



Council Meeting **Agenda**

Wednesday 15 July
2026

Commencing at 7:00pm

Wycheproof Supper Room
367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Daniel McLoughlan
Chief Executive Officer



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1 COUNCIL WELCOME AND STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WELCOME

The Mayor Cr Graeme Milne will welcome all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Mayor Cr Graeme Milne 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 17 June 2026.

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 GOVERNANCE REPORT - JULY 2026

Author's Title: Acting Manager Governance

Directorate: Corporate and Organisational Performance

File No: GO/05/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a single reporting platform for a range of statutory compliance, transparency, and governance matters.

The Governance report is prepared as a monthly report to Council.

The Governance report includes:

- Record of Councillor Assemblies and Meetings held
- Record of Councillor Briefings, at Attachment 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 to this report.
- Chief Executive Officer Activity Report
- The Status of Actions Report for Council resolutions at Attachment 7.1.3 to this report.
- Contracts awarded in accordance with the increased Financial Delegation provided to the Chief Executive Officer.
- The summary of minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held Wednesday, 13 May 2026 at Attachment 7.1.4 to this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the Record of Councillor Assemblies and Meetings held.
2. Notes the Record of Councillor Briefings, at Attachment 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 to this report.
3. Notes the Chief Executive Officer Activity Report.
4. Notes the Status of Actions Report for Council resolutions at Attachment 7.1.3 to this report.
5. Notes the contract entered into for this period, in accordance with the increased Financial Delegation provided to the Chief Executive Officer of \$1,500,000 (excluding GST).
6. Notes the summary of the minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held Wednesday, 13 May 2026 at Attachment 7.1.4 to this report.

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

The Governance Report is prepared as a monthly report to Council to provide a single reporting platform for a range of statutory compliance, transparency, and governance matters.

In accordance with best practice principles of good governance practice, and to ensure compliance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*, this report incorporates matters including records of meetings held, organised or hosted by Council, items relating to the delegation of Council powers and duties, and policy and strategy reporting.

Record of Councillor Assemblies and Meetings held from 4 June 2026 to 1 July 2026

Records of matters discussed at meetings organised or hosted by Buloke Shire Council that involve Councillors and Council officers are kept in accordance with the Governance Rules.

Meeting records must include attendees, including organisations represented by external presenters; the title of matters discussed; and any conflicts of interests disclosed and whether the declarant of a conflict of interest excused themselves from the meeting.

Record of Councillor Assemblies:

Date/Time/Venue	Councillor Attendees	Meeting Type
10 June 2026 1:00pm <i>Wycheproof Supper room</i>	Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	Renewables Update
10 June 2026 2:00pm <i>Wycheproof Supper room</i>	Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	Councillor Briefing: Planning and Related Matters
11 June 2026 5:30pm <i>Online</i>	Cr Hogan, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	CEO and Councillor Only Time
17 June 2026 7:00pm <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>	Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	Council Meeting
1 July 2026 5:00pm <i>Charlton Council Chamber</i>	Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	Councillor Briefing

Chief Executive Officer Activity Report from 4 June 2026 – 1 July 2026

Record of meetings attended by the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the Buloke Shire Council. Activity record includes the date, activity and location.

Daniel McLoughlan – Chief Executive Officer (4 June 2026 – 1 July 2026)		
Date	Activity	Location
09/06/2026	VNI West Community Reference Group (CRG) June Meeting	Charlton
10/06/2026	Loddon Mallee Economic Growth Forum	Bendigo
10/06/2026	MAV Pre-briefing - National General Assembly	Online
11/06/2026	Readiness Planning	Horsham
11/06/2026	WSMCA CEO Meeting	Horsham
11/06/2026	CEO and Councillor Only Time	Online
12/06/2026	Buloke Shire Council and Emergency Management Victoria	Melbourne
15/06/2026	MAV Monday Connect	Online
15/06/2026	EPA/Buloke Shire Council Executive Meeting	Online
16/06/2026	Dr Anne Webster and BSC	Warracknabeal
16/06/2026	Dr Anne Webster and Northwest 9 Council Alliance	Warracknabeal
17/06/2026	Council Meeting	Wycheproof

18/06/2026	GWM Tourism Pre-Board Meeting Discussion	Online
18/06/2026	LGPro Annual Conference	Melbourne
19/06/2026	MAV/VicGrid Local Government Renewable Energy Transition Forum	Melbourne
23/06/2026	National General Assembly – Day One	Canberra
24/06/2026	National General Assembly – Day Two	Canberra
24/06/2026	Senator Lisa Darmanin and BSC	Canberra
24/06/2026	Northwest 9 Council Alliance - Meeting with the Hon. Chris Bowen MP - Resource Ready Strategy	Canberra
25/06/2026	National General Assembly – Day Three	Canberra
25/06/2026	Northwest 9 Council Alliance - Meeting with Hon. Kristy McBain, Minister for Emergency Management, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories - Resource Ready Strategy	Canberra
25/06/2026	Northwest 9 Council Alliance - Meeting with Senator Jana Stewart, Chair of Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs - Resource Ready Strategy	Canberra
25/06/2026	Northwest 9 Council Alliance – Meeting with Chris Hancock, Advisor to the Office of Senator the Hon. Anthony Chisholm, Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Canberra
29/06/2026	Gold FM Radio	Radio
29/06/2026	BSC and DEECA Loddon Mallee Catch Up (Monthly)	Bendigo
01/07/2026	Northwest 9 Council Alliance - Office of Minister D'Ambrosio - Resource Ready Strategy	Melbourne
01/07/2026	Northwest 9 Council Alliance - Ministerial Meetings and Follow-up Update - Resource Ready Strategy	Melbourne
01/07/2026	RCV x Maddocks webinar - The Bill and Fair Work Jobs Code	Melbourne
01/07/2026	Councillor Briefing	Online

Status of Action of past Council Meeting Resolutions

To provide Council with a list of the Status of Action of Council resolutions outstanding for completion of action since the last Council Meeting.

Exercise of Delegated Authority

Council delegates powers, duties and functions to the Chief Executive Officer to support the efficient operation and delivery of Council services.

The Chief Executive Officer has been delegated authority by Council to award contracts up to \$300,000 (exclusive of GST) through an Instrument of Delegation made on 29 October 2025 (\$5 Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer).

Council at its meeting held Wednesday, 17 December 2025 resolved as follows:

That Council:

- 1) *Increase the Financial delegation provided to the Chief Executive Officer from \$300,000 (excluding GST) to \$1,500,000 (excluding GST).*

- 2) *Authorised the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the increased financial delegation of \$1,500,000 (excluding GST) for the procurement of goods, services and works only when the following conditions are satisfied:*
 - a. *Contracts and works are directly related to projects associated with the 2022 and 2023 flood events, namely:*
 - i. *AGRN 1037 (October 2022 Flooding Event).*
 - ii. *AGRN 1096 (December 2023 Flooding Event).*
 - b. *Council Flood Support Fund Approved Works Schedule (AGRN 1037, AGRN 1096, AGRN 1108).*
 - c. *Funded flood studies and Laser imaging Detection and Ranging projects (funded due to the 2022 and 2023 flood events).*
- 3) *Receive a report at the next available Council Meeting clearly identifying each Contract awarded via exercising of the temporary increased financial delegation.*
- 4) *Authorises the temporary increase of the CEO financial delegation up to 30 June 2027, or earlier by resolution of Council.*

Contract Name	Awarded to	Contract Sum (\$) (excl GST)	Brief Description of Works Under Contract (Scope)
Contract C139 2025/2026 - Provision of Flood Mapping Services across Buloke Shire Council.	Water Technology Pty Ltd	\$396,160	The project will undertake modelling and analysis to provide updated flood information for a range of uses including land use planning, flood management planning, emergency response, and flood mitigation considerations.

