STATUS OF ACTION OF PAST COUNCIL MEETING RESOLUTIONS	8
	7.3 COUNCILLOR INTERNAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE.....	12
8	GENERAL BUSINESS	24
	8.1 POLICY REPORTS	24
	8.1.1 ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY	24
	8.1.2 NAMING OF ROADS, FEATURES AND LOCALITIES POLICY	33
	8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS	50
	8.2.1 COMMUNITY GRANTS	50
	8.2.2 BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN	54
	8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS.....	132
	8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS	132
	8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS	132
9	OTHER BUSINESS	133
	9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION.....	133
	9.1.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCIL FLOOD RECOVERY FUNDING	133
	9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS	137
	9.3 URGENT BUSINESS	137
	9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS	137
	9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC.....	138
10	MEETING CLOSE.....	138

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 16 July, 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

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 10 July – 6 August 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council note the Assembly of Councillors from 10 July – 6 August 2025.

Attachments: 1. Attachment 7.1.1 - Councillor Briefing Record - 6 August 2025

Date	Cr Attendees	Meeting Item
16/7/25 5:30pm Wycheproof Hall Supper Room	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Delaney, Cr Hogan, Cr Barratt	Citizenship Ceremony
16/7/25 7:00pm Wycheproof Hall Supper Room	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Delaney, Cr Hogan, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford	Council Meeting
30/7/25 11:00am Wycheproof Hall Supper Room	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Delaney, Cr Hogan, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford	CEO Recruitment discussion
6/8/25 2:30pm Nullawil Recreation Reserve	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Barratt, Cr Delaney, Cr Stafford	CEO Recruitment discussion
6/8/25 3:00pm Nullawil Recreation Reserve	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Barratt, Cr Delaney, Cr Stafford	Councillor Briefing



Councillor Briefing Record

Build a Better Buloke – a healthy, connected, inclusive and prosperous community

Date:	Wednesday 6 August 2025	Time:	3:00 pm
Location:	18 Nullawil-Birchip Road, Nullawil VIC 3529		
Acknowledgement of Country:	The Mayor 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.		

NO.	MATTER FOR DISCUSSION
1	Welcome / Councillor Only Time
1.1	Welcome
1.2	Apologies - Nil
1.3	<p>Guests</p> <p>BSC Acting Senior Manager Assets - Paula Gardiner - items 3.2, 3.3</p> <p>Planning for Our Communities – Michelle Read (via teams) - item 3.4</p> <p>Cubico - Jacqui Niemand & Indran Pillay - item 4.1</p> <p>Youth Advisory Group - Keely Allan & Les Cooper - item 4.2</p> <p>BSC Manager Youth - Rory White - item 4.2</p> <p>Nullawil Progress Association – Kaylene James, Marcia Pollington - item 4.3</p>
1.4	<p>Attendees</p> <p>Cr Alan Getley, Cr Graeme Milne, Cr Bernadette Hogan, Cr Charmaine Delaney, Cr Stephen Barrett, Cr Bruce Stafford</p> <p>Wayne O’Toole (CEO), Daniel McLoughlan (Director Infrastructure and Delivery), Gaynor Atkin (Director Community Development), Jenna Allan (Director Corporate and Organisational Performance).</p>
1.5	Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflicts of Interest - Nil
2	Confirmation of Notes of Previous Meeting
2.1	<p>Notes of the Council Briefing held on 2 July 2025</p> <p>Noted, acknowledged and agreed.</p>
3	Briefing Reports
3.1	Internal Resolution Procedure
3.2	Naming of Roads, Features and Localities Policy Review
3.3	Asset Management Policy
3.4	Draft Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
4	Presentations
4.1	Cubico - Update on proposed Curyo Wind Farm Project
4.2	Youth Advisory Group
4.3	Nullawil Progress Association

	Dinner 5:30pm
4.4	Customer Satisfaction Survey Results CSS 2025 - postponed to 3 September Briefing
5	Councillor Matters
5.1	Councillor Matters
6	Chief Executive Officer Updates
6.1	Chief Executive Officer Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transmission Plan updates• Flood Study
7	Next Briefing
7.1	3 September 2025 - Donald Council Chamber
8	Close Meeting
8.1	Close Meeting - 7:50pm finish

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 16 July 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 16 July 2025 Council Meeting Resolutions.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 7.2.1 - Action Taken on Council Res - Outstanding Items and items from CM 16 July 2025 to be tabled 20 August

Summary of Action on Council Resolutions – Outstanding from past Council Meetings & 16 July CM – to be tabled 20 August 2025

Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution/Question	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	8.1.2	Draft Governance Rules and Draft Election Period Policy. 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; 1. Allows persons to make submissions in writing in relation to any proposal contained	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.	Delayed

Tabled 20 August 2025 Council Meeting

Summary of Action on Council Resolutions – Outstanding from past Council Meetings & 16 July CM – to be tabled 20 August 2025

Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution/Question	Actioning Officer/s	Status of Action	Complete or Commenced
			<p>within the Revised Draft Governance Rules and/or Draft Election Period Policy; and</p> <p>2. 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.</p>			
19022025	Corporate	9.5.1	Sale of properties for recovery of unpaid rates and charges	Director Corporate & Organisational Performance	Brought to Council. Sale process underway	Commenced
16042025	Infrastructure & Delivery	8.2.2	Variation to Contract C125	Director Infrastructure & Delivery	Variation applied to contract	Commenced
16072025	Community Development	8.2.1	Birchip Recreation Reserve Masterplan Endorse the updated Draft Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan to be placed on public exhibition from Wednesday 16 July 2025 to Tuesday 5 August 2025.	Director Community Development		
16072025	Community Development	8.2.2	Community Grants Action the approval of community Grants	Director Community Development		
16072025	CEO	8.4	Councillor Reports	Executive Assistant	Letter from Mayor generated and emailed	Completed

Tabled 20 August 2025 Council Meeting

Summary of Action on Council Resolutions – Outstanding from past Council Meetings & 16 July CM – to be tabled 20 August 2025

Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution/Question	Actioning Officer/s	Status of Action	Complete or Commenced
			Cr Milne – requested a letter of congratulations be sent to ‘The Buloke Times’ for their 150years of publication.			
16072025	CEO	9.1	Notice of Motion Cr Milne – Write to Minister D’Ambrosio	CEO Director Corporate & Organisational Performance	Draft in progress	Commenced

Tabled 20 August 2025 Council Meeting

7.3 COUNCILLOR INTERNAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

Author's Title: Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Directorate: Corporate and Organisational Performance

File No:
CM/15/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider and adopt the Internal Resolution Procedure attached to this report to comply with its obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Amendment Regulations 2020*.

SUMMARY

The local government elections were held in Victoria in October 2024. The Model Councillor Code of Conduct was introduced from 26 October 2024; the date of the General Elections for Victorian Local Governments.

From the commencement of the Council term, 26 October 2024, all Councillors in Victoria have been required to observe the Model Councillor Code of Conduct (the Code).

Section 140 of the Act and Regulation 12A(2) of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*, provide that a Council must implement and adopt an internal resolution procedure to deal with alleged breaches of the Code by 1 July 2025.

Section 139(1) of the Act clearly states that Councillors must observe the Model Councillor Code of Conduct. The purpose of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct is to include the standards of conduct expected to be observed by Councillors in the course of performing their duties and functions as Councillors, including prohibiting discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment) and vilification.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopt its Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure, provided as Attachment 1 to this report.

DISCUSSION

In meeting the intent of Section 140 of the Act, Schedule 1A of the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 sets out the specific requirements for the said procedure. The Internal Resolution Procedure of Council –

- a) Must include a conciliation process that is to be conducted by the Mayor or if the Mayor is a party to the matter or is unable to perform the role, functions, and duties of the conciliator for any reason, the Deputy Mayor or another person; and
- b) May include any other process that the Council considers appropriate.

Specifically, without limiting Schedule 1A, the procedure must –

- a) Detail how a matter that is the subject of an alleged breach of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct is to be dealt with, including the circumstances in which the available processes may be used to deal with a matter;
- b) Detail how a Councillor can access the internal resolution procedure, including how a Councillor may initiate a request to have a matter dealt with through the available processes; and
- c) Detail for the purposes of the conciliation process specified in subclause (2)(a) or any other process under subclause (2)(b) –
 - iv) the roles and responsibilities of the parties to a matter; and
 - iv) the role, functions, and duties of the person responsible for conducting the relevant process; and
 - iv) any support the Council is to make available to the parties or the person conducting the relevant process; and
 - iv) the form and availability of a record of any agreement, resolution or outcome reached through the process.

The Procedure encourages Councillors to attempt to resolve disputes, including those which concern alleged breaches of the Code, through the internal resolution procedure in the first instance.

Where a complaint has been made or dispute has arisen, the Councillors involved should use their best endeavours to resolve the matter in a courteous and respectful manner with a view to maintaining effective working relationships.

Where a matter cannot be resolved utilising the Procedure, a Council, Councillor or group of Councillors can apply for an independent arbiter to be appointed to conduct an internal arbitration process under Section 141 of the Act.

This Procedure has been based on the template prepared by Maddocks Lawyers and is provided as Attachment 1 to this report.

RELEVANT LAW

Section 140 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Regulation 12A(2) of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*, provide that a Council must implement and adopt an internal resolution procedure to deal with alleged breaches of the Code by 1 July 2025.

Section 139(1) of the Act clearly states that Councillors must observe the Model Councillor Code of Conduct. The purpose of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct is to include the standards of conduct expected to be observed by Councillors in the course of performing their duties and functions as Councillors, including prohibiting discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment) and vilification.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement has been conducted in relation to this report as the matter is governed by legislation and relates to an Internal Resolution Procedure.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendation of this report.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

There are no Regional, State and National Plans and Policies relating to the recommendation of this report.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

There are no Council Plans and Policies relating to the recommendation of this report.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not Applicable.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In preparing this report, no conflicts of interest have been declared.

Attachments: 1. Attachment 7.3.1 - DRAFT Internal Resolution Procedure

INTERNAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE



Procedure Title: Internal Resolution Procedure

Procedure Location: Governance

Responsible Person: Manager Governance

Contents

1. Purpose	2
2. Internal Resolution Procedure	2
3. First Stage of Internal Resolution Procedure – Discussion	2
4. Second Stage of Internal Resolution Procedure – Conciliation.....	3
4.1 Initiating conciliation.....	3
4.2 Participating in conciliation.....	3
4.3 Conduct of conciliation	3
4.4 Roles and responsibilities.....	4
4.5 Support from Council.....	4
4.6 End or termination of conciliation	4
4.7 Confidentiality.....	5
4.8 Record of outcome.....	5
5. External Mediation.....	5
6. Internal Resolution Procedure does not Apply in these Circumstances.....	5
7. Formal Dispute Resolution Procedure	6
8. References, Supporting Documentation and Governance	6
Conciliation Application Form.....	8
Internal Resolution Procedure Flowchart	9

INTERNAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE



1. Purpose

This Internal Resolution Procedure (Procedure) is adopted under and in accordance with section 140 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Act) and regulation 12A of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*.

This Procedure will be observed when dealing with alleged breaches of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

2. Internal Resolution Procedure

Disputes between Councillors may arise in a variety of circumstances. This Procedure is to apply to those disputes in which one Councillor (the Complainant) alleges that another Councillor (the Respondent) has breached the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

This Procedure provides both parties to a dispute with support and encouragement to resolve the dispute in a manner that enables the Councillors to move forward and maintain effective working relationships.

This Procedure is designed to minimise cost and disruption of disputes to Council and individual Councillors and, where possible, avoid disputes escalating and becoming the subject of an internal arbitration.

It is acknowledged that this Procedure will not be suitable for resolution of all disputes between Councillors. An overview of the Procedure is annexed, in the form of a flowchart.

3. First Stage of Internal Resolution Procedure – Discussion

A Complainant is encouraged to raise their issue directly with the Respondent in a respectful and courteous manner, either in person or in writing, where they feel comfortable to do so.

Councillors are encouraged to recognise that:

- a) certain behaviours and communications may be perceived by others to be causing issues or offence that may not have been intended;
- b) it can provide useful insight to reflect on their own behaviour or motivation and possible contribution to the dispute, whether intended or not; and
- c) dealing with the dispute early is more likely to avoid the issue escalating and resolve it before it threatens the effective operation of Council.

It is useful to frame any issue from the Councillor's perspective (eg "I felt disrespected when you said/did ..."), rather than accusing another person of holding a particular position or taking a negative action deliberately.

A Councillor should let the other Councillor know how they feel and ask for an explanation, rather than making accusations or assumptions.

INTERNAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE



4. Second Stage of Internal Resolution Procedure – Conciliation

Where a direct conversation between Councillors has not been successful in resolving the dispute, or a Councillor does not feel comfortable communicating directly with another Councillor, the second stage of this Procedure is conciliation.

4.1 Initiating conciliation

A Complainant initiating conciliation must notify the Mayor and the Respondent of the dispute by completing a Conciliation Application Form. That form (see **Attachment A** to this Procedure) must:

- a) specify the names of the Complainant and Respondent;
- b) specify the provision (or provisions) of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct alleged to have been breached;
- c) detail what was said or done by the Respondent to constitute a breach of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct;
- d) attach any supporting information to provide examples of the behaviour complained of (eg screenshots or emails); and
- e) be dated and signed by the Complainant.

4.2 Participating in conciliation

Councillors are not obliged to engage in conciliation but should only decline to participate if they honestly and reasonably believe that their participation would adversely affect their health or wellbeing or would otherwise be unsafe. A Respondent declining to participate in the conciliation must advise the Complainant and the Mayor of their unwillingness to participate, and the reasons for it. That advice must be provided no more than one week after receiving the Conciliation Application Form.

4.3 Conduct of conciliation

Conciliation is to be conducted by the Mayor except when the Mayor is a party to the dispute or otherwise unavailable to conduct conciliation. In that case the Deputy Mayor will assume the role of the Mayor in the conciliation process.

If both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are parties to the dispute or otherwise unavailable to conduct the conciliation, the role of the Mayor must be performed by a Councillor jointly chosen for the purpose by the parties.

When, in this Procedure, reference is made to the Mayor it includes:

- f) the Deputy Mayor; and
- g) a Councillor jointly chosen for the purpose by the parties,

INTERNAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE



when the Mayor and/or the Deputy Mayor are parties to the dispute or otherwise unavailable to conduct a conciliation.

4.4 Roles and responsibilities

The role of the Mayor is to provide guidance to the parties to the dispute about the Standards of Conduct in the Model Councillor Code of Conduct and actively explore whether the dispute can be resolved by agreement between them.

The role of the Complainant and Respondent is to explain their respective positions and, in a show of goodwill, actively explore the possibility of resolving the dispute by agreement.

All Councillors are responsible for conducting themselves in a courteous and respectful manner at all times during the conciliation.

The role of the Councillor Conduct Officer is to provide the Mayor with the administrative support necessary to arrange and conduct the conciliation.

4.5 Support from Council

Council, through the Councillor Conduct Officer, will provide administrative assistance to the Mayor when arranging a time and place for conciliation, including any technical assistance that may be required. Council will make a venue available to the Councillors within Council's offices that is private and suited to the conciliation process.

Council will not provide any substantive guidance or advice about the subject matter of the dispute or pay the costs of legal advice or representation for any Councillor in connection with this Procedure.

Parties to a dispute may seek their own legal or other advice at their own cost if they choose to do so.

4.6 End or termination of conciliation

Conciliation will end or be terminated if any of the following occurs:

- h) the parties cannot jointly choose a Councillor to conduct the conciliation within one week of being asked to do so;
- i) the Respondent notifies the Mayor that they do not wish to participate in conciliation, and the reasons for it, within one week of receiving the Conciliation Application Form;
- j) the Respondent does not respond to the Conciliation Application Form at all within two weeks of receiving it;

INTERNAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE



- k) conciliation has not occurred within four weeks of the Complainant submitting the Conciliation Application Form;
- l) conciliation has occurred, and the parties have been unable to resolve the dispute; or
- m) the dispute has been resolved.

The time for conciliation may be extended by agreement between the parties to the dispute, whether or not the matter has been escalated to one of the formal dispute resolution procedures outlined in the Act.

4.7 Confidentiality

Parties and other participants are expected to maintain confidentiality concerning the dispute and the operation of this Procedure.

4.8 Record of outcome

The Mayor must document any agreement that is reached between the Complainant and Respondent. The agreement must be signed by the Complainant, Respondent and Mayor.

Copies must be provided to the Complainant and Respondent, and the original must be retained by the Mayor.

Again, parties and the Mayor are expected to maintain the confidentiality of the agreement reached.

5. External Mediation

- a) Notwithstanding the availability of other processes to resolve disputes under this internal resolution process, if at any time a Complainant, a Respondent or the Mayor feels that the dispute will be better addressed through an external mediator, then they can make that request in writing to the Mayor, or in the case of the Mayor, the CEO for an external mediator (external mediation).
- b) At the time the request is made, notice should also be provided to the other parties, by the requesting Councillor.
- c) If all parties agree to an external mediation, then the Mayor or the CEO will ask the Councillor Conduct Officer to facilitate an external mediator to conduct the mediation at the earliest practicable opportunity.
- d) The mediator will document any agreement reached at the end of the external mediation, with copies of the agreement provided to all parties.

6. Internal Resolution Procedure does not Apply in these Circumstances

The following disputes are not covered by this procedure:

INTERNAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE



- a) differences between Councillors in relation to policy or decision making, which are appropriately resolved through discussion and voting in Council meetings;
- b) complaints made against a Councillor or Councillors by a member or members of Council staff, or by any other external person;
- c) allegations of sexual harassment;
- d) disclosures made about a Councillor under the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012, which can only be made to the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission; and
- e) allegations of criminal misconduct, which should immediately be referred to Victoria Police or the relevant integrity authority.

7. Formal Dispute Resolution Procedure

This procedure operates alongside, and does not replace, the formal dispute resolution procedures outlined in the Act. The formal dispute resolution procedure applies to misconduct, serious misconduct and gross misconduct.

Section 141 of the Act provides for an internal arbitration process concerning a breach of the Standards of Conduct set out in the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

8. References, Supporting Documentation and Governance

References
Local Government Act 2020
Privacy and Data Protection Act 2017

Supporting Documentation
Model Councillor Code of Conduct

Change History			
Version	Approval Date	Approved By	Change
1			New Procedure

INTERNAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE



Attachment A

Conciliation Application Form

Complainant:	
Respondent:	
Provisions of Model Councillor Code of Conduct breached:	
Action constituting breach: (Include dates, times and detailed descriptions of the action complained of. Attach further documents, as necessary.)	