Audit and Risk Committee Minutes

A summary of the minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held Wednesday, 13 May 2026 is provided at Attachment 7.1.4.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 7.1.1 - Councillor Briefing - Planning and Related Matters Record - 10 June 2026
2. Attachment 7.1.2 - Councillor Briefing Record - 1 July 2026
3. Attachment 7.1.3 - Council Resolution - tabled 15 July 2026
4. Attachment 7.1.4 - Summary of Minutes - Audit and Risk Committee Meeting - May 2026



Councillor Briefing – Planning and Related Matters Record

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

Date:	Wednesday, 10 June 2026	Time:	2:00pm
Location:	Wycheproof Supper Room and Teams		
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: Daniel McLoughlan – Chief Executive Officer
1.3	Guests: <u>Cubico Sustainable Investments:</u> Max Elliot – Development Manager; Sarah Stanaway – Stakeholder and Community Engagement; Indran Pillay – Project Development Director <u>VicGrid:</u> Amy Pepper – Communications, Engagement and Social Performance Lead; Ali Driscoll – Senior Advisor Engagement; Sally Harle – Principal Planning Approvals and Indigenous Engagement; Pauline Murtagh – Communications and Engagement Lead Michael Wheelahan – Proud Mary Consulting
1.4	Attendees: <u>Councillors:</u> Cr Graeme Milne – Mayor; Cr Bernadette Hogan – Deputy Mayor; Cr Alan Getley; Cr Bruce Stafford; Cr Charmaine Delaney; Cr Stephen Barratt <u>Officers:</u> Jenna Allan – Director Corporate and Organisational Performance; Kellie Burmeister – Acting Director Community Development; Travis Fitzgibbon – Director Infrastructure and Delivery; Rodney Hotker – Senior Planning Officer; Roslyn Olle – Planning Officer
1.5	Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflicts of Interest - Nil.
2	Presentations
2.1	Cubico Sustainable Investments – Curyo Wind Farm
2.2	VicGrid – VNI West Environment Effects Statement Update
3	Briefing Reports
3.1	Planning Permit Application PA26005 Two lot Subdivision 2196 Ninda-Turriff Road, Ninda
4	Close Meeting
	Time: 3:45pm



Councillor Briefing Record

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

Date:	Wednesday, 1 July 2026	Time:	5:00pm
Location:	Charlton Council Chamber		
Acknowledgement of Country:	The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting and paid respect to their Elders and to the Elders from other communities who may be here today.		

NO.	MATTER FOR DISCUSSION
1	Councillor Only Time (5:00pm – 5:30pm)
1.1	Welcome: Cr Graeme Milne – Mayor, welcomed all in attendance.
1.2	Apologies:
1.3	Guests: <u>Charlton Forum:</u> Markus Phillips <u>Klein Research:</u> Tom MacKay (via Teams)
1.4	Attendees: <u>Councillors:</u> Cr Graeme Milne – Mayor; Cr Bernadette Hogan – Deputy Mayor; Cr Alan Getley; Cr Bruce Stafford; Cr Stephen Barratt; Cr Charmaine Delaney <u>Officers:</u> Daniel McLoughlan – Chief Executive Officer (via Teams); Salomme Menezes – Acting Director Corporate and Organisational Performance; Travis Fitzgibbon – Director Infrastructure and Delivery; Kellie Burmeister- Acting Director Community Development
1.5	Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflicts of Interest - Nil.
2	Confirmation of Notes of Previous Meeting
2.1	Notes of the Council Briefing held on 3 and 10 June 2026 - Accepted.
3	Presentations
3.1	Charlton Forum – Markus Phillips
	Dinner
4	CEO Update
	- National General Assembly Overview - Financial Assistance Grants 2026-27 - Dangerous Dogs Campaign
5	Briefing Reports
5.1	Community Satisfaction Survey 2026 Results (Presented by: Klein Research - Tom MacKay – via Teams)



5.2	Contract Award – Contract C139 2025/26 - Provision of Flood Mapping Services Across Buloke Shire Council – <i>Travis Fitzgibbon</i>
5.3	Councillor Matters
6	Next Briefing
	- Councillor Briefing: Planning and Related Matters – 8 July 2026 at 11:00am via Teams - Strategic Councillor Briefing – 12 August 2026 at 10:00am in the Wycheproof Supper Room. <i>(The scheduled Councillor Briefing for Wednesday, 5 August 2026 has been cancelled due to mandatory councillor training in Warracknabeal.)</i>
7	Close Meeting
	Time: 07:52pm

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Department	Action Required	Latest Action Taken	Status
08-02-2024	8.2.1	110 Sutcliffe Street Subdivision Community Engagement Outcomes	Infrastructure and Delivery	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 Sutcliffe St, Sea Lake by private treaty or auction in accord sec 114 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> 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.	1. Complete 2. Underway. Council to appoint conveyancer to progress release of titles prior to sale process commencing. 3. Not started.	In progress
18-12-2024	8.1.2	Draft Governance Rules and Council Election Period Policy	Corporate and Organisational Performance	Please action as per resolution. MOTION That Council: 1. Having prepared the Revised Draft Governance Rules in accordance with section 60 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> , approves and commences a 9-week process of community consultation in relation to the Revised Draft Governance Rules and Draft Election Period Policy, and makes the Revised Draft Governance Rules and Draft Election Period Policy available for Public Exhibition via Council's website; 2. Allows persons to make submissions in writing in relation to any proposal contained within the Revised Draft Governance Rules and/or Draft Election Period Policy; and 3. Allows presentations in support of written submissions to be heard at the Council Meeting on 19 March 2025 prior to the proposed adoption of the Draft Governance Rules and Draft Election Period Policy at this Meeting. MOVED: Cr Graeme Milne SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt CARRIED. (R/24/123)	14/05/2026 Director Corporate and Organisational Performance Progress has been delayed due to impending Model Governance Rules being published for public exhibition.	On hold
19-02-2025	9.5.1	Sale of Properties for Recovery of Rates and Charges	Financial Strategy	Please action as per resolution. MOTION That Council: 1. Proceeds with the necessary next steps to sell the following properties for the recovery of unpaid rates and charges in accordance with section 181 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> :		In progress

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Department	Action Required	Latest Action Taken	Status
				2. Notes and declares this report as confidential on the grounds that it relates to (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released (f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs as described in s 3(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>. MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan ABSTAINED: Cr Graeme Milne CARRIED. (R/25/010)		
19-11-2025	8 2.3	Sport and Recreation Victoria – Local Sports Infrastructure Fund – Wycheproof Netball Court	Community Partnerships	Please action as per resolution. MOTION That Council: - Commit \$200,000 over FY2026/27 Annual Budgets for the purposes of submitting an application to the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund for the construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting; and - Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to apply for the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund; and - Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to underwrite a community contribution to the effect of \$200,000; and - Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the funding agreement on behalf of the Council should the application be successful. MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt SECONDED: Cr Alan Getley CARRIED. (R/25/117)	09/06/2026 Senior Executive Assistant - Complete - Complete - Complete - Outstanding	In progress

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Department	Action Required	Latest Action Taken	Status
17-12-2025	9 5.1	Sale of Properties for Recovery of Rates and Charges	Financial Strategy	Please action as per resolution. MOTION That Council: 1. Proceeds with the necessary next steps to sell [REDACTED] for the recovery of unpaid rates and charges in accordance with section 181 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>; 2. Accepts the terms and conditions as outlined by and for the Australian Securities and Investment Commission to be named as a 'defendant' in legal proceedings as Attachment 1 to this report; 3. Notes and declares this report as confidential on the grounds that it relates to (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released: (f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs as described in s 3(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>. MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney CARRIED. (R/25/143)	09/07/2026 Acting Director Corporate and Organisational Performance Council has actioned the next steps of recovery of unpaid rates and charges via its debt recovery agents in March 2026.	Completed
17-12-2025	8 1.3	Community Grants and Sponsorships	Community Partnerships	Please action as per resolution. MOTION That Council: 1. Approves the officer recommendation to part fund the following projects under the Community Grants Program: \$1,000 – Birchip Neighbourhood House Inc Project: Together for Christmas \$500 - Lions Club of Charlton Inc Project: Charlton Community Xmas Fest 2. Notes that a report will be presented to Council at a future meeting on the future of the Community Grants Program. MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan SECONDED: Cr Alan Getley CARRIED. (R/25/129)	09/07/2026 Senior Executive Assistant Council resolved to part fund the Birchip Neighbourhood House Inc <i>Together for Christmas</i> project with \$1,000 and the Lions Club of Charlton Inc <i>Charlton Community Xmas Fest</i> project with \$500 under the Community Grants Program. The approved funding has now been provided to both organisations to support the delivery of their respective projects. As noted in the Council resolution, a report on the future of the Community Grants Program is currently being prepared and is scheduled to be presented to Council at the August Council Meeting for consideration.	Completed

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Department	Action Required	Latest Action Taken	Status
15-04-2026	8 2.2	Planning Permit Application PA25031 – Use and Development of Land for Animal Production (400,000 Bird Free Range Broiler Farm) – Saits Road, Charlton	Community Safety and Development Services	Please action as per resolution.	08/07/2026 Acting Director Community Development The Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit was issued on 20 April 2026. As there were no appeals against the decision to VCAT, the Planning Permit was subsequently issued on 19 May 2026.	Completed
20-05-2026	8 2.4	Road Renaming Request - Walklate Lane, Charlton	Infrastructure and Delivery	Please action as per resolution. MOTION That Council: - Acknowledge the receipt of two (2) submissions lodged during the public submission period and thank the two (2) submitters for participating in the public submission period. - Having given consideration of the submissions received, Council accepts the proposal to rename a section of Davies Street, between High Street and John Curtin Drive to Walklate Lane. - Lodge a report to the Registrar of Geographic Names confirming Council's acceptance of a proposal to rename a section of Davies Street, between High Street and John Curtin Drive to Walklate Lane. - Write to each of the submitters advising of Council's acceptance of the proposal to rename a section of Davies Street, between High Street and John Curtin Drive to Walklate Lane. - Advise all submitters they have 30 days to lodge an appeal to the Registrar of Geographic Names. - Notes and declares the attachments to this report as confidential on the grounds that it relates to as described in s 3(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>. MOVED: Cr Bruce Stafford SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney CARRIED. (R/26/30)	08/07/2026 Senior Manager Assets and Delivery Road renaming has been lodged with the Registrar of Geographic Names and submitters have been advised of the 30 day objection period. Any objections are to be lodged directly with the Registrar of Geographic Names.	Completed

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Department	Action Required	Latest Action Taken	Status
17-06-2026	8 2.1	Contract Award - Contract C133 2025/26 - External Plant Hire – Panel of Suppliers	Infrastructure and Delivery	Please action as per resolution. MOTION That Council: - Awards the panel contract of Contract C133 2025/26 – External Plant Hire – Panel of Suppliers to: - AP Earthmoving Pty Ltd - Berne Fleming Civil Pty Ltd - Bild Infrastructure Pty Ltd - Gregs Digging Pty Ltd - MF & JL Willmore Pty Ltd - Pipe Doctor Pty Ltd - Reeves Earthmoving Pty Ltd - Whitfield Excavations - Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the contract documents on behalf of Council. - Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve payments to the Contractor for undertaking the works associated with the Contract. - Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve all variations under the Contract. - Notes and declares the attachments to this report as confidential on the grounds that it relates to (g) (ii) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage as described in s 3(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>. MOVED: Cr Bruce Stafford SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney CARRIED. (R/26/36)	08/07/2026 Senior Manager Assets and Delivery Contracts have been prepared and sent to the suppliers awarded via the Council Resolution. Once the contracts are signed by the suppliers, the CEO will sign and formally execute the Contracts.	In progress
17-06-2026	8 2.2	Planning Permit Application PA26005 - Two-Lot Subdivision of Land (Rural Dwelling Excision) - 2196 Ninda-Turriff Road, Ninda	Community Safety and Development Services	Please action as per resolution. MOTION That Council having caused notice of Planning Application No. PA26005 to be given under Section 52 of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> and or the planning scheme and having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> decides to Grant a Permit under the	08/07/2026 Acting Director Community Development Planning permit PA26005 was issued on 19 June 2026.	Completed

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Department	Action Required	Latest Action Taken	Status
				provisions of Clause 35.07-3 of the Buloke Planning Scheme in respect of the land known and described as 2196 Ninda-Turriff Road, Ninda (CA 7 Parish of Bourka), for the two lot subdivision of land (rural dwelling excision) in accordance with the endorsed plans, with the application dated 3 February 2026, subject to the following conditions: Endorsed Plans 1. The subdivision as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority. Subdivision 2. All existing and proposed easements and sites for existing and required utility services and roads must be set aside in favour of the relevant authority for which the easement or site is to be created on the plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the <i>Subdivision Act 1988</i>. 3. The owner of the land must enter into agreements with the relevant authorities for the provision of water supply, drainage, sewerage facilities and electricity services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the authority's requirements and relevant legislation at the time. 4. The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the <i>Subdivision Act 1988</i> must be referred to the relevant authority in accordance with Section 8 of that Act. Access 5. Access to and exit from the land must only be via existing crossings. Referral Authority Conditions - Powercor 6. The applicant shall ensure that existing and proposed buildings and electrical installations on the subject land are compliant with the Victorian Service and Installation Rules (VSIR). Notes: Where electrical works are required to achieve VSIR compliance, a registered electrical contractor must be engaged to undertake such works. 7. The applicant shall establish easements on the subdivision, for all existing Distributor electric lines where easements have not been otherwise provided on the land and for any new powerlines to service the lots or adjust the positioning existing easements. Notes: - Existing easements may need to be amended to meet the Distributor's requirements		

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Department	Action Required	Latest Action Taken	Status								
				Easements required by the Distributor shall be specified on the subdivision and show the Purpose, Origin and the In Favour of party as follows: <table><tr><th>Easement Reference</th><th>Purpose</th><th>Width (Metres)</th><th>Origin</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Power Line</td><td></td><td>Section Electric Industry 2000</td></tr></table> Commencement 8. This permit will operate from the issued date of this permit. Permit Expiry 9. This permit as it relates to development (subdivision) will expire if one of the following circumstances applies: a. The plan of subdivision has not been certified under the <i>Subdivision Act 1988</i> within 2 years of the issued date of this permit. b. A statement of compliance is not issued within 5 years of the date of certification. In accordance with Section 69 of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>, an application may be submitted to the responsible authority for an extension of the periods referred to in this condition. MOVED: Cr Alan Getley SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan CARRIED. (R/26/37)	Easement Reference	Purpose	Width (Metres)	Origin		Power Line		Section Electric Industry 2000		
Easement Reference	Purpose	Width (Metres)	Origin											
	Power Line		Section Electric Industry 2000											
17-06-2026	8 2.3	Buloke Shire Council Implementation Plan: Status Update for the Minister for Local Government	Governance	Please action as per resolution. MOTION That Council submits the Buloke Shire Council Implementation Plan: Status Update for the Minister for Local Government Attachment 2 to this report to the Minister for Local Government by 31 July 2026. MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt SECONDED: Cr Alan Getley	06/07/2026 Acting Manager Governance Completed 1 July 2026. Correspondence and the updated Action Plan sent to the Minister for Local Government.	Completed								