Signature of Complainant

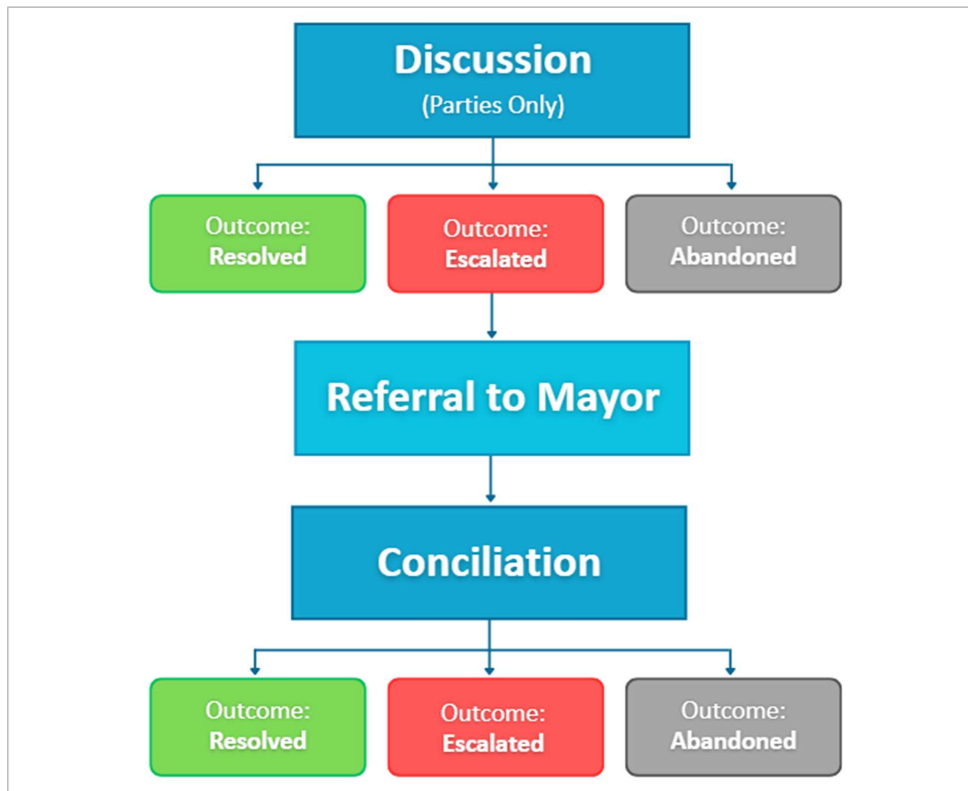
____/____/____

Date

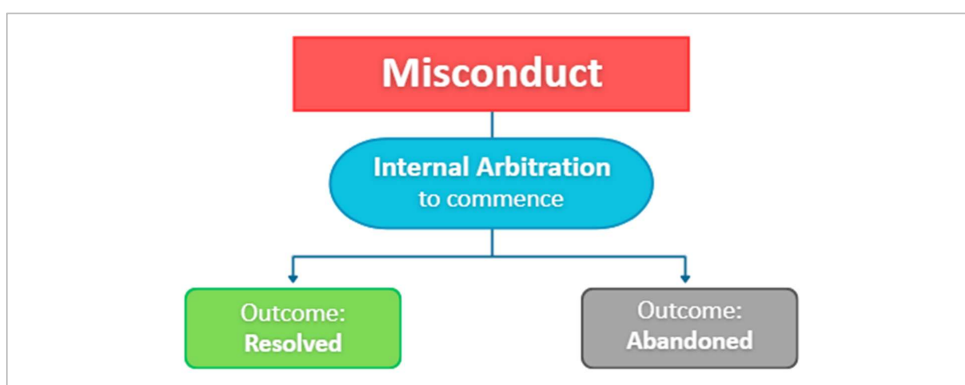
Annexure

Internal Resolution Procedure Flowchart

1. Informal Process – Interpersonal Disputes



2. Formal Process – Breach of Code



8 GENERAL BUSINESS**8.1 POLICY REPORTS****8.1.1 ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Author's Title: Senior Manager Assets and Delivery

Directorate: Infrastructure and Delivery

File No:
CM/14/04

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Built and natural environment
Advocate and plan for, and manage community buildings, roads and transport networks

Council leadership and engagement
Responsible leadership and decision making

PURPOSE

To present the revised and updated Asset Management Policy for Council adoption.

SUMMARY

In June 2021 Council adopted the Asset Management Policy, which is now due for review. A consultant has been engaged to review and update the Asset Management Policy, which is now presented for approval and adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1.** Adopt the revised Asset Management Policy 2025.
- 2.** Publishes the Asset Management Policy 2025 on Council's website.
- 3.** Undertakes a review of the Asset Management Policy within the next 4 year period.

DISCUSSION

The key areas of change within the current 2021 Policy and the draft 2025 Policy are identified in the below table. Each Policy heading has been identified from the 2021 document with a summary of changes (if any);

Asset Management Policy 2021	Draft Asset Management Policy 2025
Purpose	<i>No change proposed</i>
Scope	<i>No change proposed</i>
Definitions	Removed definition for “Infrastructure Assets” Broadened definition for “Asset” Minor changes to remaining definition terms.
Policy Statement	Minor wording changes
	“Asset Management Vision” added to document
Principles	Amended to align with the Vision which has been added to the document.
	“Asset Management Practice” added to document
Asset Capitalisation	Removed
Asset Depreciation	Removed
Accountability and Responsibility	Accountability and Responsibility items expanded, and “Asset Management Team and Council Staff” added.
Policy Review	<i>No change proposed</i>
Legislation & Regulations	Condensed information and relevant legislation detailed.
Documents	Additional documents included.
Strategic Direction	Removed

Both documents have been attached to this report to enable comparison.

With the reframing of the Asset Management Policy, and removal of Asset Accounting information, it is recommended Council prepare a separate Asset Accounting Policy to address these areas directly.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

To progress the review and renewal of the Asset Management Policy, the following options are available;

Option 1:

The policy be considered by the Council for approval and adoption.

Option 2:

Not update the Asset Management Policy. This option is not recommended.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications to Council in the adoption of this revised policy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The policy once adopted will be published to Council's website.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Continuous review of Council Policies is important to ensure policies consider and incorporate opportunities for innovation and continuous improvement.

COLLABORATION

There was no identified opportunity for collaboration in the preparation and review of the revised policy.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The adoption and alignment to the Asset Management Policy will ensure ongoing financial viability and sustainability for forefront to decision making regarding Council's asset management.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

This policy was developed in accordance with the following legislation:

- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)*
- *Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)*
- *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 (Vic)*
- *Road Management Act 2004 (Vic)*

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

This Policy is implemented in conjunction with the following documents:

- Long Term Community Vision
- Council Plan
- Financial Plan
- Asset Management Strategy
- Asset Plan
- Asset Management Plans
- Risk Management Policy
- Community Engagement Policy

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The consideration and adoption of this Council Policy in an open Council Meeting ensures Council decisions are made in full view of the community.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No Council Officer declared a conflict of interest when considering this matter.

Attachments: 1. Attachment 8.1.1.1 - Asset Management Policy 2025



POLICY LOCATION	Assets and Delivery	POLICY TITLE	Asset Management Policy
POLICY NUMBER	[INSERT NUMBER]	DATE ADOPTED	9 June 2021
REVISION NUMBER	3.0	REVISION DATE	20 August 2025

Purpose

This policy is designed to set a framework for undertaking asset management in a structured, coordinated, cost effective and financially sustainable manner across the organisation and to assess continued ownership and the management of risk.

This Policy will ensure that Council's non-current assets are measured, valued and depreciated in accordance with the relevant Accounting Standards and other State Government Policies.

In addition, this policy enables consistency of decision-making and enables Council to ensure that its assets continue to function and meet the needs and expectations of the community.

Scope

This Asset Management Policy applies to Councillors, Senior Management, Staff, Committees of Management, consultants and the community, who are involved with the operations, maintenance, use, refurbishment, renewal, upgrading and development of Council's existing and new infrastructure assets.

Definitions

Asset	Resources controlled by Council as a result of past events and from which future economic benefits or service potential are expected to flow to it. Council has full control over the future economic benefits or service such that it is able to enjoy those benefits or services and deny or regulate the access of others to the benefits.
Asset Management	The systematic and coordinated activities and practices of the Council to optimally and sustainably deliver on its objectives through the cost-effective lifecycle management of assets.
Asset Management Plan	Long-term plans (usually 5 years or more) that outline the asset activities and programs for each service area and resources applied to provide a defined level of service in the most cost-effective way.
Renewal Gap	The difference between the current asset management practices and the required asset management practices to achieve levels of service. It may be written as a financial amount.



Policy Statement

The Asset Management Policy provides for a flexible approach to ensure the importance of best appropriate practice asset management for the Council's assets to meet the demands of the present and future generations.

The Policy reflects Council's vision, mission, and asset management objectives as set out in the Council Plan.

The benefits of a strategic approach in establishing an asset management policy, together with a sustainable asset management improvement strategy, include:

- Better allocation of limited Council resources.
- Improved alignment of assets with services and community expectations.
- Reduced demand for new Council assets through better integration of service planning and asset planning.
- More effective use and maintenance of existing Council assets.
- Improved processes and accountability for capital and recurrent works.
- Use of non-asset solutions to meet service demand.
- An increase in environmentally sustainable solutions.
- Compliance with relevant accounting standards and legislative requirements for asset management

Asset Management Vision

To provide the right assets to the right standards which support affordable and quality outcomes for our community and the environment.

In doing this Council will comply with all legal, regulatory, safety and environmental requirements placed upon it and will not compromise the safety of its employees or the public.

Principles

In support of the asset management vision, Council's principles that underlie its asset management are:

- **People first approach** - We will be driven by understanding the needs and aspirations of our community so that our assets support social and economic wellbeing.
- **Access, inclusion, and equity** - We will work towards having safe, accessible, and functional assets that respond continuously to changing needs.
- **Resilience and environmental care** - Our assets will be good for the environment and will be climate resilient. Through our actions we will care for and respect the Traditional owners of Country.
- **Lifecycle approach** - We will take a whole-of-life approach to managing our assets that minimises risk, ensures compliance, and optimises our asset spending.
- **Financial responsibility** – We will aspire to provide sustainable levels of funding and resources for the benefit of current and future generations.



- **Leadership and innovation** - Through innovation and good governance, we will embed good practice where the whole organisation plays an integral role in the overall management of our assets.

Asset Management Practice

Council is the custodian and trustee of public assets and is responsible to effectively account for and manage these assets to prolong their life and provide for their eventual replacement.

Asset management is a systematic process to guide the planning, acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal and disposal of assets. The objective is to maximise asset service delivery potential and manage related risks and costs over the asset's life cycle.

Infrastructure assets are important to the local community and are fundamental to Council's overall service delivery, Council will:

- Allow the Community Vision to inform asset requirements to reflect community priorities.
- Comply with all legislative and regulatory obligations.
- Establish an appropriate governance structure so that ownership, control, accountability, and reporting requirements for assets are established, clearly communicated, and implemented.
- Prepare service plans that document affordable and financially sustainable levels of service. Development of levels of service will include community engagement.
- Monitor and report Council's service performance to the community.
- Manage assets include utilising a multi-disciplinary, cross-functional asset management working group to ensure all stakeholders are involved.
- Aim to deliver long term financial sustainability by making decisions that lead to a cost-effective asset base. This will be supported by focussing on asset renewal before providing new assets, rationalising under-utilised assets, and limiting asset expansion unless justified.
- Maintain an Asset Management Strategy that will define the status of asset management practices and include a roadmap for achieving Council's desired state of asset management practice.
- Develop and maintain Asset Management Plans for each asset class identifying the full life cycle costs, service level requirements, maintenance requirements, risk management plan, refurbishment, replacement, and disposal requirements. Asset Management Plans will cover a period of at least 10 years.
- Commit to prioritising asset expenditure based upon agreed service levels, the ability of the current assets to meet the needs of the community, and Council's available resources.
- Use "whole of life" costs as the basis for making decisions regarding asset acquisition, replacement, maintenance, and disposal.
- Apply systematic and cyclic reviews to all asset classes to ensure they are managed, valued, and depreciated in accordance with appropriate best practice as prescribed by Australian Standards, including the Australian Accounting Standards Board's AASB 116.
- Monitor and report on Council's asset management expenditure in terms of operational, maintenance, renewal, new and upgrade costs.



- Identify, through risk management and condition assessment, initiatives to reduce the exposure to injury, liability, and asset failure.
- Provide relevant information to support asset management, including the effective collection, collation, and analysis of asset data.
- Keep up to date on issues relating to asset management and encourage continuous improvement and innovation.
- Aspire to achieving advanced asset management practices that are service driven, align with the strategic priorities and directions of Council, and are informed by community input.
- Make investment in appropriate and timely asset management training and development programs for staff.

Accountability and Responsibility

Council

- Acts as steward for assets that are owned or controlled by Council.
- Sets corporate asset management policy and vision with linkage to the Council Plan.
- Endorses levels of service for all business areas that will best balance community aspirations and financial sustainability.
- Ensures that asset management requirements and lifecycle costs are appropriately considered in decision making and catered for in council planning and financial management.
- Approves the Asset Management Policy, the Asset Management Strategy, and Asset Plan.
- Approves Asset Management Plans prepared for key asset classes.
- Approves a Financial Plan that provides appropriate resources for asset management activities.
- Provides appropriate resources for asset management.
- Ensures asset management is part of senior management performance criteria.
- Promotes and raises awareness of asset management with the community

Senior Leadership Team

- Ensures alignment / compliance with Council's legislative responsibilities including under the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic).
- Ensures that Council meets all obligations of the Australian Accounting Standards as they relate to asset management.
- Accountable for overall organisational asset management and service planning performance.
- Fosters and supports the multi-disciplinary, cross-functional implementation of asset management.
- Ensures that accurate and reliable information is presented to Council for decision-making.
- Ensures Council's agreed levels of service are funded in the Financial Plan including renewal and development investments.
- Provides adequate resources and oversight in the implementation of the asset management framework.



- Ensures accurate and reliable information is presented to Council for decision making.
- Ensures that asset management and its governance are integrated into corporate governance including corporate planning, financial management, reporting, and risk management.
- Ensures that asset management performance, skills and training needs are identified as part of staff performance appraisal process.

Asset Management Team and Council Staff

- Prepares, implements, and reviews the Asset Management Policy, Asset Management Strategy, Asset Plan, and Asset Management Plans.
- Manages asset systems, develop procedures, and ensure compliance with standards and to support decision making, accountability and improvement.
- Maintains detailed asset registers providing a common data set for organisational purposes.
- Effectively and efficiently manages funds allocated for asset maintenance, operations, and asset related projects.
- Promotes and raise awareness of asset management across the organisation and through the community.
- Proactively seeks the development of skills, abilities, and education where required to meet the requirements of functional roles.
- Provide assets information and assistance to Council's Service Managers.
- Be innovative, identify and communicate opportunities for improvement.

Policy Review

This Policy will be monitored continuously to ensure its relevance in terms of community needs and expectations, Council goals and statutory requirements. The policy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and amended as required.

Monitoring of asset management will be provided by:

- Internal audits
- Public consultation and feedback
- Annual reviews of strategies and plans

Legislation and Regulations

This policy was developed in accordance with the following legislation:

- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)
- Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)
- Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 (Vic)
- Road Management Act 2004 (Vic)



Documents

This Policy is implemented in conjunction with the following documents:

- Long Term Community Vision
- Council Plan
- Financial Plan
- Asset Management Strategy
- Asset Plan
- Asset Management Plans
- Risk Management Policy
- Community Engagement Policy

8.1.2 NAMING OF ROADS, FEATURES AND LOCALITIES POLICY

Author's Title: Senior Manager Assets and Delivery

Directorate: Infrastructure and Delivery

File No: RO/16/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Built and natural environment
Advocate and plan for, and manage community buildings, roads and transport networks

Council leadership and engagement
Responsible leadership and decision making

PURPOSE

To present the updated version of the Naming of Roads, Features and Localities Policy for Council approval and adoption.

SUMMARY

While processing several Road Naming Requests it was identified that the Naming of Roads, Features and Localities Policy required updating to include references to the latest version of *Naming rules for places in Victoria* – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2022.

The Naming policies of neighbouring councils were also reviewed to determine if they contained any additional information that may be relevant for inclusion in our policy. No additional information was identified as being of benefit.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopt the revised Naming of Roads, Features and Localities Policy 2025.
2. Publishes the Naming of Roads, Features and Localities Policy on Council's website.
3. Undertakes a review of the Naming of Roads, Features and Localities Policy within the next 4-year period.

DISCUSSION

This policy sets out the guidelines and principles that need to be followed by Council officers when naming a road, feature or locality within the Shire boundaries.

The naming of roads, features and localities is important for public safety and to identify locations for managing emergencies and delivering goods and services. Names make a landscape easy to refer to and capture patterns of settlement. Names are necessary for orientation, communication, service delivery, map and atlas production, emergency response and natural disaster relief.

This policy provides a system of ensuring roads, features and localities within the Shire are appropriately named and recorded in a consistent manner and in accordance with the Naming Rules.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

To ensure the Policy is current and used for decision making purposes, the reference changes will need to be completed.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications to Council in the adoption of this updated policy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The policy once adopted will be published to Council's website.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Continuous review of Council Policies is important to ensure policies consider and incorporate opportunities for innovation and continuous improvement.

COLLABORATION

There was no identified opportunity for collaboration in the preparation and review of the revised policy.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

This policy was developed in accordance with the following legislation:

- *Local Government Act 2020 – primarily Schedule 10.*
- *Naming rules for places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities - 2022 (Naming Rules).*
- *Geographic Place Names Act 1998 – primarily section 5 and section 23 which makes compliance with the Naming Rules mandatory for all local governments.*

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The consideration and adoption of this Council Policy in an open Council Meeting ensures Council decisions are made in full view of the community.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No Council Officer declared a conflict of interest when considering this matter.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.1.2.1 - Naming of Roads Features and Localities Policy
2. Attachment 8.1.2.2 - Appendix C Naming Rules Checklist



POLICY LOCATION	Infrastructure and Delivery	POLICY TITLE	Naming of Roads, Features and Localities
POLICY NUMBER		DATE ADOPTED	February 2020
REVISION NUMBER	2	REVISION DATE	August 2025

1. Purpose

This policy sets out the guidelines and principles that need to be followed by Council officers when naming a road, feature or locality within the Shire boundaries.

The naming of roads, features and localities is important for public safety and to identify locations for managing emergencies and delivering goods and services. Names make a landscape easy to refer to and capture patterns of settlement. Names are necessary for orientation, communication, service delivery, map and atlas production, emergency response and natural disaster relief.

The State government released the *Naming rules for places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2022* (Naming Rules). The Naming Rules are the statutory requirements under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* for all naming authorities to follow in nominating or considering a name of a road, feature or locality in Victoria (see Attachment 1). The Buloke Shire Council is a naming authority for roads, features and localities within its municipal area and is required to apply the Naming rules.

This policy provides a system of ensuring roads, features and localities within the Shire are appropriately named and recorded in a consistent manner and in accordance with the Naming Rules.

2. Definitions

Roads – For the purposes of the Naming Rules, a road is considered to be any public or private land-based thoroughfare or course navigable by vehicle or foot. It can be used for assigning addresses or allowing access between points or to a feature. Examples of roads include alleyways, streets, highways, fire tracks, bike paths and walking tracks.

Features – A feature is considered to be a unique geographical place or attribute that is easily distinguished within the landscape. For example, a feature can be a mountain, watercourse, building, prominent structure or park.

Localities - A locality is a geographical area that has identifiable community and/or landscape characteristics. In urban areas, a locality is commonly referred to as a 'suburb'.

3. Scope

The Buloke Shire Council is the naming authority for roads, features and localities within its municipal area for which it is responsible irrespective of whether it owns or manages the road, feature or locality.



This policy outlines the process for naming any feature, locality or road (whether public or private) which is the responsibility of Council.

The Naming Rules represent the definitive position in respect to all naming processes. Both the Naming Rules and this policy apply only to new naming proposals or proposals to re-name a road, feature or locality.

Council is not responsible for naming arterial roads, freeways or geographical places of regional, state and national significance.

For information relating to naming a feature, locality or road which is the responsibility of a private company or state government department as the naming authority refer to the Naming Rules.

4. Relevant Legislation and Guidelines

- *Local Government Act 2020 – primarily Schedule 10.*
- *Naming rules for places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities - 2022 (Naming Rules).*
- *Geographic Place Names Act 1998 – primarily section 5 and section 23 which makes compliance with the Naming Rules mandatory for all local governments.*

POLICY DETAILS

5. Council to Approve Road, Feature or Locality Names

Any person, community group, organisation, government department or authority can propose a new name, change an existing name or change a boundary. A person must not apply a name to a road, feature or locality without the consent of the Council. This does not apply to any highway or to any supplementary name applied to the entire length of a declared road by VicRoads.

Upon receipt of a request, Council, as the naming authority must adhere to the Naming Rules including the Checklist located in Appendix C of the Naming Rules and specifically will:

- Consider or propose a name for a road, feature or locality in accordance with Section 1 of the Naming Rules.
- Check for compliance with the relevant naming rules in accordance with Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Naming Rules.
- Ensure proposals include:
 - The proposed name.
 - The location of the road, feature or locality, including a map and, if relevant, its current name.
 - Background information on why Council should consider naming or changing the name or boundary including any historic reasons of local relevance.
 - The reason for the proposal or why the current name is not considered appropriate or any other relevant information.
 - Contact details of the proposer(s) and information on public consultation that has occurred and/or support and non-support that has been gathered from community



members or groups. This should contain the contact details, names, addresses, and signatures of all affected property owners. An affected property owner is one who owns an interest in property contiguous to the Road/Feature/locality.

- A statement about how the proposed name conforms with the relevant principles and requirements in the Naming Rules.
- Undertake community consultation in accordance with Sections 7 and 8 of the Naming Rules. This includes analysis of community feedback and responding to any objections.
- Consider a proposal in accordance with Section 9 of the Naming Rules including making a decision to accept or reject a proposal and recording the decision.
- Upon acceptance of a proposal lodge the proposal with the Office of Geographic Names for the Registrar's consideration in accordance with Sections 10 and 11 of the Naming Rules. The final endorsement and gazettal and registration of a proposal is undertaken by the Registrar of Geographic Names in accordance with Sections 12 and 13 of the Naming Rules.
- Implement appropriate signage and recording in VICNAMES (the online tool used to search and record geographic names, features and localities in Victoria) in accordance with Section 13 of the Naming Rules.

6. Notice of proposal or application

Council will seek to give notice of an application or proposal in accordance with the following:

Proposal	Who to consult	The Type of Consultation
New road. New feature. Renamed road. Boundary change of a road.	Immediate community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform local Forum Committees within the township/locality of the proposed naming/renaming. • Letters to affected residents, ratepayers or businesses; and to residents. • Notices. • Listening posts (if it is a large-scale proposal or potentially contentious issue).
New locality (suburb). Renamed feature or locality. Boundary change of a feature or locality.	Immediate and Extended community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform local Forum Committees within the township/locality of the proposed naming/renaming. • Letters to affected residents, ratepayers or businesses; and to residents, ratepayers and businesses in properties adjacent to the proposed new boundaries. • Notices. • Surveys. • Listening posts (if it is a large-scale proposal or potentially contentious issue).



7. Assessment and Evaluation

A preliminary assessment and evaluation of all naming/renaming proposals will be undertaken by Council officers. The objective of this assessment is to establish that the proposal has reasonable and justifiable merit and will consider:

- The reasons/rational for the proposal.
- Broad community interest and benefit.
- Potential costs.
- Existing community views.
- Controversy that a proposal may generate.

8. What Council will consider

The Council shall name and may rename a road, feature or locality required for public traffic and public purposes in accordance with the following principles and guidelines and in compliance with the Naming Rules:

- Ensuring public safety.
- Recognising the public interest.
- Linking the name to place.
- Ensuring names are not duplicated.
- Names must not be discriminatory.
- Recognition and use of Aboriginal languages in naming.
- Dual names.
- Using commemorative names (yet avoiding living people)
- Avoid the use of commercial and business names.
- Language.
- Directional names to be avoided.
- Assigning extent to a road, feature or locality.

9. Guidelines

The following naming themes are encouraged for all place naming applications:

- Names derived from Indigenous heritage and language.
- Social and historical events of the local area.
 - Local flora and fauna.
 - Does the name honour an event:
 - Is the name commemorative:
 - Is the road potentially of Regional, State or National Significance:
 - Is the name taken from local Aboriginal/Koori language:
 - Is the name early explorers, pioneers, and settlers:
 - Eminent persons (must be deceased):
 - Local history:
 - Thematic names such as flora, fauna, ships etc;
 - War/casualty lists;
 - Commemorative names



- Council will also consider the following:
 - Whether the name is likely to be confused with the name of another road, feature or locality in the area;
 - Whether the name would duplicate the name of another separate road in the same postcode area, feature or locality;
 - Whether a loop road is named in such a way that two separate intersections involve roads with the same two names or similar names;
 - Whether the same name would apply to separate lengths of road which are separated by a physical obstruction to vehicular travel, within the same postcode area; and
 - Any other matter relevant.

10. Changes to Road, Features or Localities Names

Prior to the finalisation of a change of a road, feature or locality, the Council must give public notice, enabling people to make written submissions. Such notice shall be undertaken in accordance with a consultation strategy determined as appropriate in line with Section 7 of the Naming Rules.

11. Objections and Submissions

Following notification, any objection or submission received during the public consultation period must be considered by Council including deciding the weight to be given to competing submissions having regard to the Naming Rules. All submissions must be included in an assessment report which includes an assessment and response to the submission.

If Council accepts a proposal and lodges it with the Registrar of Geographic Names, it must provide details of what the objections/submissions were and how they will be or have been dealt with.

Council must advise submitters of its decision in writing in accordance with Section 8 of the Naming Rules. Objectors have 30 days within which to lodge an appeal to the Registrar of Geographic Names.

Council must write a report on its decision of a proposal which includes information about how the proposal conforms to the relevant principles and guidelines of the Naming Rules and discussion on and responses to any objection/submission received during the public consultation period.

12. Road Identification

Where the Council erects signs on roads/streets which are readily passable by traffic to indicate the road name, regard may be had to the requirements of Australian Standard AS 1742.5 "Street Name and Community Facility Name Signs".

13. Notice of changes to names

After changing or naming any road, feature or locality, notice shall be forwarded to:

- The owners of properties abutting such road, feature or locality;
- The Registrar of Geographic Names;
- All emergency services including Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance Services, Hospitals, SES;
- Other service providers such Australia Post, power, telephone;
- Commissioner of State Land Tax; and
- State and Commonwealth Electoral officers.



14. Record of Road, Feature or Locality Names

Council must keep a record of all road, feature or locality names and name changes agreed to by the Council and must accurately record the names, locations and the dates that the changes become operative.

15. Administration Process

The administration and notification process are outlined within the Naming Rules. These must be referred to throughout the process.

16. Accessibility of this policy

A copy of this policy is:

- (a) Available for inspection by the public at the Council's Wycheproof District Office, and
- (b) Published on the Council's internet website.

APPENDIX C Checklists

The checklists in this document should be used to ensure you have complied with:

- principles listed in [Section 2](#)
- relevant statutory requirements (as required) under [Section 3](#), [Section 4](#) and [Section 5](#)
- processes required for naming a road, feature or locality.

Naming authorities are encouraged to submit a copy of a completed checklist with your naming proposal to GNV

Refer to [Section 10 Lodging a proposal with GNV](#) for further information about how to submit a proposal for the Registrar's consideration.

***NA:** Not applicable

Are you seeking:

☐ The Registrar's in-principle support? If yes, refer to [section 6.2.3](#).

☐ Gazettal and registration of a name? (continue to fill in this checklist)

Is your naming proposal related to a:

☐ **Road** – complete sections 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (of this checklist)

☐ **Feature** – complete sections 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (of this checklist)

☐ **Locality** – complete sections 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (of this checklist)

General Questions

If proposing a new name or to change a name, does the proposal conform to the principles in Section 2? Refer to principles below.

	Yes	No	NA*
Principle A - Ensuring public safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle B - Recognising the public interest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle C - Linking the name to place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle D - Ensuring names are not duplicated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle E - Recognition and use of Traditional Owner languages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle F - Names must not discriminate or be offensive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle G - Gender equality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle H - Dual names	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Principle I - Using commemorative names	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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General Questions continued

	Yes	No	NA*
Principle J - Using commercial and business names	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle K - Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle L - Directional names to be avoided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principle M - Assigning extent to a road, feature or locality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If the naming proposal originally came from a member of the public, does it include sufficient information on why the name would be appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you are a state government department or agency, have you checked with GNV to see if there are specific guidelines for your department or agency? If there are no specific guidelines for your department or agency, you should follow the naming rules.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Roads

	Yes	No	NA*
Is your organisation the road authority for the road(s) in questions under the <i>Roads Management Act 2004</i> or <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> or <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> ? Refer to Section 3.4 for more information.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If there is more than one road authority, are you preparing this proposal as a collaborative project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the proposal conform with the statutory requirements in Section 3.2 Statutory requirements that apply to roads . If not, contact GNV for advice about how to make the proposal compliant.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2.1 Rural and Urban Addressing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2.2 Extent: road course, start and end points Does the road have clear start and end points?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2.3 Road types Does the road name use an acceptable road type?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2.4 Unacceptable road names Have you checked the list of unacceptable road names? E.g. 'the' or 'and' is unacceptable, as are numbers, hyphens, directions or destinations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2.5 Obstructed or altered roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If a delegation of authority has been used, have details of the relevant officer been officially provided to GNV? ☐ ☐ ☐

If the naming proposal is being lodged after the plan of subdivision has been certified, please ensure the appropriate documentation is attached to the proposal. Refer to [Section 10](#).

Private Roads located on private property

	Yes	No	NA*
Are you aware that the road naming authority may not be the road authority; therefore, it is not responsible or liable for maintenance or other management of the road? Refer to Section 3.9.3 .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has/have the private road/roads already been constructed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If so, is/are the road name/s already in use by the immediate community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does Australia Post deliver mail to the general facility or individual sites within the complex? Contact should be made with Australia Post to discuss mail delivery options for the property.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Continue to Consultation

Features

	Yes	No	NA*
Is the feature of greater than local significance (for example located in more than two municipalities, in a tourist precinct or major waterway)? If so, a Geographic Place Names Advisory Committee may need to be convened. Refer to Principle C and Section 4 .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the proposal conform to the statutory requirements in Section 4.2 ? If not, contact GNV for advice about how to make the proposal compliant.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.1 Feature type			
Is the feature type proceeding the feature's name (for example Waterlands Park)? Refer to Section 4.2.1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.2 Waterways			
If the feature is a waterway, has the extent been determined?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.3 Locational name			
If using a location-based name, is it the name of the locality rather than the name of the neighbourhood, estate or subdivision?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.4 Base names			
Is the feature privately owned or administered and subject to a naming sponsorship contract? If so, a base name should be assigned.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Traditional Owner names for features Refer to [Section 4.9](#).

What type of proposal is being considered:

☐ Addition of a Traditional Owner name as registered or dual?

☐ Addition of a Traditional Owner name as traditional or historical?

Features continued

	Yes	No	NA*
If recording a Traditional Owner name, does the feature already have an officially registered name or an unrecorded and/or unregistered name? If yes, the Traditional Owner name may be considered as a dual name. Refer to Principle H .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When recording the Traditional Owner name as registered or dual, are you aware that the name will be recognised as the official name in use for the feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The name will appear on regular maps for the area.			
When recording the Traditional Owner name as traditional or historical, are you aware that the name will be recognised on regular maps?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The name can be located by researchers and be used on specialised maps.			
Are you aware that all names, regardless of status, will be held in VICNAMES? Refer to Section 4.9 .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the Traditional Owner name been verified by the area's Traditional Owner group(s), and is there written evidence of this verification? Refer to Section 7.3 .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Continue to Consultation

Localities

Does the proposal conform to the statutory requirements in Section 5.2 ? If not, contact GNV for advice about how to make the proposal compliant			
5.2.1 Boundaries Have you checked the proposal against the requirements and explanatory boundary map diagrams in Section 5.2.1 ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2.2 Estate and subdivision names Have you checked that the name is not an estate or linked to a subdivision name? Refer to Section 5.2.2 .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2.4 Size Have you checked that the size is appropriate? Refer to Section 5.2.4 .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2.5 Hyphens The name must not contain hyphens. Refer to Section 5.2.5 .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2.6 Local government area boundary review Have you checked that, if the locality boundary extends across municipal boundaries, the boundaries have been reviewed with	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

the intention of aligning with the municipal boundaries? Refer to [Section 5.2.6](#).

Localities continued

	Yes	No	NA*
5.2.7 Locality names unique within Australia			
Have you checked that the names are unique and not repeated elsewhere in Australia, or sought advice from GNV? Refer to Section 5.2.7 .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the locality cover more than one municipal area, or is it part of a state government project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the proposal include a detailed map of the existing and proposed boundaries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If relevant, has consideration been given to naming the locality after a local historical figure or event?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If the new locality relates to a major land redevelopment project, has a public naming competition been considered?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Consultation

	Yes	No	NA*
If the proposal affects addresses, have residents, ratepayers and businesses been consulted? Refer to Section 7 .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If the proposed name is from a Traditional Owner language, has/have the relevant Traditional Owner group(s) been consulted and given their approval? Refer to Principle E and Section 7.3 .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If the naming proposal comes from a council and relates to the local area, has it been discussed with relevant interest groups such as historical societies and community groups?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If the naming proposal is being developed in-house by a state government department or agency, have relevant interest groups been consulted?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If the naming proposal is being developed through a public competition, have you referred to the information contained in Section 7 ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lodging, considering and addressing objections and submissions

	Yes	No	NA*
Have the concerns or objections raised by residents, ratepayers and businesses been addressed? Refer to Section 8 .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the majority of immediate community members have opposed the proposal but there is an underlying service provision need to change the name or adjust the extent, do you require the assistance of GNV and emergency response or other service providers? If so, contact GNV for advice.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If a delegation of authority has been used, have details of the relevant officer, been officially provided to GNV?			

Notification of a naming decision

Has consideration been given to whom the naming authority should notify if the naming proposal is endorsed by the Registrar? Refer to [Section 14.2](#).

Signage and recording historical information

Has consideration been given to signage, if the naming proposal is endorsed by the Registrar? Refer to Section 14.3 .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has consideration been given to recording historical information in VICNAMES if the naming proposal is endorsed by the Registrar? Refer to Section 14.4 .			

Naming proposal documentation

Has the naming authority prepared a report on the proposal, to help determine compliance? Refer to Section 9 . Any report should include the following:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> information about how the proposal conforms with principles in Section 2 and statutory requirements in relevant sections discussion of and response to any objections/comments received during the consultation period(s). 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the naming authority's decision to accept or reject the proposal been formally recorded? This may involve councillors', relevant Ministerial or CEO's approval (if delegation of authority used). Refer to Section 9 .			
Are the following pieces of information attached to the naming proposal being lodged, using the online Vicmap Editing Service (VES)?			
Details of the existing name	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Background of the proposed name and why it was selected. If the proposed name is traditional or historical, include Traditional Owner language and, if possible, cultural heritage information.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Details of why a naming is proposed (if relevant)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Naming proposal documentation continued

	Yes	No	NA*
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Details of a features location (including, if possible, the address and access points for emergency response).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Details of the consultation process:			
A statement from naming authority about how they reached their decision to consult immediate and/or extended community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
An analysis of the consultation's outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How any objections were considered and what responses where provided to the objectors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Confirmation that the name conforms to the naming rules.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Confirmation that the proposal has been accepted by the naming authority or is being submitted by a delegated officer.			
Naming			
The following information (where relevant):			
A copy of consent from relevant Traditional Owner group(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If undertaken, details of consultation with emergency response and public service providers (if VES was used for consultation, this evidence is automatically attached to the submission to GNV)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copies of notice, letter, survey or voting poll material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
De-identified (i.e. personal details removed) objections received from the public	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copies of letters sent to objectors, indicating their ability to lodge an appeal to the Registrar (as provided in Section 9.1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A copy of council minutes indicating acceptance of the proposal, or that council staff have delegated authority.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 COMMUNITY GRANTS

Author's Title:	Coordinator Community Development and Facilities
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Directorate: Community Development

File No: GS/09/42

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Vibrant and connected communities

Objective: 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 programs is:

- **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 following allocation of funds under the Community Grants Program:
 - \$2,000 - Birchip Playgroup - Project: Strong Start Active Play for Birchip's Future
 - \$350 - Combined Probus Club of Wycheproof Inc. - Project: Probus Wycheproof Christmas Lunch
 - \$1,000 - Mallee Creatives Auspiced by Charlton Neighbourhood House – Project: Charlton Weekend Coffee Stop – Volunteer Training & Equipment Initiative

DISCUSSION

Three Community Grant Program applications have been assessed since the Ordinary Meeting of Council in July 2025.

In accordance with the Community Grant Program Guidelines, each 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 the following three applications for Council's consideration and approval:

Name of Organisation	Birchip Playgroup
Project Title	Strong Start- Active Play for Birchip's Future
Grant Type	Project Support Grant - Up to \$2,000
Total Amount Requested	\$2,000
Funding Amount Recommended	\$2,000
Full project cost	\$2,232
Project Description	The Birchip Playgroup is seeking funding for the costs of delivering hands on, engaging, fun, child-friendly sessions through the Kelly Sports Program.
What will the project/ event achieve	The project will strive to enable all children, of all abilities, to experience endless movement opportunities and be encouraged to think, play, create, construct and solve problems with their own bodies and in turn build their coordination and confidence. In addition to this, it will promote the active participation of the child's mother, father or carer.
Assessment Panel Scoring:	16 + 12 + 17 = 45
Average Score:	15 out of 20

Name of Organisation	Combined Probus Club of Wycheproof Inc.
Project Title	Probus Wycheproof Christmas Lunch
Grant Type	Project Support Grant - Up to \$2,000
Total Amount Requested	\$350
Funding Amount Recommended	\$350
Full project cost	\$1,805
Brief Project Description	This event will bring together members to celebrate a Christmas lunch together and join in the spirit of the festive season.
What will the project/ event achieve	The event will enrich the bond and connectivity of retirees within the community to help maintain a vibrant and a vitality of the older members of Wycheproof.
Assessment Panel Scoring:	12 + 20 + 19 = 51
Average Score:	17 out of 20

Name of Organisation	Mallee Creatives (Auspiced by Charlton Neighbourhood House)
Project Title	Charlton Weekend Coffee Stop – Volunteer Training & Equipment Initiative
Grant Type	Small Equipment Grant - Up to \$1,000
Total Amount Requested	\$1,000
Funding Amount Recommended	\$1,000
Full project cost	\$2,232
Project Description	To purchase a Square EFTPOS facility to enable retail trade at a new established volunteer-run coffee and cake outlet operating on weekends in Charlton.
What will the project/event achieve	This project will support local tourism opportunities and provide hands-on retail and hospitality training for Centrelink-funded volunteers, equipping them with skills for future employment. deliver multiple, tangible outcomes for the Charlton community, local volunteers, and visitors to the region.
Assessment Panel Scoring:	14 + 18 + 15 = 47
Average Score:	15 out of 20

Council officers are currently working with five additional applicants to assist them with the requirements to meet the Community Grant Program eligibility criteria. 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

Council has the option to not allocate the funds as recommended by the Assessment Panel, however, 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 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 Community Grants Program budget (\$20,000) in Council's Annual Budget 2025-26. There is currently \$18,000 of funds available in the adopted Community Grants Program budget for the 2025-26 financial year.

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

Grant Amount	Community Group and Project Name	Type of Grant
\$1,000	Charlton Neighbourhood House Project: Pickleball for all: Serving Community Connection Across the Court	Small Capital Equipment
\$1,000	Donald Pastoral & Agricultural Society Inc. Project: Donald Show Photo Board Project	Small Capital Equipment

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

Community Engagement Policy

Community Support Policy

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report recommends that Council approves the recommended allocation of funds under the Community Grants Program.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments: Nil

8.2.2 BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

Author's Title: Manager Community Partnerships

Directorate: Community Development

File No: RC/10/26

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Vibrant and connected communities
Strengthen community activity and connections

Built and natural environment
Welcoming and accessible parks and open spaces

PURPOSE

To present to Council the Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan for endorsement.

SUMMARY

The Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan aims to provide direction to the Birchip Community Leisure Centre Committee of Management, user groups and Council, to guide the management and development of the Birchip Recreation Reserve for the next twelve years.

The Master Plan was developed in close consultation with the Committee of Management, user groups, key stakeholders and Council officers to provide a sustainable community space that promotes recreation, social and business opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2025-2037

DISCUSSION

The Birchip Recreation Reserve is managed on behalf of Buloke Shire Council by the Birchip Community Leisure Centre Committee of Management.

The Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2025-2037 is an updated version of the Birchip Community Leisure Centre Master Plan 2010-2019 that was completed in 2010.

The updated Master Plan has been developed with input from the Birchip Community Leisure Centre Committee of Management, user groups, Council officers and key stakeholders including Government agencies and State sporting associations.

It presents several priorities for the Birchip Recreation Reserve that have been identified to guide the sustainability and continuation of quality sport and active recreation opportunities in Birchip.

The Master Plan also identifies opportunities to expand the diversity of recreational activities available at the reserve to function as a central hub for community sport and recreation in Birchip.

This aligns with the vision of the Birchip Recreation Reserve which is “To provide a sustainable community space that promotes recreation, social and business opportunities.”

The Birchip Community Leisure Centre Committee of Management will use the Master Plan to guide future developments at the recreation reserve.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The updating of the Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan was an action in the Council Plan 2021-2025 and was funded through Council’s 2021/2022 and 2024/2025 Annual Budget.