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Department	Action Required	Latest Action Taken	Status
				CARRIED. (R/26/38)		
17-06-2026	8 2.4	Community Grants and Sponsorships	Office of the CEO	Please action as per resolution. MOTION That Council endorses the officer recommendation to fund the following projects under the 2025/26 Sustainability Grants Program: \$9,823.00 – Birchip Leisure Centre – Project: Cool the View – Birchip Leisure Centre \$2,000.00 – Culgoa Development Group Inc – Project: Heating and Cooling for the Hub \$5,000.00 – Charlton Campdraft Club Inc – Project: Sustainable Tree Establishment and Water Efficiency Upgrade – Campdraft Grounds MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan CARRIED. (R/26/39)	08/07/2026 Acting Director Community Development The Culgoa Development Group Inc grant payment of \$2,000.00 was processed and paid on 30 June 2026. The grants for Birchip Leisure Centre (\$9,823.00) and Charlton Campdraft Club Inc (\$5,000.00) have been approved and are scheduled to be processed in the July 2026 creditor payment run. At the completion of the July 2026 creditor run, all approved Sustainability Grants Program funding for 2025/26 will have been distributed to the successful applicants.	Completed
17-06-2026	8 3.1	Annual Budget FY2026-2027	Financial Strategy	Please action as per resolution. MOTION That Council: - Adopts the Annual Budget 2026-2027 as the final Adopted Annual Budget of Council for the 2026-2027 financial year (as attached and circulated) with adjustments identified since the release of the Draft Annual Budget, including consequential adjustments to the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, and all relevant sections of the document, as detailed in this Report; - Endorses the Annual Budget 2026-2027 to be placed on Council's website to be viewed and accessed by public; - Notes the changes from the Draft Annual Budget 2026-2027 as a result of submissions considered by Council and as outlined within this Report; - Authorises the Director of Corporate and Organisational Performance to respond in writing to community budget submissions in accordance with this Report;	08/07/2026 Acting Director Corporate and Organisational Performance Council uploaded the Adopted Annual Budget FY2026-27 onto its website on 19 June 2026. Written responses to outcomes of the community budget submissions were subsequently issued on 25 June 2026.	Completed

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Department	Action Required	Latest Action Taken	Status								
				5. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to effect minor administrative (wording) changes to the Annual Budget 2026-2027 which may be required; 6. Adopts and declares the fees and charges listed under Appendix A within the Annual Budget 2026-2027 for the financial year 2026-2027; 7. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to levy and recover the general rates and annual service charges in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>; 8. Declares an amount of \$16.3 million which Council intends to raise by General Rates and Annual Service Charges for the period 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027 calculated as follows: General Rates (including estimated supplementary rates) \$13.68 million. Municipal Charges \$850,000; and Annual Service Charges (Waste Management) \$1.74 million 9. Declares a Municipal Charge of \$191 for each rateable assessment in respect of which a Municipal Charge may be levied in the financial year 2026-2027; 10. Declares an Annual Service Charge of \$496 for kerbside garbage and recycling collection for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027; 11. Declares the rate in the dollar for each type of rate to be levied for the period as follows -<table><tr><th>Type of property</th><th>Cents in \$ on CIV</th></tr><tr><td>Residential</td><td>0.504632</td></tr><tr><td>Commercial and Industrial</td><td>0.583496</td></tr><tr><td>Farming</td><td>0.232131</td></tr></table> 12. Adopts to levy the general rates and service charges referred to in this resolution by the service notice on each person liable to pay such rate or charge in accordance with section 158 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> and; 13. In accordance with section 167 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, adopts the rates and charges declared by the Council for the financial year 2026-2027 and declare that they must be paid as follows: By four instalments made on or before the following dates: Instalment 1 – 30 September 2026; Instalment 2 – 30 November 2026; Instalment 3 – 28 February 2027; Instalment 4 – 31 May 2027	Type of property	Cents in \$ on CIV	Residential	0.504632	Commercial and Industrial	0.583496	Farming	0.232131		
Type of property	Cents in \$ on CIV													
Residential	0.504632													
Commercial and Industrial	0.583496													
Farming	0.232131													

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Department	Action Required	Latest Action Taken	Status
				OR <i>By a lumpsum payment made on or before 15 February 2027.</i> MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt CARRIED. (R/26/40)		
17-06-2026	9 1.1	Reopening of the Maryborough-Mildura Passenger Rail Railway Line	Corporate and Organisational Performance	Please action as per resolution. MOTION That Council formally writes to the Premier Jacinta Allan, Leader of the Opposition Jess Wilson, and all relevant members of the Victorian Legislative Assembly and the Victorian Legislative Council, in support of the petition to commit to reinstating a public passenger train service to Melbourne in the form of a weekly passenger train shuttle service between Mildura and Maryborough, using the existing tracks, to connect with the current passenger train service between Maryborough and Melbourne. MOVED: Cr Graeme Milne SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt CARRIED. (R/26/44)	01/07/2026 Senior Executive Assistant Council has formally written to Premier Jacinta Allan MP, Leader of the Opposition Jess Wilson MP, and the following Members of Parliament in support of reinstating a weekly passenger train service between Mildura and Maryborough: Ministers Gabrielle Williams, Michaela Settle, Matthew Guy, Evan Mulholland and Danny O'Brien, along with Jade Benham MP, Gaelle Broad MP, Wendy Lovell MP, Jaclyn Symes MP, Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell MP and Georgie Purcell MP.	Completed



Summary of Minutes - Audit and Risk Committee Meeting - May 2026

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

Date:	13 May 2026	Time	2:03pm – 4:12pm
Location:	Wycheproof Supper Room		

NOTE: This is a summary of the minutes of the meeting only – full minutes are circulated and moved through the meeting formally.

NO.	MATTER FOR DISCUSSION
1.	Welcome & Statement of Acknowledgement
2.	Present Dean Sleigh (Chair and Independent Member), Stephen Gardner (Independent Member) Cr Graeme Milne (Mayor - Member), Cr Bernadette Hogan (Member), Cr Charmaine Delaney (Observer), Daniel McLoughlan (CEO), Jenna Allan (Director Corporate and Organisational Performance), Gaynor Atkin (Director Community Development), Travis Fitzgibbon (Director Infrastructure and Delivery), Anthony Smith (Acting Manager Governance), Salomme Menezes (Manager Financial Strategy), Luke Ryan (Emergency Management Coordinator), Paula Gardiner (Senior Manager Assets and Delivery), Mazin Hussain (Crowe), Erin Nankivell (AFS)
3.	Apologies Cr Stephen Barratt, Cr Alan Getley
4.	Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting Noted
5.	Chief Executive Briefing • Employment Relations Matters • Independent Member Recruitment • Birchip Netball Court Project Update • State and Federal Budgets • Increase in Freedom of Information applications • Budget Preparation 2026/2027 • Buloke Shire Council Implementation Plan: Status Update for the Minister for Local Government • Enterprise Agreement and Industrial Relations • Resignation Director Community Development
6.	Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflicts of Interest Nil declared
7.6	VAGO Update Noted
7.8	Strategic Internal Audit Program Status Update



	Noted
7.11	Internal Audit Planning – Past Issues Review Motion That the Audit and Risk Committee: 1. Note the proposed scope for the scheduled Internal Audit Planning – Past Issues Review at Attachment 1 to this report. 2. Endorse the scope and associated internal audit procedures for the Internal Audit Planning – Past Issues Review. Moved, Seconded and Carried.
7.12	Internal Audit Planning – Contract Management Motion That the Audit and Risk Committee: 1. Note the proposed scope for the scheduled Internal Audit Planning – Contract Management at Attachment 1 to this report. 2. Endorse the scope and associated internal audit procedures for the Internal Audit Planning – Contract Management. Moved, Seconded and Carried.
7.20	Interim Audit Management Letter Noted
7.21	2025-26 Audit Strategy Memorandum Noted
7.1	Outstanding Action Items Noted
7.2	Proposed Draft Budget Noted
7.3	Quarterly Financial Reports Noted
7.4	Councillor and CEO Reimbursements Noted
7.5	Quarterly Investment Report Noted
7.7	Legislative Compliance Register Noted
7.9	Internal Audit Reports and Publications of Interest Noted
7.10	Audit and Risk Committee Workplan Noted
7.13	Emergency Management Update



	Noted
7.14	Innovation and Technology Quarterly Update Noted
7.15	Asset Management Quarterly Update Noted
7.16	Financial Policies Review – Corporate Card Policy, Investment Policy and Debtors Management Policy Noted
7.17	Financial Policies Review – Rates and Charges Financial Hardship Policy Noted
7.18	Internal Audit Report – Long Term Financial Planning Noted
7.19	Australian Fuel Crisis Update Noted
8.	Other Business No other business.
9.	Meeting Close Meeting closed at 4:12pm

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

Nil.

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C47BLOK - CHARLTON AND DONALD FLOOD MAPPING – ADOPT AND SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE MINISTER

Author's Title: Senior Planning Officer

Directorate: Community Development

File No: LP/09/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Objective: Built and natural environment
Caring for our environment

PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is for Council to adopt Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok, and that Council submit the amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval.

SUMMARY

At the Council Meeting held Wednesday, 15 October 2025, Council resolved to seek Authorisation from the Minister to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok. Council has since prepared the amendment, achieved authorisation from the Minister, conducted notice requirements and the amendment is now ready for Council to adopt and submit to the Minister for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok.
2. As Planning Authority submits the amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval of Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok.
3. Authorises the Acting Director Community Development to make any further minor editorial changes to the Amendment C47 documents prior to submitting to the Minister for Planning for approval and gazettal.

DISCUSSION

Amendment C47blok has been undertaken to amend the Buloke Planning Scheme with updated flood mapping.

This amendment draws on the updated flood mapping extents advised from the North Central Catchment Management Authority, and the Donald Flood and Drainage Management Plan (GHD, 2013) and Charlton Flood and Drainage Management Plan (BMT, WBM, 2014) which were adopted as background documents via Amendment C027 in 2018. The amendment applies to areas of land in Charlton and Donald which have changed flood risks since structural mitigation has been completed.

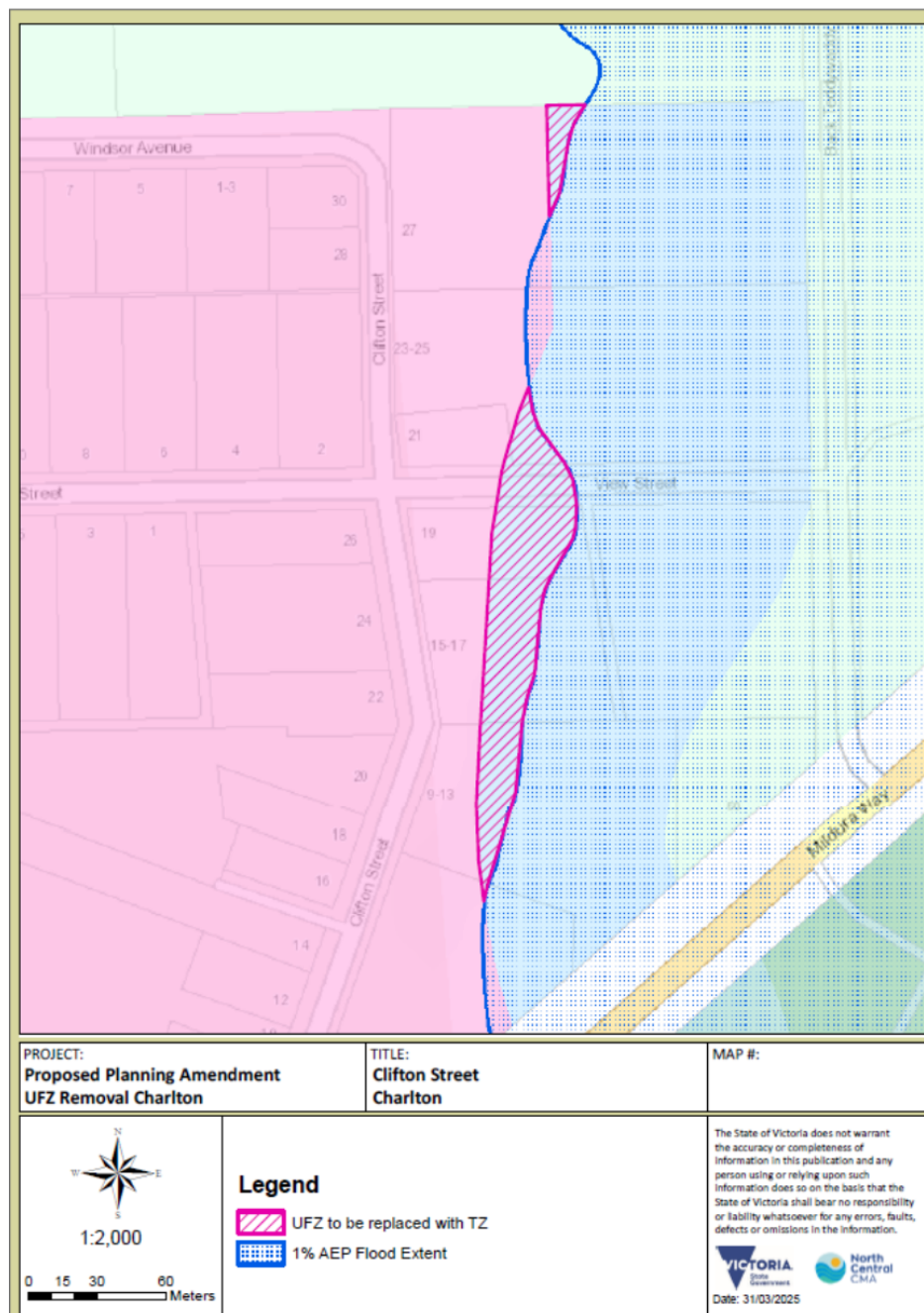
In the township of Charlton, flood mitigation works have reduced the severity of flooding for a residential area in Clifton Street, so planning controls will be updated. In seven sites in Clifton Street, Charlton, the Urban Floodway Overlay (UFZ) will be deleted, and the Township Zone (TZ) will be applied.

In the township of Donald, the construction of a levee has reduced the impact of flooding on selected sites in Camp Street and Wood Street. The Floodway Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation to Overlay will be removed in 37 sites in Camp Street and Wood Street in Donald.