OPTIONS

Council has the option to not endorse the Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental sustainability has been considered in the development of the Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan was developed in consultation with Committee of Management, user groups, Council staff and key stakeholders including Government agencies and State sporting associations

The following table details the methods of engagement and number of people contacted as part of the Master Plan development:

Engagement Method	Contacts	Completed/Submitted
Inception meeting	1	1
Telephone calls	28	20
Submissions received	0	0
Onsite visits/meetings	N/A	1
PCG meetings and presentations		3

The engagement process was designed to gain insight into how the clubs and user groups used the Reserve, what they liked about the venue and what they would like improved, with the aim to better understand the future needs and aspirations for the Recreation Reserve.

The Draft Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan went on public exhibition from Wednesday 16 July 2025 to Tuesday 5 August 2025 (21 days) and was promoted via Council’s website and social media channels, local radio and newspapers as well as posters in key locations throughout Birchip.

No submissions were received.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan considers opportunities for innovation as well as areas for continuous improvement.

COLLABORATION

Council officers have collaborated internally cross-departmentally, with external consultants, State Government agencies and sporting associations in the preparation of the Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The recommendations within the Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan provide strategic guidance for Council, user groups, community and State and Federal Governments to further develop the Birchip Recreation Reserve for the betterment of the broader community.

However, delivery of identified projects will require significant investment through external funding as Council will be unable to deliver the outcomes within the Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan in isolation.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan aligns with the facility guidelines of the relevant State Sporting Associations including but not limited to AFL Victoria, Netball Victoria, Hockey Victoria, Bowls Victoria and Tennis Victoria.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2026-2029
Buloke Inclusiveness Plan

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report recommends that Council endorses the Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2025-2037.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.2.2.1 - @leisure Buloke Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan FINAL Report 12 August 2025

BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

**Final Report
2025-2037**



About this document

This document is the Master Plan for the Birchip Recreation Reserve prepared by @leisure Planners.

Previous documents related to this study include:

- Birchip Recreation Reserve Site Analysis
- Birchip Recreation Reserve Options

The views expressed in the consultation section of this document are those provided by the Birchip community. They do not necessarily reflect the views held by @leisure or Council.

Acknowledgements

@leisure would like to acknowledge the support and assistance provided by:

Darci Tierney, Recreation and Facilities Project Manager, Buloke Shire Council

Trevor Rumbold, Coordinator Project Delivery, Buloke Shire Council

We would also like to thank the representatives of the sports clubs and user groups who were interviewed and those who sent in comments regarding the project.

Buloke Shire Council and @leisure Planners acknowledge that the Birchip Recreation Reserve is situated on the land of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations.



Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	3	8. APPENDICES	39
1.1. Project aim	3	Appendix 1. Stakeholders consulted as part of this plan	39
1.2. Objectives	3	Appendix 2. Alignment with Council and other plans	40
1.3. Outcomes	4	Appendix 3. Site Services	45
1.4. What is a master plan?	5	Appendix 4. Pavilion Frontage Refurbishment and Master Plan	48
1.5. Context	6	Appendix 5. Indicative Cost Plan	66
1.6. The site	8		
1.7. Existing facilities and features	10		
1.8. Key issues from the site analysis	11		
2. DEMAND FOR SPORT AND RECREATION IN BIRCHIP	15		
2.1. Population and demographic profile	15		
2.2. Existing and projected use of Birchip Recreation Reserve	16		
2.3. Birchip Recreation Reserve seasonal bookings	19		
2.4. Users' views	21		
2.5. Key trends	24		
2.6. Implications of demand	25		
3. ROLE AND RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER SPORTS FACILITIES	26		
4. BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE – THE NEXT 10 YEARS	28		
4.1. Vision	28		
4.2. Objectives for change	28		
4.3. Sustainability initiatives	28		
4.4. Master Plan – Preferred option	29		
5. RESERVE FACILITY LAYOUT OPTIONS AND BENEFITS	30		
6. RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDING PRIORITY AND LEAD ORGANISATION	34		
7. FUNDING OPTIONS	38		

1. Introduction

1.1. Project aim

The project aim is to develop a Recreation Reserve Master Plan that provides:

1. Clear guidelines regarding the level and standard of sporting facilities at the Birchip Recreation Reserve
2. A four to twelve year costed strategy for the development and future provision of sporting facilities within the Reserve
3. Clear priorities and standards for the maintenance and development of infrastructure upon the sporting Reserve
4. Clear definition of Council's, other resource partners, and the community's role in the development of facilities, and
5. Identification of gaps in provision of recreation facilities, and appropriate location for identified gaps, whether within existing Reserve or elsewhere.

1.2. Objectives

The objectives of this project are to:

1. Undertake a demographic analysis of the Birchip catchment area and identify existing and future population trends that may impact upon the growth or decline of specific recreation activities, including sustainability of user clubs
2. Liaise with local and peak sporting/recreation bodies and industry groups to identify trends that may impact future demand for sporting and recreation facilities at the Reserve

3. Identify development priorities for the future planning, development and/or upgrade of existing and/or new recreation facilities within the Reserve in response to identified needs
4. Research and identify the short, medium and long term needs of users occupying this Reserve to enable the provision of an appropriate range and standard of recreation infrastructure to match current and future needs
5. Review and assess the current provision of recreation facilities, programs and services provided at the Birchip Recreation Reserve in terms of community need, usage, gaps in service provision and adequacy
6. Identify environmental considerations in any future developments, with specific focus on water management and renewal energy initiatives
7. Consider the possible co-location, relocation or rationalization of existing recreation facilities at the Reserve
8. Review the role of Council and the community in the development of recreation infrastructure, i.e., what should be the Council's responsibility and what should be the user group/committee of management responsibility
9. Develop a strategic business plan for the Reserve Committee of Management
10. Develop a master plan, which links to existing plans and strategies, and is responsive to community expectations, as well as being achievable, realistic and attainable within the funding options available.

1.3. Outcomes

The project is required to achieve the following outcomes:

Analysis of sport and recreation issues to be resolved through:

- Assessing demographic information that will assist in predicting population growth
- Identifying and clarifying sport and recreation demands and user preferences
- Identifying gaps in sport and recreation offering and barriers to resident participation
- Identify non-users and reasons for non-participation, and
- Working closely with the various departments within the Council to identify important sport and recreation issues

Assessment of guidelines and policies by preparing a 'key issues report', to assess:

- Current and projected sport and recreation facilities usage
- Dual/joint community use of sport and recreation facilities
- Current environmental management and sustainable design features
- Current asset condition reports, many of which are available from Council (some investigation may be required)
- Cost of provision of sport and recreation
- Reserve maintenance issues
- Role of Council and sporting clubs
- Safety and risk management issues, and
- Identification of rationalization of users and/or land at the Reserve

Establish capital works priorities for the Recreation Reserve for the next 12 years through:

- The development of a prioritised capital works program, including timelines and cost estimates for developments, and
- Developing high-level conceptual plans for proposed works

Ensure effective implementation of the Recreation Reserve Master Plan through:

- Establishing realistic goals and objectives for sport and recreation provision and facility planning
- Identifying priorities over a five-year period for the implementation of the Recreation Reserve Master Plan, including cost estimates
- Developing high-level concept plans for facility development priorities
- Preparing specific Action Plans for implementation, which are inclusive of a proposed capital works schedule identifying costs and priorities for maintenance and construction, and

Developing a strategic business plan for the Birchchip Recreation Reserve in line with priorities and costings of recommended capital works.

1.4. What is a master plan?

A master plan is a blueprint for the future development.

A master plan is an agreed direction by the landowner/manager and users about the best way to develop a site or a facility, based on the current demand and condition of facilities and context. It is not intended to be a commitment to fund development projects in the short term.

The intent is to be able to direct a complete package of improvements over time and develop components of that plan as and when funds become available, therefore a master plan shows the broad concept and areas for development, rather than specific design details. These packages of improvements are often expressed as recommendations or potential future projects that are expected to improve the community access and use of a venue or facility over a period of 10 years+.

As recommended actions they may not necessarily be delivered in the immediate or long term due to budget and other priorities or factors.



Figure 1. Birchip Tennis Clubhouse.
Image: @leisure Planners

1.5. Context

The town of Birchip

Birchip is located in the Mallee region on the Sunraysia Highway north of Donald and 230 kilometres south of Mildura.

Birchip was named after the Wirrumbirchip pastoral run which was taken up in 1842. The name is thought to be derived from an Aboriginal expression describing the track followed around the dense Mallee country when travelling towards Swan Hill.¹

Before the arrival of Europeans, the area was inhabited by Warkawarka tribe, possibly a subgroup of the Wergaia².

Birchip Recreation Reserve is crown land, managed on behalf of Buloke Shire Council by the Birchip Community Leisure Centre Committee. The eastern portion of the site is reserved for and is also known as Birchip Showyard Reserve.

The George Cartwright oval is currently classified as a 'local' level facility under the AFL Central Victoria standards and the Cricket Victoria Facility Hierarchy.

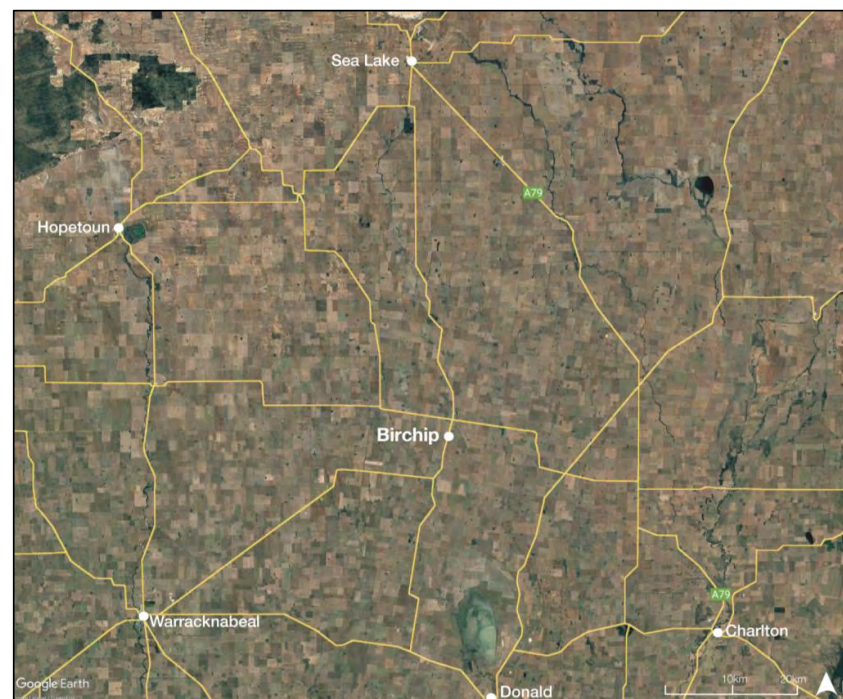


Figure 2. Map of Birchip and surrounding townships. Image source: Google Earth, 2024.

¹ Victorianplaces.com.au

² Beveridge, Peter (1865) "A few notes on the dialects, habits, customs and mythology of the Lower Murray aborigines". Transactions of the Royal Society of Victoria.

Relationship of the Reserve to other land uses

Birchip Recreation Reserve is very central to the immediate township, (see map following) as well as regional sports competitions, the North Central Football League (football, netball and hockey) and the Wimmera Mallee Cricket Association.



Figure 3. Location of the Recreation Reserve in the Birchip township.
Image Source: Google Earth, 2024.

The Reserve is 1km from the Birchip P-12 School and about 200m from the main street (Refer following Map).

The Reserve has a good relationship with adjoining land uses having a road on the south, east and north of the perimeter and relatively good sightlines into the park.



Figure 4. Birchip sporting facilities. Image source: Google Earth, 2024.

BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

Planning Scheme Zones and Overlays

The Reserve is zoned Public Park and Recreation in the Birchip Planning Scheme. See following image from VicPlan.

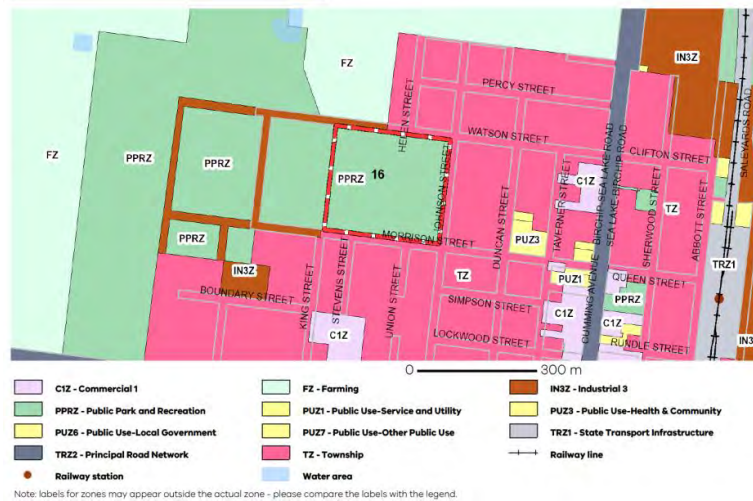


Figure 7. Planning scheme zones over the site and adjacent properties.
Image VicPlan.

There are no planning overlays over the Recreation Reserve land however there are heritage overlays in adjacent land. See following image from VicPlan.

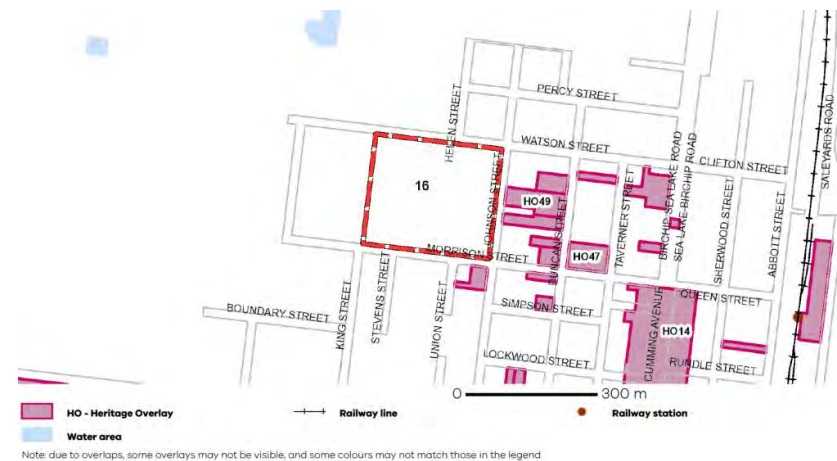


Figure 8. Planning overlays adjacent to the site.
Image VicPlan.

Part of the site is in a bush fire prone area. See following image from VicPlan.



Figure 9. Designated Bushfire Fire Prone areas. Image VicPlan



Figure 10. Home game George Cartwright Oval. April 2022.
Image. Facebook page - Birchip Community Leisure Centre

1.7. Existing facilities and features

The site is relatively flat and has no major encumbrances, except the bushfire prone nature of the golf course.

The Reserve has boundary planting around the eastern area and the golf course has good canopy cover.

Buildings are centralised and are serviced by an internal road network and parking. Parking space inside the Reserve around the oval is ample, although parking for hockey to the west is limited.

Figure 10 shows the Reserve in use and where users park.

The Reserve has a range of sporting facilities including the following:

- AFL/Cricket oval – including:
 - Turf wicket, inground sprinkler system
 - Four oval lights
 - Electronic scoreboard
 - Coach's boxes
 - Cricket practice Nets (2) and storage shed
- Netball courts – (2 – one of which has significant surface cracking)
- Tennis courts – grass (10), hard courts (2) synthetic – (2)
- Tennis club house
- Hockey pitch - grass
- Golf – 18-hole sand scrapes
- Leisure Centre /pavilion/player change rooms/ squash courts x 2, function space
- Public toilet blocks (2)
- Water tanks – (numerous)
- Storage sheds including show pavilion.

Existing services

The existing services on the site include the following:

Electricity

- Citipower/Powercor advise of low voltage cables underground from the toilet block south of the oval near Morrison St. to the oval on the southwest. (See Appendix 3 – Electricity).

Water

- Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water – water mains and sewerage pipes and pits are located on the perimeter of the Reserve along Watson St., Morrison St., and the Sunraysia Highway are shown Water and Sewerage. (see Appendix 3)
- There are multiple water tanks located around the Reserve. Some are in use and others may be surplus to current needs. A review of existing tanks is recommended with a view to consolidating
- Buloke Shire Council. Drainage and drainage pits at the north end of the Reserve along Watson St. may have some impact on future works for future buildings or future fields/extensions at the north end of the Reserve. (See Appendix 3) There is also a drainage pit on Morrison St. some 8-10 metres west of King St. that is unlikely to have any influence on future works.

Gas

- There is no gas transmission pipelines in Birchip

Dump point

- The Reserve has Dump Point for RV vans near the south entrance.

A site analysis that assessed the issues with each facility was prepared and submitted.

1.8. Key issues from the site analysis

Following is a summary of the key issues and opportunities:

Leisure Centre

- Limited capacity from the veranda/viewing area to the oval to provide shade and shelter to spectators
- Viewing area and seating on hill in front of building requires upgrading.
- Views to oval are blocked by people standing outside
- The kitchen and social facilities require equipment and furnishing upgrades
- The ramp to the Leisure Centre is not compliant with current building accessibility standards
- The external squash court walls have some structural issues that are currently under review.

Tennis courts

- There is no external shade provided by the club house
- Additional tree shade could be provided
- Court lighting is required – preferred for 4 courts including hard courts to allow tennis to be played year round
- The 2 hard courts require an upgrade

BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

- Court fencing around the grass courts will require replacing in the long term
- Play equipment under shade is required.
- General landscaping and re-paving is required.

Hockey

- The hockey pitch is some distance from the central facilities. Relocating the pitch closer to the Leisure Centre will provide better access to existing infrastructure (Inc. toilets, change rooms, parking) and reduce need for duplication of facilities
- Pitch lighting requires upgrade
- Parking and vehicle access is poor to existing location.

Golf

- Watering system is over 50 years old and not built for current need. Very narrow pipes – poor water pressure.
- Re-configuration of fairways and holes would need to be considered in future to accommodate the master plan concept.

Netball courts

- There is significant surface cracking that has developed along the west side of court 2 which is currently under investigation by Council to remediate the surface condition.
- Court 2 surface condition is not safe to play on.
- Increased seating for spectators is required around both Courts 1 and Court 2 when fixed.
- Netting is required at the north and south ends of Courts 1 and 2, to prevent balls going over the fence
- Lighting is required on west side of Court 2; currently Court 2 doesn't meet training lux standards.

Oval and support facilities

- There is an ongoing issue with rabbits damaging the oval surface. A rabbit proof fence is required to prevent surface damage. Community have identified that well designed picket fencing would be preferable.
- There is no netting behind goals to retain balls on the oval and protect cars/spectators.

Cricket facilities

- Consider extending nets. Include sight screen on back fence at rear of nets.

Spectator facilities

- Improve spectator areas in front of Leisure Centre
- Provide seating at north end of netball courts
- Spectator seating is required along with shade and shelter at hockey
- Separate kids and cars with bollards and walking paths
- More oval seating around boundary line is preferred
- Shade and shelter for viewing netball courts and the oval, north of the Leisure Centre is required along with and upgrade of seating in front of the Leisure Centre.

Toilets

- Upgrade the toilet block at the south end of the oval. Include a changing places toilet
- Upgraded toilet facilities to be family friendly.

Entries, traffic and parking

- There is no clear delineation between vehicles and pedestrians around the oval, the south or west of the Leisure Centre
- There is an area of unmarked parking between the Leisure Centre and the grass courts. This area also carries through traffic to hockey and golf and is a key crossing point from tennis to the Leisure Centre. There is no clear delineation between vehicles and pedestrians
- Vehicles entering from corner of Morrison St. and Johnson St. on match days, can restrict vehicle movement on those streets. Ticket box should be relocated further inside the Reserve
- Speed humps on internal road around oval do not reduce vehicle speed.

Trees and green space

- A tree planting plan for wind breaks, shade and presentation would improve the Reserve for all users.

Play space

- There are no designated play spaces or play equipment within the Reserve
- Install a play area at the north end of the Leisure Centre to serve football, netball, cricket and Leisure Centre users. Consider a shaded play space near tennis courts.

Other presentation and improvement options

- Remove the loading ramp at the Watson St entry if no longer in use
- Remove the dirt mound along Johnston St or use it for further landscaping along the east side of the Reserve
- Update, relocate or remove the picnic tables and BBQ at the west side of the Leisure Centre
- Include walking links through Reserve - short loop, medium loop and longer loops. Wide enough for two to three people walking
- Consider a fishing platform off golf dam.

Most recent works

Recently, Buloke Shire Council were successful in obtaining \$1.9 million in grants to fund several projects at the Reserve.

Two new acrylic netball courts and lighting were funded by the Federal Government's Drought Resilience and Response Program, Buloke Shire Council, the State Government's Local Sports Infrastructure Fund – Female Friendly Facilities 2020-21 and the Birchip-Watchem Netball Club. One of the netball courts surface condition has deteriorated and is currently not able to be used for Netball.

The Birchip Leisure Centre Changeroom Redevelopment Project (\$234,667) delivered female friendly changerooms for both teams and umpires as well as new accessible family friendly amenities upstairs and was funded by the Victorian Government's Female Friendly Facilities Fund 2018-19, Buloke Shire Council, Federal Government's Drought Resilience and Response Program, AFL Victoria's Female Friendly Facility Program and Birchip Leisure Centre.

Whilst the Main Oval Redevelopment (\$221,000) included drainage and resurfacing works that were funded by the Victorian Government's Country Football and Netball Program 2019-20, Federal Government's Drought Resilience and Response Program, Buloke Shire Council and Birchip Watchem Football Club.³



Figure 9. Netball courts and shelters following 2021 upgrade
Image: @leisure Planners



Figure 10. Golf entry to Leisure Centre. Image: @leisure Planners

³ Website: Buloke.vic.gov.au

2. Demand for sport and recreation in Birchip

2.1. Population and demographic profile

The key demographic factors that influence the demand for sport and recreation activities are population size, age, gender, income, education, cultural background, disability and location of residence and availability of facilities. There are an estimated 694 residents in Birchip, comprising about 11% of Buloke Shire's total population of 6,178 in 2021⁴.

The table following shows the projected population for Birchip from 2021 until 2036 based Victoria In Future forecasts.

Table 1. Projected population growth of Buloke Shire, 2026 and 2036

	2021	2026	2036
Population ⁵	694	661	577
Change in population (5 yrs.)		-38	-84

By 2026 Birchip is forecast to have 661 residents and 577 by 2036. However forecast population decline has been less than anticipated in Victorian In Future 2019 calculations from 2016 to 2021.

In 2021 the largest age group of Birchip residents was 70 to 74 years (71 people). There were 122 children between the age of 0 and 14 years. It is anticipated that the Birchip will continue to trend towards an aging population. The average age in Birchip in 2021 was 49 years. The average age for rural and regional Victoria is 42 years and older than the median for Greater Melbourne, 36 years. The following graph shows the number of people per 5-year age cohort and that projected for 2036.

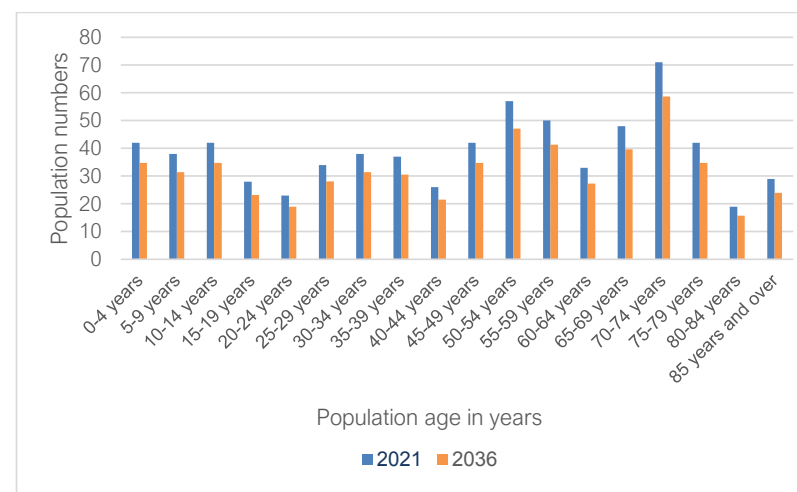


Figure 11. Age structure Birchip 2021 compared to 2036 forecast.

Source: Victoria in Future

⁴ Quickstats 2021

⁵ www.delwp.vic.gov.au/victoria-in-future

Demographic snapshot of Birchip

- A large proportion of Birchip residents had both parents born in Australia 89% compared to 58.7% Victoria.
- Some 49.7% of the population in Birchip was male in 2021.⁶
- Some 21.8% of the population completed secondary education compared to the rest of Victoria (21%) but much less attend university - 10.1% Birchip to 24.5% Victoria.
- English is spoken in 88.4% of homes in Buloke.⁷
- Birchip's index of social disadvantage is 970. This is slightly higher than Buloke Shire, 967 and below the regional Victorian average of 986.
- Some 35% of Birchip residents did voluntary work through an organisation or group in the last 12 months compared to 13% for Victoria.⁸

The demographic profile of Birchip suggests that there is a relatively high propensity for residents to play sport, due to:

- The small proportion of residents who speak another language or were born overseas from a non-English speaking background
- A relatively small (7.4%) of residents need assistance with core activities due to age or disability

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Buloke Shire Council Inclusiveness Plan

2.2. Existing and projected use of Birchip Recreation Reserve

Club usage

Data collected from the clubs and our engagement indicates that the Birchip Recreation Reserve is a popular and well used venue for both clubs and individuals.

In addition to the usage as per the club data below, the Reserve is a popular site for individuals to walk, run, ride bikes and socialise. It is difficult to estimate the casual usage of the Reserve, but it is expected that usage will continue to grow if facilities continue to improve, and Birchip follows the trend in growth of non-organised activity that is occurring Australia.

Data from AusPlay shown in the graph below shows how non-sport physical activities have grown significantly from 2001 to 2020.⁹

Although the Birchip Recreation Reserve is predominately a sports reserve, it has an important secondary open space function as a social/family recreation area. It can accommodate a significant amount of unorganised physical and social activity. This is due to its relatively large size, central and prominent location, flat topography and the existing facilities that attract people to the Reserve. It does not cater well for people with a disability.

For this reason, additional attractions and improvements should be made to the Reserve to benefit a broader range of the community.

⁸ ibid

⁹ Participation Trends In Australia. app.powerbi.com

BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

The higher and increasing proportion of women and older persons are participating in non-organised physical activities and sports.

The following graph shows the growth in sport related activities and non-sport related activities from 2001 to 2020 from data gathered by Exercise Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) and AusPlay surveys.

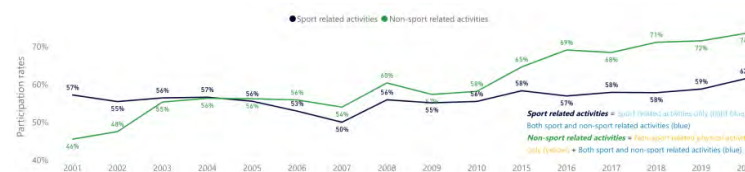


Figure 12. The growth in sport and non-sport related activities, 2001 to 2020 from ERASS and AusPlay surveys. Source; AusPlay report. Participation trends in Australian Sport since 2001.

Some 23 teams and 3 sport development groups consider Birchip Recreation Reserve as 'home' along with regular use from Birchip P-12 School, social competitions and casual use. Almost all user groups have suggested that the demand for team participation is continuing following the COVID 19 pandemic.

The football, netball, hockey, golf and cricket clubs use the Reserve as their main social and training base.

Table 2 below shows the number of sport teams based at the Birchip Reserve and the estimated current participation.

Table 2. The number of sport teams based at Birchip Reserve and the estimated participation

Club	Current no. teams/members	Estimated participants	Participation Trend
Birchip Cricket Club	2 senior teams (35), 3 junior teams (35)	70	Seniors - stable
Birchip-Watchem Football Club	2 senior teams (50), 4 junior including under 14 girls (80) and AusKick (19)	149	Steady
Birchip-Watchem Netball Club	3 Senior teams (30), 4 junior teams (32) plus Net Set Go – 25	87	Steady. Same as 2019
Birchip-Watchem Hockey Club	1 senior team (11), 2 junior teams (27), In-to-hockey (10-12), Social members (15)	65	Steady
Birchip Tennis Club	2 senior teams (24), Junior coaching (35), Junior tennis (20), Women's Mon comp (24), social comp (16)	119	Increase over last 5 years
Birchip Golf Club	36-40 members	40	Steady
Squash	No active club	7	Decline
Birchip Bowls Club*	3 teams (Div 1 and 2) and 1 x midweek	36-40	Steady
School gym use	28 community members and 12 students	40	Was 50 pre COVID-19

*Potential to be based at Reserve in future

BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

The table below shows the number of current participants per sport at Birchip compared to that projected from State organised participation rates. 'Organised participation' is activity formally organised or conducted by or at a club, association, school or other type of organisation.

Table 3. The number of participants per sport in Birchip shown against potential participants based on the State organised participation

Sport	Participants 2021/22	Projected VIC* 2021	Projected VIC 2026	Project Vic 2036
AFL	149	37	35	31
Cricket (outdoor)	70	24	23	20
Hockey (outdoor)	65	7	7	6
Netball (outdoor)	87	11	10	9
Tennis	119	36	34	29
Golf	40	29	27	24
Squash	7	4	4	3
Bowls	36	8	7	6
Gym-fitness	40	188	178	156

*Projected participation is based on state organised participation rates, applied to the Birchip projected and existing population.

Club affiliations

Clubs based at the Birchip Recreation Reserve are affiliated with several regional competitions including the following.

North Central Football League

The North Central Football League coordinates the winter competitions of football, netball and hockey across 8 towns in the region. Finals are played at an independent venue from the senior football finalists. Birchip Recreation Reserve regularly hosts finals for the League.

Wimmera Mallee Cricket Association

The Wimmera Mallee Cricket Association is made up of teams from 11 clubs across the Wimmera Mallee who enter teams in A Grade and B Grade competitions. In recent seasons Birchip have enter a team in both grades. Grand finals are played on neutral venues with turf wickets; therefore, Birchip is potential venue for final competitions.

North Central Tennis Association

The North Central Tennis Association coordinates tennis for a summer competition including the towns of Birchip, Nullawil, Wycheproof, St. Arnaud, Donald and Charlton. The association is a grass court competition only.

Tyrrell Junior Tennis Association

The Tyrrell Tennis Association coordinates tennis for the junior age group for a summer competition

2.3. Birchip Recreation Reserve seasonal bookings

The table below shows the bookings for summer and winter by tenant clubs. The Leisure Centre function space is booked by a wide range of community groups across the year.

Table 4. The table below shows the Summer (October 1st – March 31st) bookings for the Birchip Recreation Reserve

Asset	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Leisure Centre – Social space						Birchip CC, 1.00-8pm	
Leisure Centre – Change rooms						Birchip CC, 1.00-8pm	
Leisure Centre – Squash courts	Casual use only	Casual use only	Casual use only	Casual use only	Casual use only	Casual use only	Casual use only
Oval		Birchip CC, 4:30pm - 7:30pm		Birchip CC 4:30pm - 7:30pm		Birchip CC, 1.00pm - 6:30pm, Juniors play at school 8.30 – 12.00	
Cricket nets		Birchip CC, Juniors and Seniors 3.30 - 8:00pm		Birchip CC Juniors and Seniors 3.30pm - 8:00pm			
Cricket shed (rear of nets)				Birchip CC 4:00pm - 8:00pm			
Netball - Break Dec-Jan		Birchip Watchem Netball, 3.45 - 7.30pm		Birchip Watchem Netball, 3.45 - 7.30pm			
Tennis courts	Women's Comp 5.00-8.00	Juniors coaching 4.00	Junior tennis Social comp			Seniors Comp 1.00-6.00	
Hockey pitch	Off season						
Golf course	Off season						

BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

The table below shows the Winter (season (April 1st – September 30th) bookings for the Birchip Recreation Reserve.

Table 5. The table below shows the Winter (April 1st – September 30th) bookings for the Birchip Recreation Reserve

Asset	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Leisure Centre – Social Space				BWFC		Birchip Watchem Football	
Leisure Centre – change rooms		Birchip Watchem Football		Birchip Watchem Football		Birchip Watchem Football	
Leisure Centre – Squash courts	Casual use only	Casual use only	Casual use only	Casual use only	Casual use only	Casual use only	Casual use only
Oval		Birchip Watchem Football		Birchip Watchem Football			
Cricket nets	Off season						
Netball /		Birchip Watchem Netball 3.45 - 7.30pm		Birchip Watchem Netball, 3.45 - 7.30pm			
Tennis courts	Off season						
Oval		Birchip Watchem Football		Birchip Watchem Football		Birchip Watchem Football	
Hockey Pitch		Birchip Watchem Hockey			Birchip Watchem Hockey	Birchip Watchem Hockey	
Golf Course					Juniors		Competition Tournament June

Potential play space users

The number of children aged 0 to 9 years in Birchip in 2021 was 80 and forecast to decrease by 2031 with approximately 60 children residing in the town based on population decline as forecast by Victoria In Future for the Buloke Shire¹⁰. Therefore, the demand for play space is unlikely to increase, unless there are new families that move to the area. However, the central location of Birchip Recreation Reserve and the large number of sporting groups currently utilising the facilities suggest that a play space would be an attractive feature for the Reserve.

It should be noted however that play equipment is required to be maintained in accordance with the Australian standards and this may require considerable work that is beyond the capacity of the community.

Casual reserve use

The park has a range of casual users including dog owners, walkers and joggers that will benefit from establishing walking trails, lighting, seating and improving toilet facilities.

The Reserve has Dump Point for RV vans near the south entrance that attracts people to the Reserve. RV owners are likely to use the toilet facilities at the Reserve, walking tracks, outdoor and fitness facilities, if available.

¹⁰ www.delwp.vic.gov.au/victoria-in-future

2.4. Users' views

Methods of engagement

Feedback from the stakeholders and the community was sought in several ways including telephone interviews, document reviews of previous consultation and on-site review.

- Telephone interviews of Clubs and user groups were conducted to ascertain the nature of their facilities and services
- A site tour with the Recreation and Facilities Project Officer from the Shire of Buloke was held
- Individual submissions were also accepted
- Several virtual meetings were held with key users and staff.

The table following illustrates the number of respondents by consultation method.

Table 6. The table below shows the range of engagement and number of people contacted as part of the study.

Engagement Method	Contacts	Completed/ Submitted
Inception meeting	1	1
Telephone calls	28	20
Submissions received	0	0
On site visits/meetings	NA	1
PCG Meetings and presentations		3

Twenty individuals representing a range of clubs, peak bodies and organisations were interviewed about the Birchip Recreation Reserve. (For a full list of groups interviewed see Appendix 1)

The consultation was designed to gain insight into how the clubs and user groups use the Reserve, what they like about the venue, what they would like improved and to understand their future needs and aspirations for the site.

Stakeholder interview summary

Interviews were conducted by telephone with representatives of user groups of the Reserve.

From the interviews, it appears that the Birchip Reserve meets the needs of the major user groups however a number of improvements are required to meet future needs.

Priorities raised by more than one user group included the following:

- Improve spectator viewing from Leisure Centre over the oval and provide shade and shelter in front of Leisure Centre and north to the canteen
- Improve spectator facilities for tennis and hockey by providing more shade and seating
- Improve the access/ entry arrangements of the main Reserve entry on game day, by moving the ticket box so cars don't que across the intersection
- Improving internal parking and car/pedestrian movement, particularly on south side of Leisure Centre
- Provide a play space for children close to spectators/players
- Utilise the tennis courts not in use to provide for children wheel and ball activities
- Provide a rabbit proof fence around oval to protect surface and retain balls
- Upgrade the function room in Leisure Centre
- Upgrade the south toilet block
- Remove Bulls Bar.

Other items raised by individual clubs included:

- Relocate the hockey pitch closer to Leisure Centre – allows players to utilise change rooms and toilets
- Provide tennis court lighting
- Upgrade the two tennis hard courts
- Upgrade irrigation to the golf course
- Provide lighting to netball court 2
- Upgrade oval lighting for night games.

New facilities requested include:

- Walking/ running track around the Reserve and connecting town and sports facilities.

More tree planting for natural shade and shelter.



Figure 13. Birchip Golf Club.
Image: @leisure Planners

2.5. Key trends

Figure 14. The following diagram illustrates key relevant trends relating to parks and sports.



2.6. Implications of demand

The data gathered from user groups, peak bodies and the community engagement show there is strong demand for local sports facilities as well as other activities.

Even though Birchip's population is small and aging, there is significant participation in sports across all age groups, and this trend is expected to continue.

The Loddon Mallee North region (includes Buloke Shire) has one of the highest membership rates (% of total population) for netball in regional Victoria. The membership rate is 3.8% compared to the Victorian Rural and Regional average of 3.2%.¹¹

AFL penetration rates for junior, youth and senior player categories sit well above Victorian country average penetration rates in the Buloke, Loddon and Gannawarra LGAs more than doubling those averages.¹²

A Birchip under 14 AFL girls' team was successfully established in 2022 in the Central Victorian Football League.

Data from Cricket Victoria is older but suggests similar high participation levels with a player to population penetration rate in the Western Country region (includes Buloke Shire) almost double that of Cricket Victoria's Country Region average (3.19% compared with 1.88%) and the second highest female participant base across the State, including

Metro Regions (333 total, 109 additional players between 2014/15 and 2016/17).¹³

The Birchip clubs conduct introductory programs including Net Set Go, AusKick, HookIn2Hockey, and junior tennis coaching to introduce juniors to sports and help establish a base for the existing clubs.

Existing facilities will require ongoing improvements and upgrades to cater for regular and growing usage. While demand for new nonsporting activities at the Reserve will also grow.

Development of off-road trails will allow others to do things at the Reserve that they may not usually do and attract more individuals. Expanded picnic facilities, walking trails and play equipment is likely to be well utilised.

¹¹ Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy

¹² AFL Central Victoria Regional Strategy. 2017

¹³ Cricket Victoria Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2028

3. Role and relationship with other sports facilities

With five sports clubs based at the Reserve, the site is the home of sport in the Birchip region. The Leisure Centre is the central facility, offering change facilities, toilets and social space for all clubs.

Other sports facilities in Birchip include:

Birchip P-12 School

The School draws students from the neighbouring districts of Berriwillock, Culgoa, Nullawil, Beulah and Watchem. In 2021 some 170 students were enrolled at the school. Sports facilities at the school include an indoor stadium, marked for netball, basketball, volleyball and badminton, a cricket oval and a community gymnasium.

The Birchip Cricket Club use the school oval for junior cricket as the hard wicket which reduces wear on the turf wicket at the Recreation Reserve. The Netball club used the indoor stadium at the school while the Recreation Reserve outdoor courts were rebuilt in 2020/21.

The stadium has also hosted social competitions for basketball, mixed netball, indoor hockey, recreational mixed football, night bowls, table tennis and volleyball.

There is an outdoor exercise circuit on the perimeter of the school oval that is open to the community.

There are also rectangular grass fields at the school that could potentially host soccer, hockey or other small group outdoor sports, if surfaces were improved and there was demand for such sports.

Birchip Swimming Pool

Birchip Swimming Pool is located in Cumming Avenue. The pool is open seasonally from November to March each year. It is one of seven outdoor, seasonal pools in the Buloke Shire.

Swimming lessons are scheduled in January and during Terms 1 and 4 swimming squad, swimming lessons and water exercise classes are facilitated by the Birchip Neighbourhood House. Birchip P-12 School hold their annual carnival at the venue.

Tchum Lake

The Lake is 8km east of Birchip on the Birchip Wycheproof Rd and hosts a range of water sports and has a 3km walking track around the perimeter that links through native vegetation back into town. It is also connected by a walking/bike path. The lake caters for camping and boating activities, has a playground, BBQ and public toilet facilities.

Birchip Bowls Club

The bowls club is located 700m from the Reserve in Sherwood St. It has its own social facilities and has no direct relationship with the Reserve. Birchip bowlers compete in the Tyrell competition with a team in Division 1 and 2.

There has been some suggestion that the bowls club could move to the Reserve in the longer term.