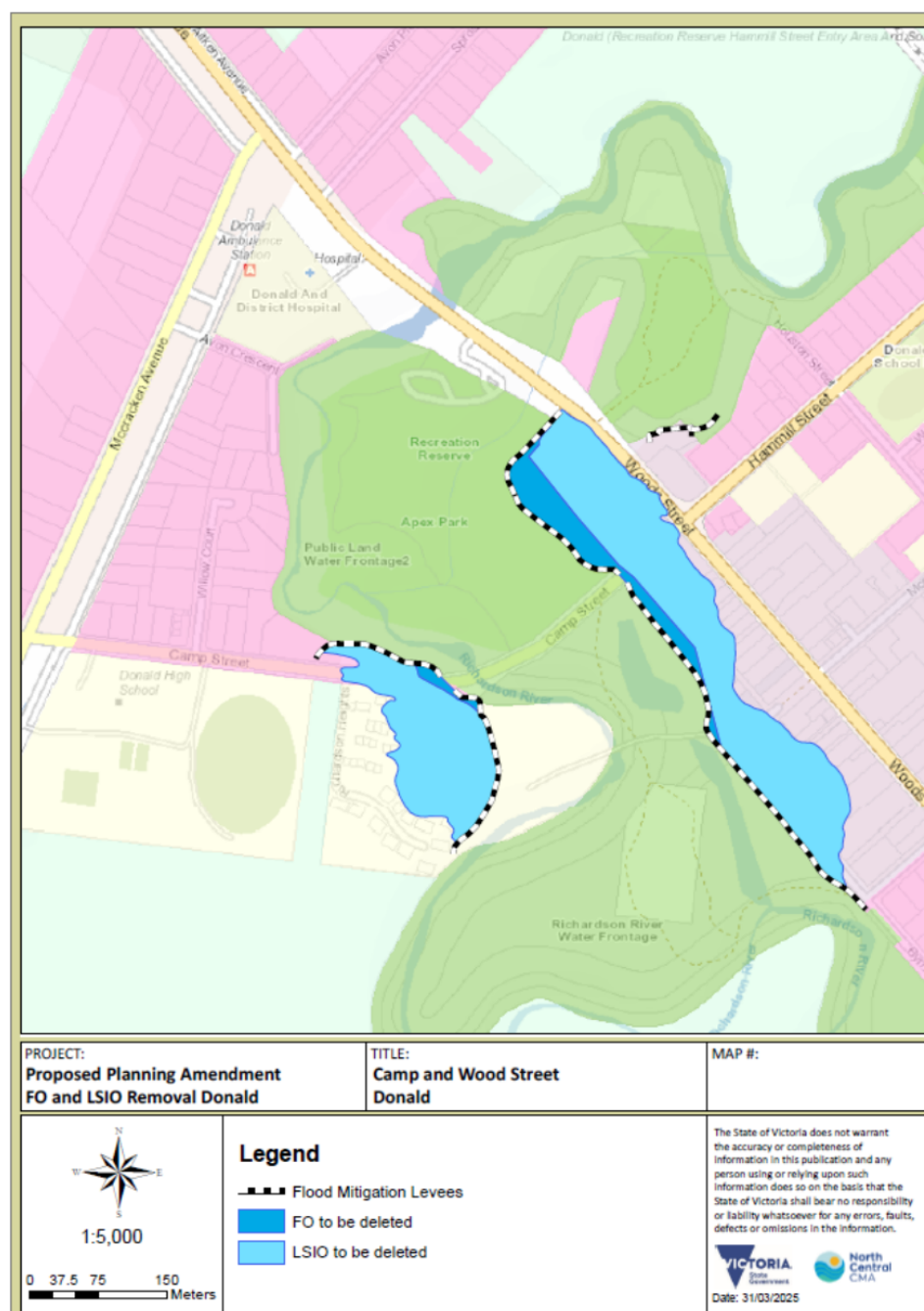
Specifically, the amendment seeks to:

- Delete a portion of the Urban Floodway Zone to 7 properties in Clifton Street, Charlton.
- Introduce the Township Zone to areas previously covered by the Urban Floodway Zone in Clifton Street, Charlton.
- Delete a portion of the Floodway Overlay to sites in Donald.
- Delete a portion of the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay to sites in Donald.

Charlton



Map supplied by North Central Catchment Management Authority.

Donald

Map supplied by North Central Catchment Management Authority.

Regulating development helps Council and the relevant authorities avoid or minimise future flood risks and impacts. Flooding is a natural hazard but, unlike most other natural hazards, floods are to a great degree predictable in terms of their location, depth and extent. This means that appropriate planning controls can be developed in the Buloke Planning Scheme. Land use planning is recognised as being the best means of avoiding future flooding problems. Through careful planning, flood risks to life, property and community infrastructure can be minimised and the environmental significance of floodplains protected.

RELEVANT LAW

The Planning Scheme amendment process is being conducted in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and relevant Ministerial Directions. Adoption of an amendment cannot be delegated to officers. It must be by resolution of the planning authority and recorded in its minutes.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At the Council Meeting held Wednesday, 15 October 2025, Council resolved to seek Authorisation from the Minister to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok.

Authorisation to prepare the amendment was granted under delegation from the Minister for Planning on 10 March 2026.

OPTIONS

Council could resolve to abandon the planning scheme amendment.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The amendment is expected to deliver positive environmental, social and economic outcomes by updating the identified flood mapping in the Buloke Planning Scheme.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community was notified of the amendment and provided with a 30-day period in which to make a submission. Notice of the amendment was published in the locally circulating newspapers during the week commencing 4 May 2026, the Victorian Government Gazette on 30 April 2026, and on the Department of Transport and Planning website.

Amendment documentation was available from Buloke Shire Council upon request. Property owners whose land was directly affected by the amendment were also notified by mail at their registered address, with a total of 47 letters issued.

All notices invited written submissions. No submissions were received from the community during the exhibition period.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

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

COLLABORATION

Notice of the amendment has been given to:

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

Notice has been given to the Prescribed Ministers

- The Minister for Energy and Resources
- The Minister for Environment
- The Minister for Water
- The Minister for Agriculture

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

There are fees associated with the amendment process. There are no significant financial viability considerations.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The amendment is proceeding in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

In order to promote transparency, Council will consider this resolution in an open Council Meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.2.1.1 - C47blok Explanatory Report exhibition
2. Attachment 8.2.1.2 - Buloke C 47 blok 001 d-Isio-fo Map 37 Exhibition
3. Attachment 8.2.1.3 - Buloke C 47 blok 002 zn Map 40 Exhibition

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Buloke Planning Scheme

Amendment C47blok

Explanatory Report

Overview

The amendment will implement updated flood mapping produced since structural mitigation works were completed within the Buloke Shire Council. Some areas of the Floodway Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay will be deleted within the township of Donald. Minor areas of the Urban Floodway Zone will be replaced with the Township Zone. The mapping extents were advised from the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA), and the Donald Flood and Drainage Management Plan (GHD, 2013) and Charlton Flood and Drainage Management Plan (BMT, WBM, 2014) which were adopted as background documents via Amendment C027 in 2018.

Where you may inspect this amendment

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

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

- Buloke Shire Offices, 367 Broadway, Wycheproof, Victoria

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

Submissions

Any person may make a submission to the planning authority about the amendment. Submissions about the amendment must be received by 1 June 2026.

A submission must be sent to:

Buloke Shire Council
PO Box 1
Wycheproof VIC 3527

Panel hearing dates

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

- Directions hearing: 17 August 2026 (TBC)
- Panel hearing: 14 September 2026 (TBC)

Details of the amendment

Who is the planning authority?

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

The amendment has been made at the request of Buloke Shire Council and is supported by the North Central Catchment Management Authority.

Land affected by the amendment

The amendment applies to areas of land in Charlton and Donald which have changed flood risks since structural mitigation has been completed. In the township of Charlton, flood mitigation works have reduced the severity of flooding for a residential area in Clifton Street, so planning controls will be updated (figure 1). The UFZ will be rezoned to the TZ. In the township of Donald, the construction of a levee has reduced the impact of flooding on selected sites in Camp and Wood Streets (figure 2). The FO and LSIO will be removed in these areas.