Birchip Lifestyle and Fitness

Birchip Lifestyle and Fitness centre is based in the former Catholic Primary School and offers a range of exercise classes and is privately operated.

Birchip Neighbourhood House

Birchip Neighbourhood House also offers a range of programs and fitness activities.

Colocation, relocation, rationalisation?

The development of the Leisure Centre in the 1980s, the Management Committee and membership structure that was implemented at the time, has ensured that Birchip sports clubs have been able to benefit from pooling resources and maintaining good quality sporting infrastructure.

Hockey is the only sport at the Reserve that is not well served by support facilities or car parking, given its location west of the tennis courts. Relocating the hockey field nearer to the Leisure Centre would provide several benefits including:

- Easier access to change rooms/toilets
- Close proximity to social facilities
- Parking with direct street access close to field
- Greater spectator support with the field not as remote from other activities

If hockey was to relocate closer to the Leisure Centre, the final location is dependent on the long-term plans of the Birchip Bowling Club.

An area immediately west of the current Leisure Centre may accommodate the space required for bowls if they chose to relocate in the long term.



Figure 13. Image of George Cartwright Oval
Image from @leisure Planners

4. Birchip Recreation Reserve – The next 10 years

4.1. Vision

To provide a sustainable community space that promotes recreation, social and business opportunities.

4.2. Objectives for change

1. To function as a central hub for community sport and recreation in Birchip.
2. To maintain in balance: facilities that serve people from a broad range of age groups and abilities, for unorganised and club competition sport, recreation, and natural elements that provide shelter and shade, restorative values and habitat and high-quality landscape amenity.
3. To embrace environmental sustainability in relation to building and ground management, playing and traffic surfaces and asset development.
4. To support the growth and development of clubs and user groups.

4.3. Sustainability initiatives

Future developments at the Reserve will be expected to incorporate a range of environmental initiatives, as follows.

Water usage

- Consider irrigation technology that monitors soil moisture and adjusts irrigation system accordingly
- Monitor and record water meters and usage to ensure leakage and waste is minimised
- Upgrade old irrigation systems to reduce water loss and improve efficiency
- Primarily plant indigenous and trees and vegetation suited to the climate and soils to increase survival rates and benefit local fauna
- Upgrade irrigation
- Limit the use of sports turf to only fields and play areas to reduce the need for watering
- Use other hardy grass species for any other lawn areas.
- Reduce paved surfaces, especially dark surfaces to allow rainwater to permeate the surface and help reduce the heat island affect
- Improve the soil condition of garden beds and the root zones of trees with mulch and compost.

Provide additional trees

Plant appropriate trees in different areas to increase comfort and attract use, especially in the hot weather, for:

- Shade
- Amenity value
- Wind protection, and
- Play value

Solar energy

- Install solar roof panels and a battery to Leisure Centre to reduce the centre's operational costs
- Install solar security and path lighting

Recycling

- Use sustainable building materials such as park benches that are made from recyclable materials and recycled rubber in playgrounds
- Install recycling bins to encourage visitors to recycle plastic paper and glass.

Other

- Ensure all lighting is converted to LED lighting.

4.4. Master Plan – Preferred option

There were four draft concepts presented to the Project Steering Committee (See Chapter 5). The preferred concept, Concept 3 below shows the hockey pitch relocated next to netball in a north south direction close to the Leisure Centre and a bowls green immediately west of the Leisure Centre. Hockey and bowls can fit in this configuration and meet minimum competition size standards and allow access to golf course. Note the bowling green shown below is approximately 4 metres narrower than the existing green in Sherwood St. (See Appendix 4 for enlarged concept Master Plan with actions and Pavillion Design)



Figure 16. Concept 3 of the 4 layouts presented to the Steering Committee
Image 106 Architects

5. Reserve facility layout options and benefits

There were four options presented to the Steering Committee for the long-term development of the Reserve. These were largely based on future location of hockey and bowls, should they choose to relocate to the Reserve in the long term.

Option 3 was chosen by the Steering Committee for further investigation. See Appendix 4.

Following are the draft layouts of each option as presented and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Option 1: Potential hockey location with no bowls at Reserve



Figure 17. Option 1 draft showing potential location of hockey pitch at Birchip Recreation Reserve, without future bowls green

Advantages

- Allows hockey players and spectators easier access to Leisure Centre facilities such as toilets, canteen and social space
- North-south orientation aligns with preferred sports field layout that improves playing conditions
- Allows spectators to move more easily between all winter sports (netball, football and hockey)
- Closer to key Reserve entry point and existing hardstand car parking

Disadvantages

- Requires redesign of golf course and relocation of tees and holes
- Takes most suitable space for lawn bowls if relocated to Reserve
- Cuts off golf connection to Leisure Centre amenities and admin. (Mitigated by moving pitch to north)

Option 2: Potential hockey location allowing for bowls at Reserve



Figure 18. Option 2 draft showing potential location of hockey pitch at Birchip Recreation Reserve, with a future bowls green

Advantages

- Allows hockey players and spectators easier access to Leisure Centre facilities such as toilets, canteen and social space
- Allows spectators to move more easily between all winter sports (netball, football and hockey)
- Hockey closer to key Reserve entry point
- Allows bowls close access to LC, with parking south of Leisure Centre

Disadvantages

- Doesn't correct east -west alignment for hockey.
- No direct relationship between hockey and Leisure Centre Further walking distance from school and those walking from south/southwest of town
- Cuts off golf direct connection to Leisure Centre amenities and admin

Option 3: Potential hockey location allowing for bowls at Reserve



Figure 19. Option 3 draft showing potential location of hockey pitch at Birchip Recreation Reserve, with a future bowls green

Advantages

- Allows hockey players and spectators easier access to Leisure Centre facilities such as toilets, canteen and social space
- North-south orientation aligns with preferred sports field layout that improves playing conditions
- Allows spectators to move more easily between all winter sports (netball, football and hockey)
- Hockey closer to key Reserve entry point

Disadvantages

- Requires redesign of golf course and relocation of tees and holes
- Cuts off golf connection to Leisure Centre amenities and admin. Limited space between components
- Bowls is not prominent from the street

Option 4: Potential hockey location allowing for bowls at Reserve



Figure 20. Option 4 draft showing potential location of hockey pitch at Birchip Recreation Reserve, with a future bowls green and additional parking

Advantages

- Allows hockey players and spectators easier access to Leisure Centre facilities such as toilets, canteen and social space. Could provide direct parking off the street without having to enter the Reserve
- Allows spectators to move more easily between all winter sports (netball, football and hockey)
- Closer to key Reserve entry point.
- North-south orientation aligns with preferred sports field layout that improves playing

Disadvantages

- No direct relationship between hockey and Leisure Centre
- Requires redesign of golf course and relocation of tees and holes
- Bowls some distance from Leisure Centre amenities - would mostly likely require toilet / and possible shelter overlooking the green

6. Recommendations including priority and lead organisation

The following table shows the priority for each recommendation in the plan, as considered by the Steering Committee based on requirements to meet current standards, best practice and club preferences.

Table 7. Recommendations and priority order

No.	Recommendations	Priority (Low/Medium/High)	Lead	Partners
Leisure Centre				
1	Provide new flooring in kitchen.	Medium	BLC	BSC
2	Upgrade the kitchen facilities to improve catering capacity.	High	BLC	BSC
3	Instal new window coverings (Roller blinds 18mx 2m)	High	BLC	BSC
4	Improve ventilation for downstairs change rooms.	Medium	BSC	BLC
5	Upgrade the golf and netball support facilities (changerooms) to accommodate bowls in long term	Low	BSC	BLC
6	Refurbish toilets and showers for netball and golf participants.	Medium	BSC	BLC
7	Provide a lift into level one of the building - allow for lift shaft, structural alterations	Medium	BSC	BLC
Spectator areas				
8	Upgrade concourse to include accessible ramps at each end to address non-compliant access	High	BSC	BLC
	Provide outside tiered seating to the oval edge for spectators [on grade]	High	BSC	BLC
	Provide outside tiered seating for spectators [suspended / balcony]	High	BSC	BLC
	New shade structures [assumes can have columns / not cantilevered]	High	BSC	BLC
	Improve entry/ exit from lower-level change rooms to the oval [player tunnel]	High	BSC	BLC
9	Future Stage 2. Multi-use area - redevelopment squash /golf to include gym and exercise including small pool and change facilities (Viewing Area): Elevated viewing area to complement existing netball viewing room	Low	BSC	BLC
Squash courts				

BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

No.	Recommendations	Priority (Low/Medium/High)	Lead	Partners
10	Consider engineers report to rebuild or repair. Price includes demolition	High	BSC	BLC
11	Consider multi use - install moveable glass walls to allow for squash and flexible gym space.	High	BSC	BLC
Public toilets				
12	Remove existing toilet block located along fence line at Watson St entry once new public toilets are made available at Leisure Centre.	Low	BSC	BLC
13	Upgrade existing toilet block located on the southern side of the site.	High	BSC	BLC
Perimeter exercise trail				
14	Construct a 2m wide granitic sand walking/running track around Reserve, with connecting paths to existing facilities, following removal of obsolete tanks and other infrastructure.	High	BSC	BLC
15	Consider a fishing platform off golf dam.	Medium	BLC	BSC
16	Install lighting along walking track	Low	BSC	BLC
Golf course				
17	Upgrade watering system to the tees on the golf course.	Medium	BGC	BSC
Netball				
18	Additional lighting on court 2. Include underground infrastructure, pole, lights etc	High	BSC	BWNC
19	Increase fence height to 2200 at ends of courts (extra 1200H)	Medium	BWNC	BSC
20	Replace court 2 - assume synthetic rubber surface. (includes removal of existing, install new)	High	BSC	BWNC
21	Provide shade between netball courts and oval for those viewing both activities	High	BSC	BLC
22	Introduce lawn/grass area to soften landscape.	High	BSC	BLC
Hockey				
23	Relocate closer to Leisure Centre. New hockey pitch - 94m x 55m grass field with additional 3m & 5m runoff with irrigation and drainage	High	BSC	BWHC
24	New training lights	High	BSC	BWHC
25	Incorporate player facilities into Leisure Centre.	High	BSC	BWHC
Oval				

BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

No.	Recommendations	Priority (Low/Medium/High)	Lead	Partners
26	Rabbit proof fencing for the oval.	High	BWFC	BSC
27	Install goal netting at each end of oval.	Medium	BWFC	BSC
28	Extend seating around oval.	High	BWFC	BSC
Cricket				
29	Add sight screen at rear of cricket nets.	Medium	BCC	BSC
Tennis				
30	Upgrade the existing hard courts x 2.	High	BSC	BTC
31	Install light x 2 courts.	Medium	BSC	BTC
32	Install lights on existing lawn courts. Stage 1. Front 5 courts.	Medium	BSC	BTC
33	Install lights on existing lawn courts. Stage 2. Back 5 courts.	Medium		
34	Upgrade the fence in long term.	Medium	BTC	BSC
35	Install shade on west side of clubhouse and between courts 2 and 3.	High	BTC	BSC
36	Plant 3-4 shade trees between courts and the clubhouse.	High	BTC	BSC
37	Continues to maintain 10 grass courts.	High	BTC	BSC
38	Consider providing a temporary dividing net between the four courts and retaining a good base for future additional hard courts /synthetic grass courts or use of the space for children's ball and bike activities.	Low	BTC	BSC
Playground				
39	Develop a traditional fixed equipment playground at the southern end of the oval for year-round use by community and casual users of the Reserve	High	BSC	BLC
40	Soft fall mulch	High	BSC	BLC
41	Provide protected, shaded play space with portable equipment which can be transferred between netball and tennis in alternating seasons.	High	BSC	BLC
42	Provide protected, shaded space for a children's play area, where loose materials can be used.	High	BSC	BLC
Entries, traffic and parking				

BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

No.	Recommendations	Priority (Low/Medium/High)	Lead	Partners
43	Seek to provide designated car parks for each facility with access off the street and minimise large areas for vehicle use.	Low	BSC	BLC
44	Formalise car parking bays between Leisure Centre and tennis courts and north of netball courts.	Medium	BSC	BLC
45	Redesign the entry on corner of Morrison and Johnson St, including new signage and move ticket box further into Reserve and use bollards to separate cars and pedestrians.	High	BSC	BLC
46	New bollards to separate pedestrians and vehicles in high traffic zones.	High	BSC	BLC
47	Install new speed humps as required.	High	BSC	BLC
Trees				
48	Develop a native garden at south end of oval, building on the current established plantings.	Medium	BLC	BSC
49	Develop a tree planting plan for the whole Reserve using a consistent pallet of appropriate species for a) shade, b) shelter and wind breaks, c) play and d) landscape and visual amenity.	High	BLC	BSC
Other				
50	Plan for relocation of bowls club to the Reserve in the long term. 31m x 31m	Low	BSC	BBC
51	Install outdoor gym equipment	Low	BLC	BSC

7. Funding options

How could it be funded?

Buloke Shire Council have indicated that they have limited means to contribute additional funding for projects at the Reserve given their long-term financial commitments. However, they can provide letters of support for grant applications, lobbying and continue their club support.

There are several sources of funds for recreation and sports facilities. Major facility upgrades commonly have multiple funding sources, including government, user groups and not-for-profit funds. Some grants may only be accessible to local government and others, not-for-profit groups, and sports and recreation clubs.

Typical sources of funds for facilities include:

- Federal and State Government grants and election commitments
- Council capital works budgeted funds
- Philanthropic trusts/Foundation grants etc.
- Sponsorship and naming rights
- Fundraising programs

Other sources include leases to telecommunication towers and advanced rental payments.

As funding opportunities change on a regular basis, examples only are listed below.

Government grant programs

State

- Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund
- Change Our Game Community Activation Grants
- Regional Community Sport Development Fund
- All Abilities Sport Fund
- Telstra Footy Country Grants

National

- Australian Sports Commission - AIS Research Grant Program
- Play Well Participation Grant Program
- Building Better Regions Fund
- National Stronger Regions Fund.

Election commitments

- Victoria - November 2026
- Federal – No later than September 2025

Philanthropic

- Australian Sports Foundation – Fundraising
- Scanlon Foundation Community Grant Scheme

Funding for the indicative costs outlined below are subject to successful application for various funding grants. See Appendix 6 - Funding Options

Costs are supplied by Turner and Townsend Quantity Surveyors.

BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

8. Appendices

Appendix 1. Stakeholders consulted as part of this plan

Name of Club/Organisation	Position	Status of Interview
Birchip Cricket Club	Club representative	Completed
Birchip Watchem Football Club	Club representative	Completed
Birchip Watchem Netball Club	Club representative	Completed
Birchip Watchem Hockey Club	Club representative	Completed
Birchip Tennis Club	Club representative	Completed
Birchip Golf Club	Club representative	Completed
Birchip Bowls Club	Club representative	Completed
Ex Squash Club	Club representative	Completed
Birchip Leisure Centre	Club representative	Completed
Birchip Forum	Group representative	Completed
Birchip Lifestyle and Fitness	Instructor	Completed
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Officer	Completed
Sport and Recreation Victoria	Manager Loddon Mallee	Completed
Netball Victoria	Northern Region Manager	Completed
Tennis Victoria	Club Development Officer - Country Central West	Completed
AFL Victoria	Region Manager	Completed
Cricket Victoria	Cricket Manager Western Country and Central Highlands	Completed
Bowls Victoria	Regional Manager	Completed

Appendix 2. Alignment with Council and other plans

Long- term Community Vision and Council Plan

The Buloke Shire Council long term community Vision and Council Plan outlines the priorities and goals of the Buloke region between 2021-2025. The Plan includes four priorities each with a vision and number of actions and directions. These are outlined in the figure below.



Figure 21. Buloke Council Priorities 2021-2025

Source: Long Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025

Inclusiveness Plan – Buloke Shire Council

The Buloke Shire Inclusiveness Plan is about seeing and hearing residents whose voices are often unheard and contributions to their community often unseen. The Plan takes in the past Disability Action Plan and Positive Ageing Strategy to move these documents towards a genuine community approach.

- Actions from the plan to be considered as part of this Master Plan include:
- Address footpath access, accessible building and accessible entry for public buildings, use of microphones where possible
- Understand and promote that being physically and socially active can promote good mental health
- Specifically target programs and services within, leisure centres at socially isolated and lonely older people
- Investigate the opportunity of accessible playgrounds within the Shire and work towards a dedicated focus of footpath accessibility, working alongside those with mobility barriers
- Increase walkability and access of neighbourhoods for older people and people with disability and from a gender equity perspective with safer footpaths, street lighting, seating, public toilets

Birchip Community Plan

The Birchip Community Plan is a has been developed to describe the Birchip's community long term visions and aspirations. The Community Plan has been informed by the Long- term Community Vision and Council Plan and has identified strategies related to the four strategies identified above.

Objectives in the Birchip Community Plan that relate to Birchip Recreation Reserve, include:

- Review built community assets and explore opportunities for shared facilities and resources
- Maintain, enhance and plan for the future use of key community assets (e.g., BELC, Tchum Lake, Leisure Park, Park)
- Create a shade plan and actively seek funding for the installation and built and natural shade
- Maintain trees and control weeds on Council, Crown and private land
- Support young people to plan and deliver a broader range of recreation activities for children and young people that are not 'sport specific' (e.g., movie nights, BYO blow up to the pool, music events, drama)
- Seek opportunities to promote Birchip as a visitor destination
- Explore opportunities to strengthen strategic planning, partnering, communication and meeting skills amongst volunteers and community leaders
- Encourage the involvement of new volunteers and support and recognise existing volunteers.

Birchip Community Leisure Centre Master Plan 2010-2019

A 10 year Master Plan for the Reserve was completed in 2010 by the Birchip Community Leisure Centre Committee of Management in partnership with the Buloke Shire.

The following table summarises the progress of works recommended in the previous plan.

Table 8. Action Plan from the Birchip Community Leisure Centre Master Plan 2010 to 2019

Facility	Works	Completed Yes/No
Netball Courts	Construct a fence alongside the courts to prevent the balls from entering the car park area	Yes – prefer higher at north end
Children's play area	Develop a play space for young people near the netball courts.	No
Birchip Bowls Club	Set aside a space for a possible future location of the bowls facility from its location in town to the leisure centre, either behind the leisure centre or over the existing car park, next to the netball courts (Option). If a relocation is agreed to in the future, sell the land on which the Birchip Bowls Club is located and use this to help fund redevelopment of the Bowls Club at the Leisure Centre site	No
Leisure Centre	Upgrade plumbing throughout the Leisure Centre to improve water pressure	Hot water remains issue

BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

Facility	Works	Completed Yes/No
	Upgrade audio visual capacity of the Centre for functions and events	Yes
	Upgrade the kitchen and all appliances to allow it to continue to cater for community events and functions	No
	Upgrade the leisure Centre to increase the size of change facilities and to extend upstairs function room - Stage one (netball court end if redevelopment)	Yes
	Install a ramp at the appropriate gradient as described in AS1428.1 Disabled Access Code, to allow access to upstairs function room for the people with mobility issues	No
	Upgrade air conditioning in function area	No
	Upgrade the Leisure Centre to improve balcony viewing - Stage Two (front of centre redevelopment)	No
	Upgrade downstairs disabled toilet. To be compliant with AS1428.1 Disabled Access Code and instal baby change facilities	No
	Develop a disabled toilet upstairs to be compliant with a AS1428.1 Disabled Access Code and install baby change facilities	Yes

Facility	Works	Completed Yes/No
Scoreboard/ kiosk	Upgrade stairs on the scoreboard building to ensure that they are not so steep	No
Spectator shelter	Extend shelter for spectators from Leisure Centre to kiosk/scoreboard area	No
Sportsground	Plant with drought tolerant grass is an installed subsurface irrigation system	Yes
Tennis	Retain the Tennis Club pavilion until the facility reaches the end of its lifespan and review its use at that point in time	Yes - new
	Renovate two synthetic grass courts.	No
Hockey/ tennis	Renovate the tennis pavilion so that it can be used as a change social facility for hockey players over winter	No
Entrance	Council traffic engineers to redesign entrance to site to improve safety and construct a new ticket box if required	No
Landscape	Improve landscaping throughout the whole site	No
Old kiosk	Remove old kiosk and relocate power supply	Yes
Outdoor toilet block near tennis courts	Install a new public toilet block near tennis courts	No
BBQ/Picnic area	Develop shade over the BBQ/picnic area through planting of five mature trays	No

BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

Facility	Works	Completed Yes/No
Carparking	Mark parking days for people with disabilities, kitchen deliveries and emergency access	Yes
	Formalise car parking in both car parks and around the sports grounds	No
Mallee Bull Bar	Demolish Mallee Bull Bar	Yes
Sheep pavilion	Retain sheep pavilion as a storage shed	Yes
Horse stable	Offer horse stables to Birchip Racing Club for removal at their cost	Yes
Management/ Administration	Review management structure to provide better benefits for members and to increase revenue for members	TBC
	Committee of Management to continue to develop policies and strategies (e.g., risk management strategy) to ensure effective operations of the facility	TBC
	Committee of Management to undertake succession planning and governance training to ensure continued effective operations of the Committee	TBC
Operations	Subject to a positive feasibility, trial the employment of a chief to provide meals on weekends or on training nights	TBC

Facility	Works	Completed Yes/No
Maintenance	Continue to maintain and repair kitchen equipment	TBC
Marketing	Install signage at both entrances to the site	No
	Produce a quarterly newsletter (in both hardcopy and electronic format) outlining events at the Centre, bar opening hours, membership benefits, etc.	TBC

AFL Central Victoria Facilities Strategy – September 2017

The AFL Central Victoria Regional Strategy provides the principles and strategic framework to support the future development, governance and growth of football and netball throughout the Central Victoria Region. It also provides key regional strategic directions and recommendations, as well as identifying critical priorities and actions for AFL Central Victoria, AFL Victoria, Netball Victoria, AFL Central Victoria Leagues, Clubs and Netball Associations and project partner LGAs.

26% of the Central Victoria Regions' population aged over 18 participate in football (well above the Victorian country average penetration rate of 10%). Similarly junior and youth participation averages sit well above the State country penetration averages for these two age cohorts.

The penetration rates for football and netball in the Central Victorian Region showed that the Buloke Shire were well above the average in all five age categories compared to the other 8 LGAs in the Central Region.

Audits completed in February - May 2016 identified that there were gaps in facility amenities at the George Cartwright Oval in relation to changerooms, umpire rooms, football lighting and netball lighting. Facility condition ratings were marked low in relation to female suitability and shower facility design in umpires, home and away change rooms. These aspects have since been addressed.

The netball court surface and lighting were also rated poorly. These aspects have also been addressed.

Night competition football capable lighting is generally well catered for across the Region with all project partner LGAs, except Buloke, Gannawarra and Northern Grampians Shires having at least one venue with lighting to this level (150 lux).

Appendix 3. Site Services

Drainage – Watson St

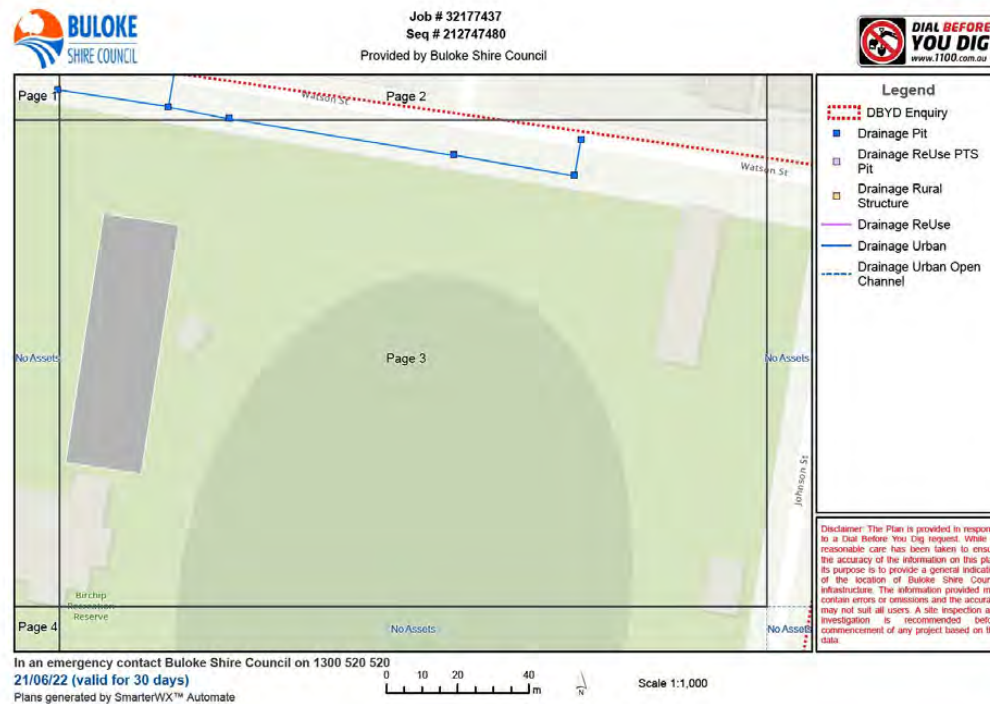


Figure 22. Drainage and pit location, Watson St Birchip, north of Reserve
Source: Buloke Shire Council

Electricity



Figure 23. Site Locality Map for electrical cables at Birchip Recreation Reserve and location of low voltage cable at Oval
Source: Dial Before You Dig

BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

Water and sewerage

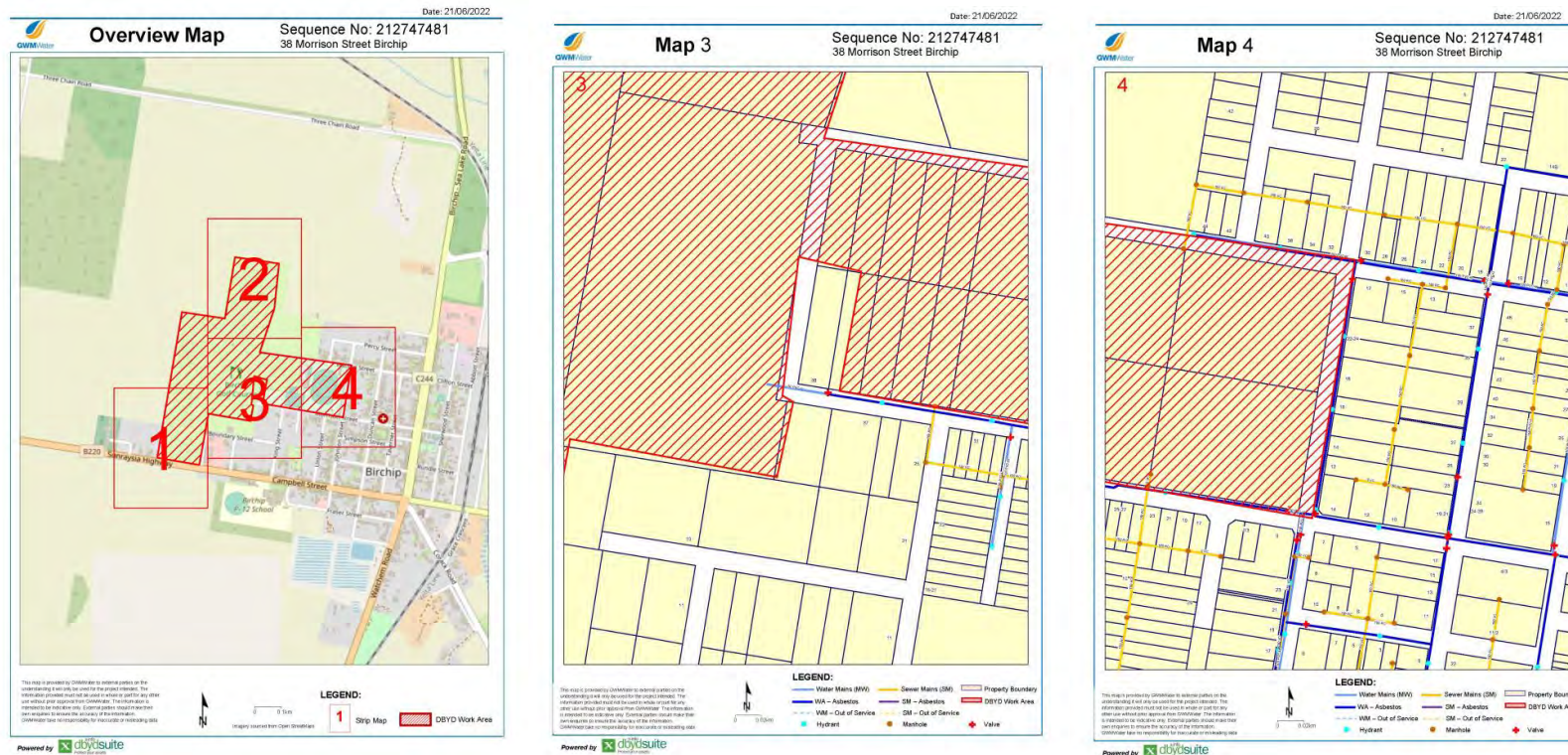


Figure 24. Overview Map of Birchip Recreation Reserve showing water and sewer mains
Source: Dial Before You Dig

Appendix 4. Pavilion Frontage Refurbishment and Master Plan

Birchip Recreation Reserve.

Birchip Community Leisure Centre.
Frontage Refurbishment.



Morrison Street
Birchip, Vic. 3483

Preliminary Concept – PC02 - FINAL

December 2023

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Architects

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Contents

EXISTING CONDITIONS
EXISTING SITE
PROJECT OVERVIEW
BRIEF
MASTERPLAN CONCEPT FLOOR
PLANS REFERENCE IMAGES
3D IMAGES

Prepared for
Buloke Shire Council

Birchip Community Leisure Centre Pavilion
Frontage Refurbishment

Concept

Revision
06.04.2023

01

Reference. A22135

Prepared by
Dion Gosling

Reviewed by
Dion Gosling
On behalf of Studio106 Architecture Pty Ltd
T/A 106 Architects

Cover Image

Birchip Community Leisure Centre

2

A22135 / BIRCHIP COMMUNITY LEISURE CENTRE
PAVILION FRONTAGE REFURBISHMENT

Concept – PC02

18-Dec-23



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Existing Conditions



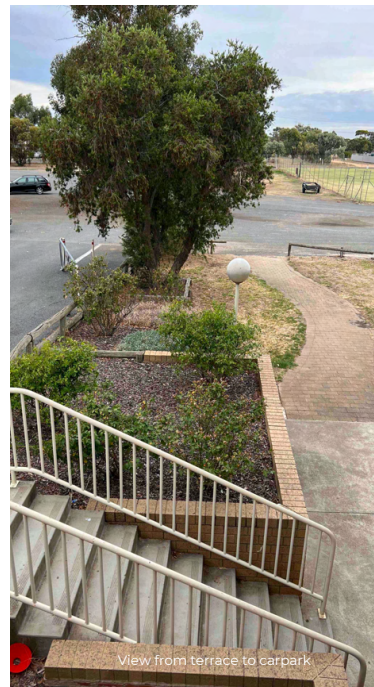
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A22135 / BIRCHIP COMMUNITY LEISURE CENTRE
PAVILION FRONTAGE REFURBISHMENT

Concept – PC02

18-Dec-23

Existing Site



View from terrace to carpark



Hardcourt Change Room Access



Oval Change Room Access

4

A22135 / BIRCHIP COMMUNITY LEISURE CENTRE
PAVILION FRONTAGE REFURBISHMENT

Concept – PC02

18-Dec-23

Existing Site



5

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PAVILION FRONTAGE REFURBISHMENT

Concept – PC02

18-Dec-23



Project Overview.

Project Scope

- Leisure Centre frontage upgrade
- Rationalise existing accessible ramps & balustrades
- Better use of spectator mound, bench seating
- Site accessibility upgrades
- Landscape overlay
- New covered structures
- Back of house / servicing upgrade
- Enhance connections & integration of existing amenities



Brief.

Facilities:

- Viewing platforms & terrace
- Public viewing areas & seating
- Events concourse

Key Considerations:

- Drop-off for deliveries
- Safe pedestrian movement between clubrooms, hardcourts & oval
- Covered spectator shelter – for sun & wind
- Standing room
- Unimpeded views from inside social spaces to the oval
- Enable fully accessible entry points – ramps & stairs
- Adaptive reuse of space – events & day-to-day activities
- Event & spectator zone
- Larger terrace/deck area required

Design Challenges + Constraints:

- Excavation / cut-to-fill
- Integration with existing leisure centre
- Levels across embankment
- Access priorities

Design Opportunities:

- Soften area w/ landscape treatment
- Create shelter structures
- Potential canteen servicing the terrace
- External connections with landscape & oval
- Lightweight structures to compliment solidity of existing Centre materials

Masterplan



8

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PAVILION FRONTAGE REFURBISHMENT

Concept - PC02

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Reference Images.



10

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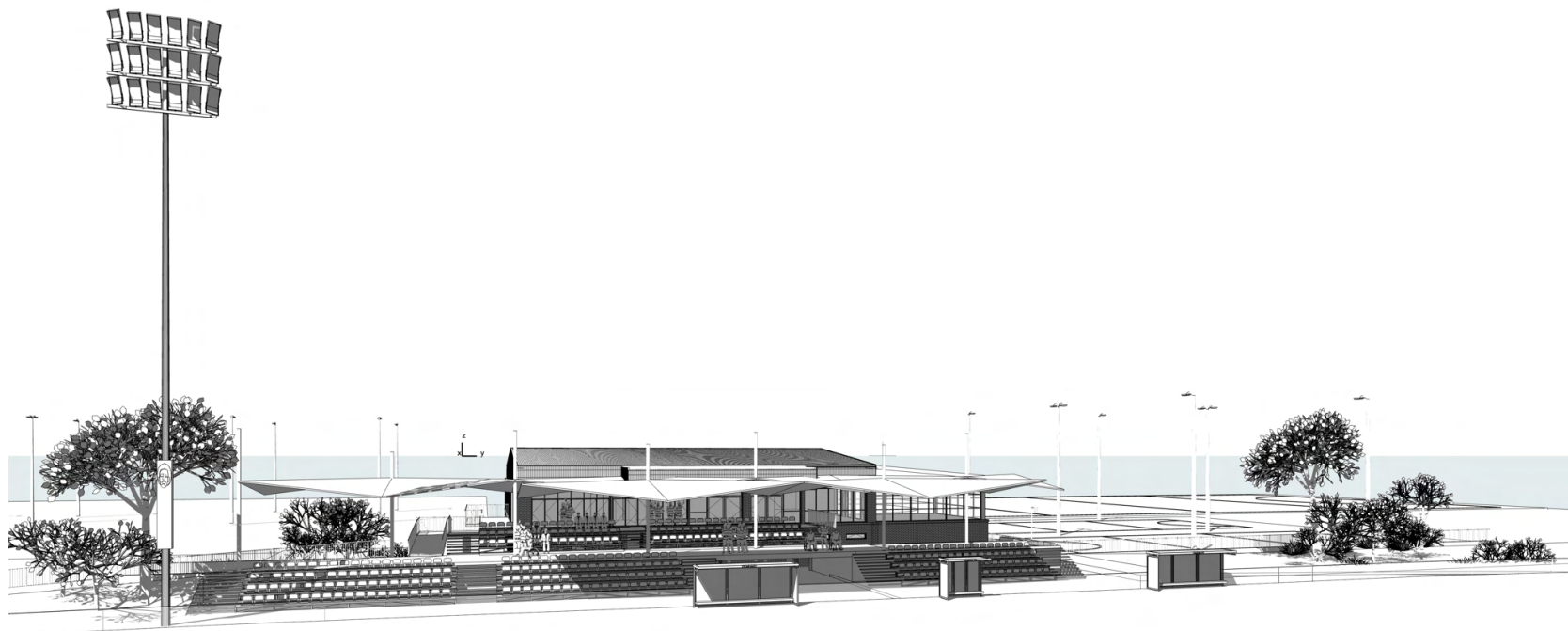
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11

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18-Dec-23



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12

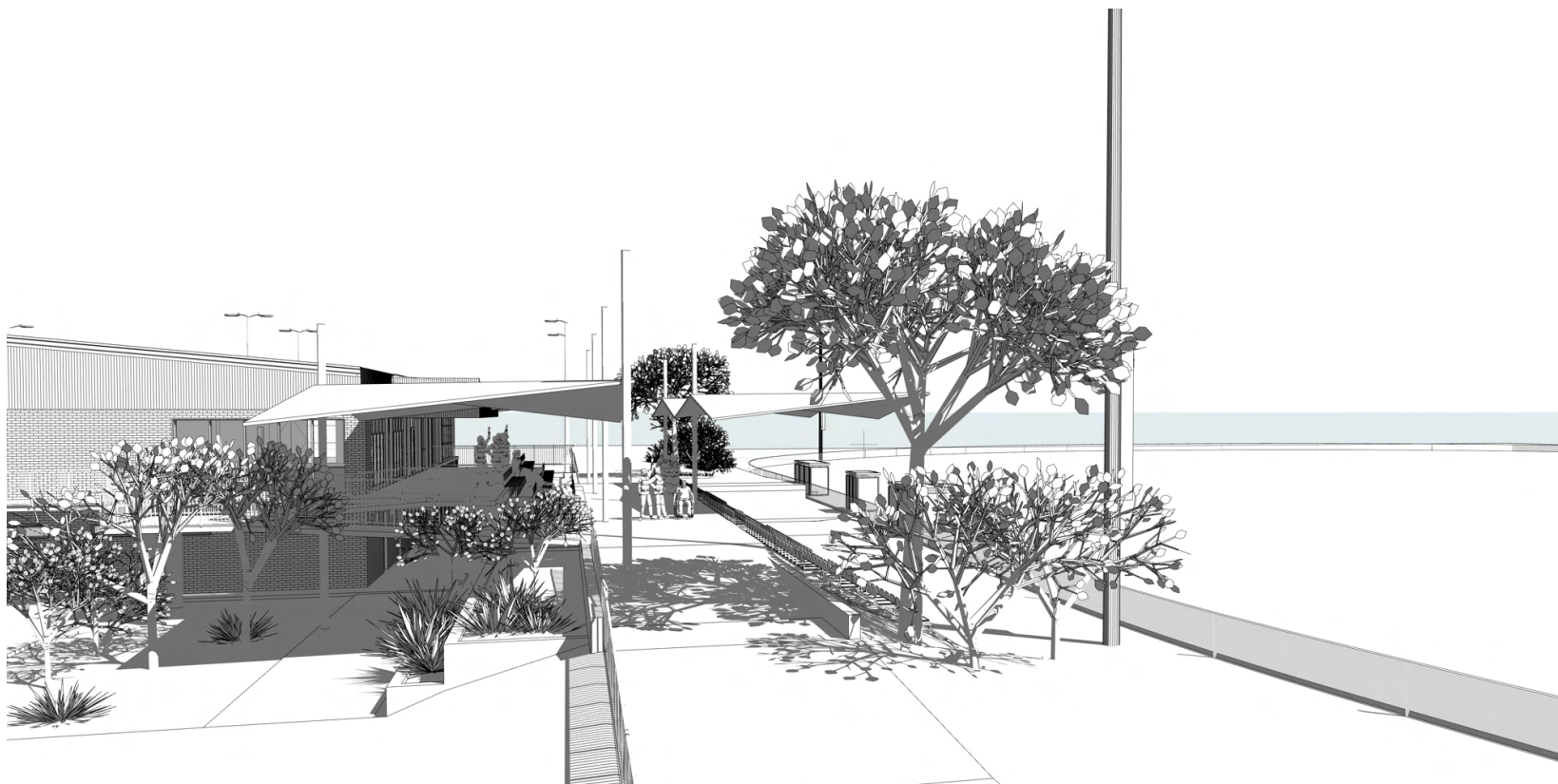
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PAVILION FRONTAGE REFURBISHMENT

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18-Dec-23



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13

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PAVILION FRONTAGE REFURBISHMENT