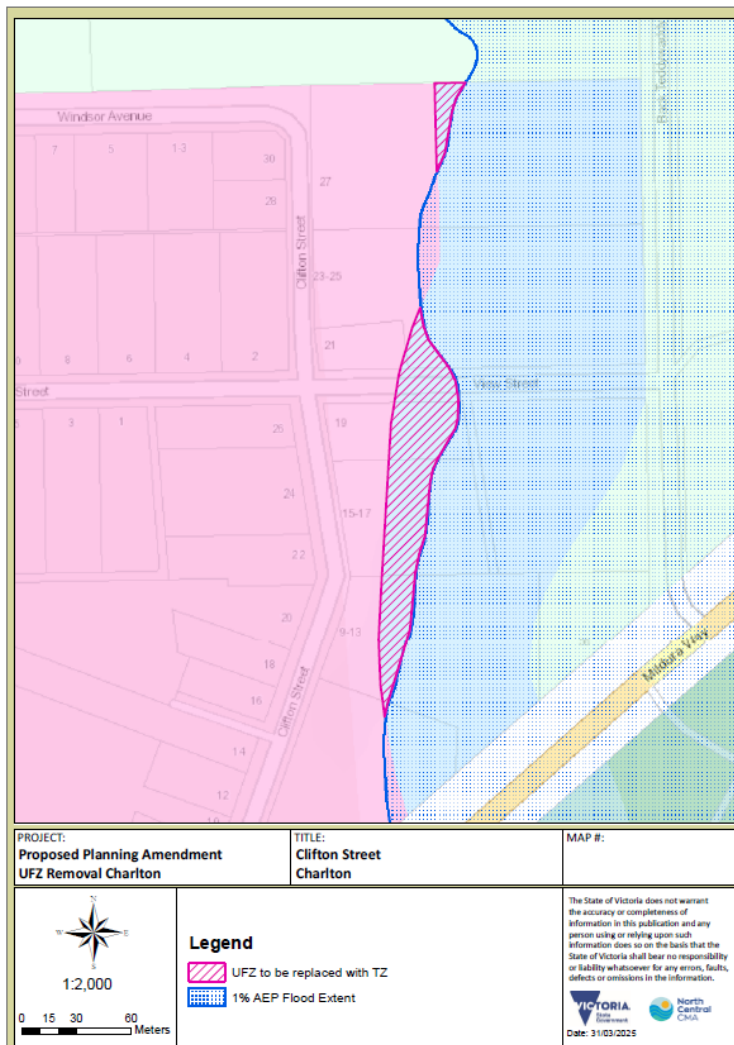


Figure 1: Charlton existing UFZ to be replaced with TZ.

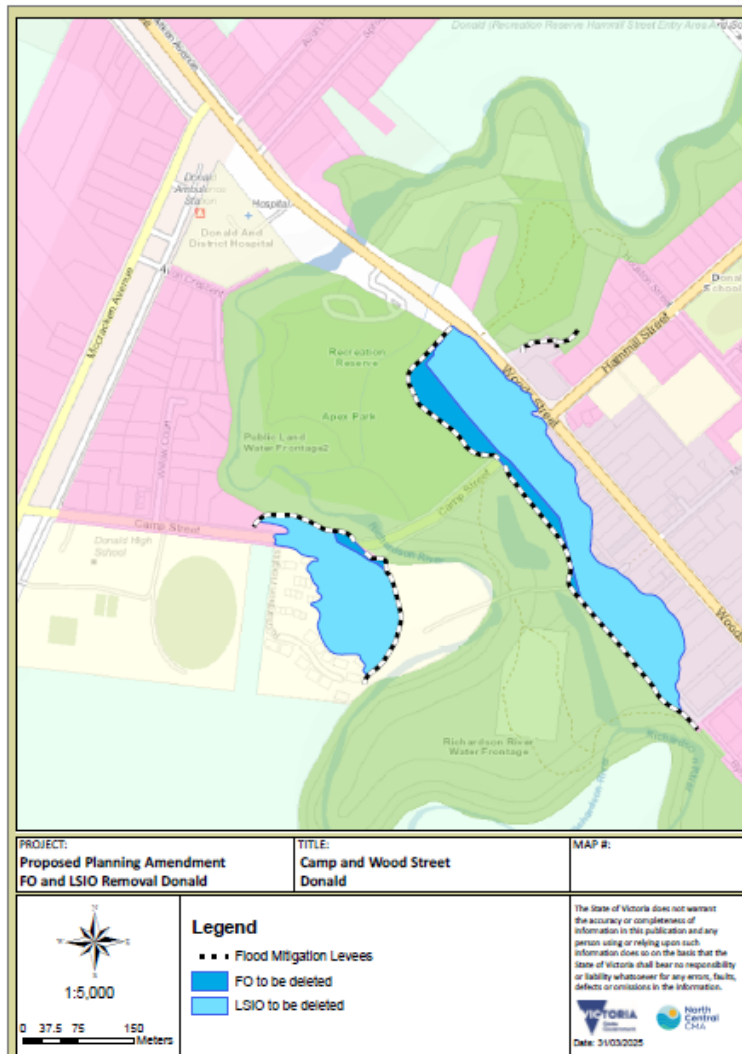


Figure 2: Donald FO and LSIO to be deleted

What the amendment does

In seven (7) sites in Clifton Street, Charlton, the UFZ will be rezoned to TZ.

In thirty-seven (38) sites in Camp and Wood Streets in Donald, the FO and LSIO will be removed.

Specifically, the amendment seeks to:

- Introduce the Township Zone to areas previously covered by the Urban Floodway Zone in Clifton Street, Charlton

- Introduce Planning Scheme Maps no. 40TZ
- Delete Planning Scheme Maps no. 40UFZ
- Delete Planning Scheme Maps no. 37LSIO-FO

Strategic assessment of the amendment

Why is the amendment required?

Flood hazard risk in the Victorian Planning Provisions is managed through the Urban Floodway Zone, the Floodway Overlay (flood water conveyance) and the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (riverine flooding).

The Buloke Shire is vulnerable to flooding, bushfire, and erosion, and the effects of one hazard event can exacerbate the severity of another. The amendment is required to provide recognition to climate change as a contributing factor to the severity, intensity, and frequency of natural hazard events.

The Buloke Shire contains a significant amount of flood prone land where flooding events have historically caused a substantial amount of damage to the natural and built environment. These areas consist of natural waterways and their associated floodplains. Many of these areas are formally recognised by the Buloke Planning Scheme and recent structural mitigation works means that the controls need to be amended.

The amendment is required to implement the changes to the floodplain since structural mitigation works in the townships of Donald and Charlton. The Urban Floodway Zone will be slightly modified in Clifton Street, with some areas being removed from the Urban Floodway Zone and replaced with Township Zone. In Donald, some areas of Floodway Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay in Camp and Wood Streets will be removed from the Buloke Planning Scheme. The amendment ensures that the planning controls reflect the most recently mapped extent of riverine flooding in these areas.

The North Central Catchment Management Authority has prepared the amendment in partnership with Council. The 1 per cent Annual Exceedance Probability modelling includes a projected climate change scenario based on Version 4.2 of the Australian Rainfall and Runoff standards (2019). This represents an approximate 18.5% rainfall increase by 2100.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's Local Government Climate Change Adaptation Roles and Responsibilities under Victorian Legislation (2020) states the threat of climate change is now clearly established through legislation, national and state policy, and international agreements. All Councils have a duty of care in the context of climate change adaptation which has been recognised by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal and other jurisdictions.

The application of appropriate planning controls is an effective long-term means to address flood risk in areas identified as being flood prone. The controls do not prohibit subdivision or buildings and works from taking place; rather, they will ensure that development requiring a permit is assessed to determine its potential impact on, or vulnerability to, flood impacts. Inclusion of the flooding extent will assist in facilitating orderly development as the amendment provides critical information to landowners, developers, and purchasers, ensuring that a risk-based approach is applied.

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

The amendment implements following objectives included in Section 4(1) of the Act:

- *Providing for the fair, orderly, economic, and sustainable use, and development of land.*
- *Providing for the protection of natural and manmade resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity.*
- *Securing a pleasant, efficient, and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Victorians and visitors to Victoria.*
- *Balancing the present and future interests of all Victorians.*

Further, Section 6(2)(d) of the Act identifies that a planning scheme can provide for the following:

- *Regulate or prohibit use or development in hazardous areas or in areas which are likely to become hazardous areas*

The amendment implements these objectives by identifying land affected by modelling and applying appropriate planning controls to:

- Provide for the orderly and sustainable development of land affected by flooding
- Protect natural and manmade resources from flooding
- Secure a pleasant, efficient, and safe working, living and recreational environment in flood affected areas
- Facilitate development that is in accordance with the above objectives by triggering a planning permit requirement for subdivision and buildings and works (subject to exemptions) in flood affected areas
- Require that development proposals have regard to flood risk to balance the present and future interests of all Victorians.