Concept - PC02

18-Dec-23



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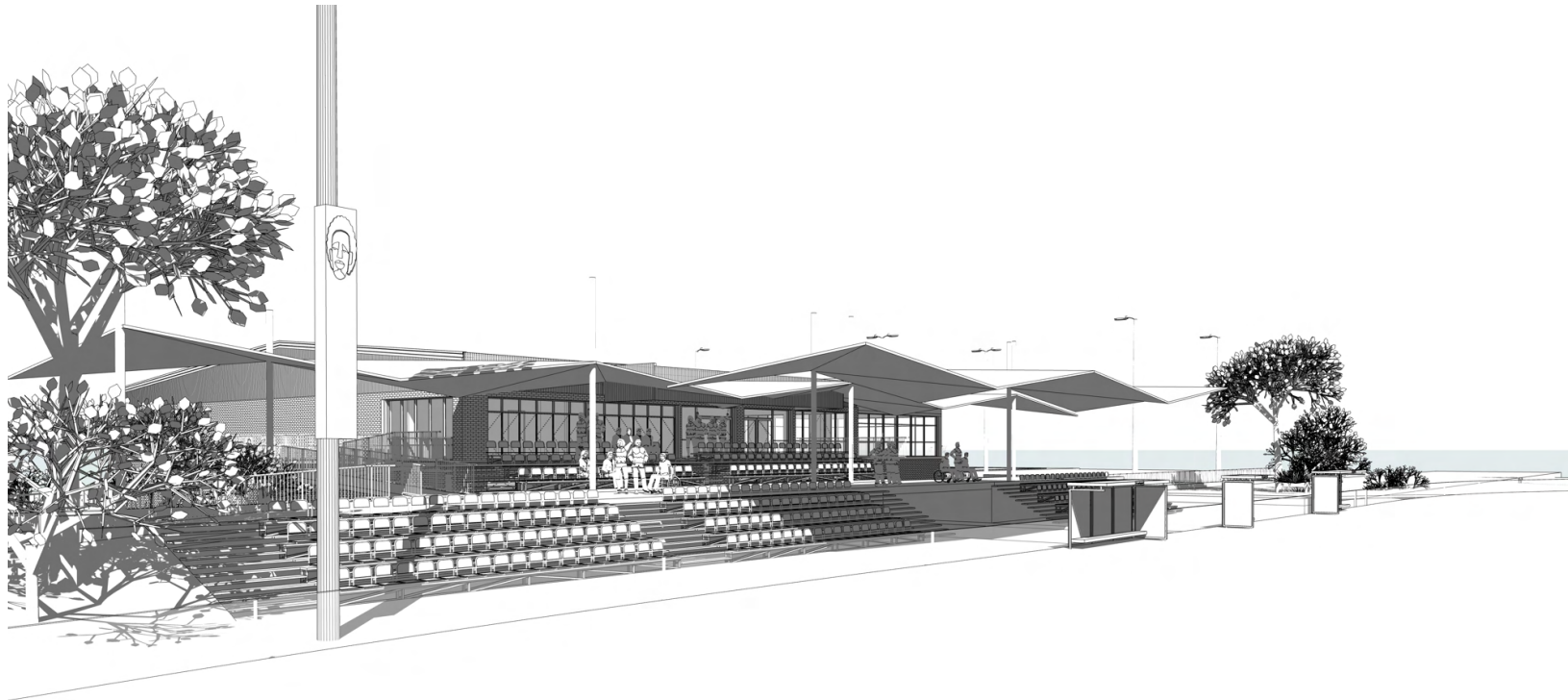
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15

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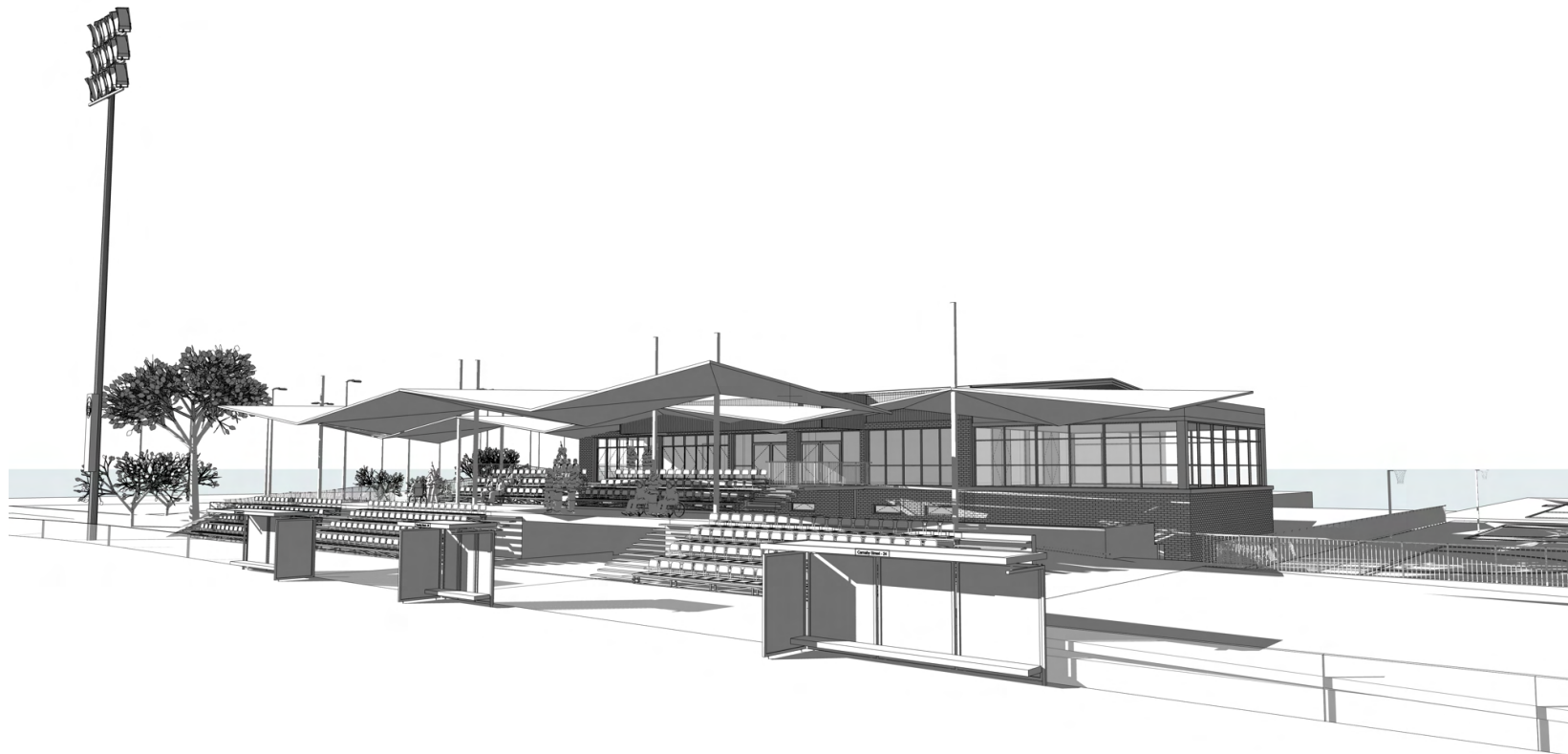
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16

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PAVILION FRONTAGE REFURBISHMENT

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Summary

Indicative Cost Plan - R1

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Birchip Recreational Reserve R1

making the **difference**

Summary



@Leisure Birchip Recreational Reserve R1				Indicative Cost Plan - R1	
Item	Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Total (AUD)
1	Birchip Recreational Reserve				
2	Indicative Cost Plan				
3	30/08/2024				
4					
5	Notes/Exclusions				0
6					
7	Leisure Centre				3,982,036
8	External Sports				4,026,385
9	Playground				175,000
10	Site Works				977,902
11	Site Services				280,000
12	Subtotal				9,441,323
13					
14	ESD Initiatives	3	%		283,240
15	Preliminaries	12	%		1,166,948
16	Locality Allowance	5	%		544,576
17	Subtotal				11,436,086
18					
19	Design Contingency	15	%		1,715,413
20	Cost Escalation to Tender	5	% pa	12 mths	657,575
21	Construction Total				13,809,074
22					
23	Construction Contingency	10	%		1,380,907
24	Professional Fees	10	%		138,091
25	Authority Fees & Charges	1.5	%		207,928
26	Loose Furniture, Fittings & Equipment (FF&E)	Allow			50,000
27	AV / IT equipment	Allow			100,000
28	Internal Council Costs				Excluded
29	Decanting, relocation, temporary facilities				Excluded
30	Project Total				15,686,000



Detail

Indicative Cost Plan - R1

@Leisure

Birchip Recreational Reserve R1

making the **difference**

Detail



@Leisure Birchip Recreational Reserve R1		Indicative Cost Plan - R1			
Item	Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Total (AUD)
	Notes/Exclusions - Elemental Summary				
5.1	COST PLAN NOTES				
5.2	Cost plan assumes a competitively bid tender process to 4 or more suitably sized contractors		note		
5.3	DOCUMENTATION				
5.4	Concept designs prepared by 106 Architects received 13 August 2024		note		
5.5	Birchip recommendations, details and info dated 310724 from @Leisure		note		
5.6	EXCLUSIONS				
5.7	GST		note		
5.8	Land, legal, marketing and finance costs		note		
5.9	Removal and disposal off-site of contaminated soil		note		
5.10	Adverse soil conditions including rock excavation and replacement of soft spots		note		
5.11	Latent conditions		note		
5.12	Asbestos and hazardous materials removal		note		
5.13	Staging costs		note		
5.14	Works outside site boundary		note		
5.15	Scope included is strictly in accordance with concept and recommendations - no allowance for scope not referred in these documents.		note		
5.16	Upgrade to Authority Mains		note		
5.17	Assume electrical power source from existing connection and no upgrade is required.		note		
5.18	Graphic art / public art		note		
5.19	Works to the park not specifically noted as part of the scope		note		
5.20	Items noted as Excluded in the cost plan detail		note		
	Total - Notes/Exclusions				0

Detail



@Leisure Birchip Recreational Reserve R1		Indicative Cost Plan - R1			
Item	Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Total (AUD)
	Leisure Centre - Elemental Summary				
7.1	<u>Level 1</u>				
7.2	New flooring to kitchen incl remove existing	35	m2	300.00	10,500
7.3	Upgrade kitchen facilities to improve capacity	PROV SUM			75,000
7.4	Revise cool room configuration and install new beer lines	8	m2	4,800.00	36,000
7.5	New roller blinds [extent as nominated - 18m x 2m]	36	m2	180.00	6,480
7.6	<u>Ground floor</u>				
7.7	Improve ventilation for downstairs change rooms - replace motor of existing A/C	224	m2	150.00	33,600
7.8	Upgrade the golf support facilities (changerooms) to accomodate bowls in long term	118	m2	2,000.00	236,000
7.9	Refurbish toilets and showers for netball and golf	30	m2	4,000.00	120,000
7.10	Provide a lift into level one of the building	1	no		
7.11	- allow for lift	1	no	100,000.00	100,000
7.12	- allow for lift shaft, structural alterations	PROV SUM			120,000
7.13	<u>Future Area</u>				
7.14	Future Multi-use area - redevelopment squash / golf to include gym and exercise incl small pool and change facilities				Excluded
7.15	Future Stage 2 viewing area - elevated viewing area				Excluded
7.16	<u>Squash Courts</u>				
7.17	Rebuild squash court incl demo existing	1	crt	200,000.00	200,000
7.18	Install movable glass walls	Allow			75,000
7.19	No works to court 2		note		Excluded
7.20	<u>Spectator area</u>				
7.21	Upgrade concourse to include accessible ramps at each end to address non- compliant access	290	m2	1,000.00	290,000
7.22	Provide outside tiered seating to the oval edge for spectators [on grade]	137	m2	2,000.00	274,000
7.23	- Extra for steps	5	no	10,000.00	50,000
7.24	Provide outside tiered seating for spectators [suspended / balcony]	152	m2	3,000.00	456,810
7.25	- Extra for steps	3	no	15,000.00	45,000
7.26	New shade structures [assumes can have columns / not cantilevered]	743	m2	1,500.00	1,114,500
7.27	Improve entry/ exit from lower level change rooms to the oval [player tunnel]	PROV SUM			100,000
7.28	Allow for paved area surrounding seating	382	m2	300.00	114,546
7.29	- Allow for tiered planters to side of ramps	PROV SUM			50,000

Detail



@Leisure Birchip Recreational Reserve R1		Indicative Cost Plan - R1			
7.30	New shade between netball and oval (6m x 10m no seating)	Allow			100,000
7.31	- assume paved area with seats is existing		note		Excluded
7.32	New lawn / grass area (40m x 8m)	320	m2	30.00	9,600
7.33	<u>Public Toilet</u>				
7.34	Remove existing toilet block at Watson St entry	Allow			15,000
7.35	Refurbish existing toilet block to south side of site incl new roof	PROV SUM			350,000
	Total - Leisure Centre				3,982,036

Detail



Turner & Townsend

@Leisure Birchip Recreational Reserve R1			Indicative Cost Plan - R1		
Item	Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Total (AUD)
	External Sports - Elemental Summary				
8.1	<u>Perimeter exercise trail</u>				
8.2	New 2m wide granitic sand walking / running track	4,629	m	75.00	347,175
8.3	Allow for fishing platform off golf dam	Allow			30,000
8.4	<u>Golf course</u>				
8.5	Upgrade watering system to tees on golf course	1,500	m	65.00	97,500
8.6	<u>Netball</u>				
8.7	Additional lights to court 2 incl lights, poles and cabling	2	no	50,000.00	100,000
8.8	Increase fence height to 2200 at ends of courts (extg 1200H)	100	m	360.00	36,000
8.9	- assumes remove existing and provide new		note		
8.10	Replace / resurface court 2 - assume synthetic rubber surface	Allow			400,000
8.11	- includes removal of existing, install new		note		
8.12	<u>Hockey</u>				
8.13	New hockey pitch - 94m x 55m grass field with additional 3m & 5m runoff with irrigation and drainage	Allow			677,710
8.14	New training lights to field	Allow			300,000
8.15	<u>Oval</u>				
8.16	Rabbit proof fencing to the oval	536	m	400.00	214,400
8.17	Install goal netting at each end	Allow			160,000
8.18	Extend seating around oval [assume 50% existing retained]	Allow			174,200
8.19	<u>Cricket</u>				
8.20	Add sight screen to rear of cricket nets	Allow			30,000
8.21	<u>Tennis</u>				
8.22	Upgrade existing hard courts	2	no	180,000.00	360,000
8.23	- new lighting	Allow			100,000
8.24	Install new lights to existing grass courts				
8.25	stage 1 - front x 5 courts	Allow			200,000
8.26	stage 2 - back x 5 courts	Allow			200,000
8.27	Upgrade perimeter tennis court fence	340	m	360.00	122,400
8.28	- assumes remove existing and provide new		note		
8.29	New shade sail on west side of clubhouse	Allow			25,000

Detail



@Leisure Birchip Recreational Reserve R1		Indicative Cost Plan - R1			
8.30	- assume over existing paved/seating area		note		
8.31	New shade trees between courts and clubhouse (assume 45L pots)	4	no	500.00	2,000
8.32	Maintain grass courts	8	no		Excluded
8.33	Temporary dividing net between front and back courts	Allow			50,000
8.34	<u>Bowling Green</u>				
8.35	New bowling green - 31m x 31m	1	no	400,000.00	400,000
	Total - External Sports				4,026,385

Detail



@Leisure Birchip Recreational Reserve R1				Indicative Cost Plan - R1	
Item	Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Total (AUD)
	Playground - Elemental Summary				
9.1	New traditional fixed equipment playground at the south end of the oval	Allow			100,000
9.2	- extra for soft fall mulch	Allow			15,000
9.3	New protected play space with portable equipment	Allow			30,000
9.4	- Extra for temporary shade structures / market umbrellas etc	Allow			30,000
9.5	- no allowance for soft fall for portable play space		note		Excluded
	Total - Playground				175,000

Detail



@Leisure Birchip Recreational Reserve R1				Indicative Cost Plan - R1	
Item	Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Total (AUD)
	Site Works - Elemental Summary				
10.1	Site clearance	18,650	m2	8.00	149,200
10.2	Earthworks to outdoor seating / concourse areas	870	m2	90.00	78,300
10.3	- extra for batters	Allow			45,000
10.4	<u>Entries, traffic and parking</u>				
10.5	Dedicated carparks for each facility				Included
10.6	Formalise carparking bays between Leisure Centre and tennis courts and north of netball courts	Allow			536,402
10.7	Redesign entry on cnr of Morrison and Johnson St incl new bollards	Allow			100,000
10.8	- allow to relocate ticket box	PROV SUM			10,000
10.9	New bollards to separate pedestrian and vehicles in high traffic zone	12	m	1,000.00	12,000
10.10	New speed humps	60	m	450.00	27,000
10.11	<u>Trees</u>				
10.12	New native garden at south end of oval	100	m2	150.00	15,000
10.13	Develop tree planting plan for the whole reserve	Allow			5,000
10.14	- no allowance for actual trees		note		
	Total - Site Works				977,902

Detail



@Leisure Birchip Recreational Reserve R1				Indicative Cost Plan - R1	
Item	Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Total (AUD)
	Site Services - Elemental Summary				
11.1	Allow for stormwater	1	item	250,000.10	250,000
11.2	Allow for sewer - assume existing - no works				N/A
11.3	Allow for water	Allow			30,000
11.4	Allow for fire - assume existing - no works				N/A
11.5	Allow for electrical / comms - assume existing - no allowance for upgrade				Excluded
	Total - Site Services				280,000

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Nil.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCIL FLOOD RECOVERY FUNDING

Author's Title:	Director Corporate and Organisational Performance	
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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 Graeme Milne and is for the purpose of the action of Council to acknowledge and write to the relevant Ministers and Departments regarding Council's flood recovery funding.

SUMMARY

Since the devastating floods of 2022 and 2023, our community has waited far too long for the State Government to deliver on its promises of flood recovery funding.

Despite being one of the hardest-hit regions, Buloke Shire has been forced to respond to the whims of the Disaster Recovery Fund Arrangements (DRFA) assessors for the ever changing methodology and procedures to be met with the collection of evidence, scoping of works, and preparation of claim estimates.

Council officers have endured at least 5 material changes to the assessors methodology and procedures since the 2022 flood event – this results in incredible rework, recollection of information, rewording for defect detail, and adjustments to treatment scope. All at a resource cost Council must carry on the hope that the State Government will eventually (and finally) form an assessment that defects are eligible for funding via the DRFA. Enough is enough, and it is time for the State Government agencies to get back to working alongside Local Government to enable funding, that should have been swiftly and fairly allocated, to be paid to Council so we can get works completed on the ground.

Council are dealing with a backlog of flood recovery works valued between **\$60 million and \$80 million**, yet only a **small contribution** has been received to date. The majority of our roads remain in a **dangerous and deteriorating condition**, with Variable Message Signs now required to warn road users of the hazards.

These are not minor inconveniences—they are serious safety risks. Damage to private vehicles has already been reported, and the situation worsens daily.

Our ratepayers, school buses, contractors, families, and emergency services are being forced to navigate roads that are not fit for purpose. This is unacceptable. As a small rural Shire, we do not have the financial capacity to absorb these costs alone. We rely on the State Government to honour its commitments and support our recovery.

I call on this Council to formally demand immediate and full funding from the Victorian Government to complete all outstanding flood recovery works. We must stand united in advocating for our community's safety, wellbeing, and fair treatment.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Expresses concern over the deteriorating condition of local roads, which pose serious safety risks to residents, school buses, contractors, and emergency services.
4. Calls on the Victorian Government to immediately release the full funding required to complete all outstanding flood recovery works.
5. Directs the Mayor and CEO to write to the relevant Ministers and Departments demanding urgent action, including but not limited to;
 - 5.1 State Government Minister for Roads and Road Safety, The Hon. Mellssa Horne, expressing;
 - i. Our disappointment of the administration of the DRFA damage assessment process across Victoria,
 - ii. Our requirement for the Government Departments to undertake the assessment in;
 - A) good faith,
 - B) alignment with the DRFA Guidelines and program intent
 - C) a timely manner
 - D) the interest of maximising the funding available to restore the local essential road network to pre event condition
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
6. Directs the Mayor and CEO to write to neighbouring councils and regional advocacy bodies to seek their support.

Attachments: Nil

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

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	C129 Evaluation Report Regional Workers Accommodation Cabins	(g)(i) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets
9.5.2	Appointment of Interim CEO	(f) personal information, being which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs

10 MEETING CLOSE