The amendment ensures development is managed safely in and around the floodplains, which will assist in creating townships where communities can live, work, and play safely and provide for a more efficient recovery from future flooding events.

Further, the amendment will assist Council and the North Central Catchment Management Authority in making informed and effective decisions on the development of flood affected land.

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

Environmental effects

The amendment will ensure that new development is appropriately designed and located for riverine flood risk in a manner that maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, and that future development does not compromise natural systems.

Social effects

Flooding can have significant consequences for individuals and local communities.

Climate change and riverine flood risk could negatively impact on an area's future liveability. Planning provides an important function in managing the use and development of land in locations of potential flood risk.

Economic effects

Flood risk information will assist current and future landowners to make informed choices prior to purchasing and developing land. This information will assist in establishing future housing, industries, tourism and community facilities in appropriate locations.

Does the amendment address climate change?

Climate change impacts for Charlton were explicitly modelled in the Charlton Flood Study using the RCP8.5 emissions scenario. In contrast, the Donald Flood Study has adopted the 0.5% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) (200-year Average Recurrence Interval) flood event as a proxy to account for climate change, rather than the standard 1% AEP event. A comparison with several regional flood studies where climate change has been explicitly modelled indicates that the RCP8.5 climate change scenario reasonably aligns with the 0.5% AEP (200-year ARI) flood event. Accordingly, the approach adopted for both Charlton and Donald is considered to provide a consistent and appropriate representation of climate change risk.

Does the amendment address relevant bushfire risk?

The amendment will not increase the risk to life, property, community infrastructure, or the natural environment from bushfire as it identifies flood risk. The amendment does not make any recommendations regarding the intensification of development,

as the identification of flood prone areas is likely to limit future development.

The amendment meets bushfire policy in Clause 13.02 of the Buloke Shire Planning Scheme. Much of the land affected by the amendment is unlikely to be intensified for urban purposes without subsequent planning approval. This will require consideration and assessment against the purpose and decision guidelines of the Bushfire Management Overlay, where applicable. The areas affected by this amendment are not covered by a bushfire planning control.

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

The amendment complies with the requirements of the Ministerial Direction - 'The Form and Content of Planning Schemes' (Section 7(5) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*). The amendment and new provisions have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Direction.

The amendment complies with the requirements of the Ministerial Direction No. 1 'Potentially Contaminated Land' (Section 12 (1A) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*). At item 4 of Ministerial Direction No. 1 – Potentially Contaminated Land – potentially contaminated land means land:

1. used or known to have been used for industry or mining;
2. used or known to have been used for the storage of chemicals, gas, waste or liquid fuel (other than minor above-ground storage that is ancillary to another use of the land); or
3. where a known past or present activity or event (occurring on or off the land) may have caused contamination on the land.

Council is satisfied that the proposed amendment does not permit the use or development of potentially contaminated land. As Ministerial Direction No. 1 applies only to land identified as potentially contaminated under item 4, its requirements are not triggered in this case. The rezoning area is minor and is on land which has an existing sensitive (residential) use.

Historical survey records spanning over 80 years confirm that the sites have consistently remained in private ownership, transitioning from small rural holdings to residential lots. There are seven properties in this amendment that a portion of the land is proposed to be rezoned to Township Zone that would allow for a sensitive use (single dwelling) as a Section 1 use. These properties have been considered individually; all are currently being used for residential purposes and have been used for residential purposes for an extended period of time. There is no evidence to suggest that the subject land meets the criteria for contaminated land at item 4 of Ministerial Direction No. 1.

The amendment and new provisions have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Direction.

The amendment has been considered against Ministerial Direction No.11 'Strategic Assessment of Amendments' as required by Section 12(2)(a) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The explanatory report provides an evaluation of the amendment that addresses the relevant strategic considerations contained in the Ministerial Direction.

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

The amendment supports and implements the following clauses of the Planning and Policy Framework as discussed below:

Clause 11 (Settlement) identifies that settlement planning must have regard to health and safety for existing and future communities. The amendment supports this principle by:

- Documenting the extent of flooding now and into the future using climate change projections, which provides a more accurate indication of the extent of potential flooding events.
- Documenting the degree of flood risk through the updates to the scheme mapping to facilitate orderly planning outcomes.

Clause 12.03-1S (River and riparian corridors, waterways, lakes, wetlands, and billabongs) contains strategies for the protection of waterway systems by implementing strategies that address the impacts of use and development. The amendment supports and implements this policy by:

- Amending the flood related planning controls to reflect the best available flood risk data

The amendment is consistent with Clause 13 (Environmental risks and amenity), Clause 13.01-1S (Natural hazards and climate change), and Clause 13.03-1S (Floodplain Management), which contains objectives and strategies relating to the minimisation of natural hazards and associated risks, the implementation of appropriate controls to mitigate risks, the protection of life, property, and community infrastructure, and preserving the function and health of floodplains and waterways.

The amendment supports and implements these policies by:

- Use of appropriate planning controls to areas identified to be at risk.
- Deleting of inappropriate controls to effectively manage flood risk.
- Embed a risk-based framework in the Buloke Shire Planning Scheme to ensure that use and development does not detrimentally interfere with the health of floodplains and facilitates development that minimises the risks of harm in areas that are flood prone.

The amendment is consistent with Clause 19.03-3S (Integrated water management),

which contains strategy to the minimisation of flood risks to sustainably manage water resources in a whole of catchment context. The amendment is consistent and implements this policy by:

- Adopting a comprehensive approach to water management by updating relevant planning controls to provide long-term guidance for decision making in areas known to flood.
- Ensuring that the natural flood storage capacity of waterways remains unencumbered.

Is the amendment consistent with the delivery of the relevant housing target set out in the Planning Policy Framework?

The amendment will ensure that any future development of land that is undertaken to deliver housing is undertaken in a safe and orderly manner.

How does the amendment support or implement the Local Planning Policy Framework, and specifically the Municipal Strategic Statement?

This strategic consideration only applies if the planning scheme includes an LPPF at Clause 20.

Not applicable

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

This strategic consideration only applies if the planning scheme includes an MPS at Clause 02.

The amendment supports and implements the following clauses of the Municipal Planning Strategy:

- Clause 02.02 (Vision) by providing certainty to the local community, businesses, and the agricultural industry by providing accessible information on flood risks to inform decision making.
- Clause 02.03-2 (Environmental risks and amenity) by addressing gaps and updating floodplain management mapping controls.

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

The amendment utilises the most effective controls available from the Victoria

Planning Provisions. Consideration was given to the level of flood risk in terms of the frequency, depth, and velocity of flood waters in implementing planning scheme tools.

The amendment is consistent with Planning Practice Note 12: Applying the Flood Provisions in Planning Schemes.

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

The amendment has been prepared in consultation with the North Central Catchment Management Authority, who are the floodplain managers and recommending referral authority under Clause 66.03 of the Buloke Shire Planning Scheme. The Catchment Management Authority configured the mapping for the planning controls.

Other agencies views will be considered during the preparation of this amendment, including the Environmental Protection Authority and Country Fire Authority.

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

The amendment supports social inclusion and economic prosperity with respect to:

- Minimising barriers to access so that the transport system is available to as many persons who wish to use it.,
- Enabling efficient and effective access for persons and goods to places of employment, markets, and services.

It achieves this through providing information on flood risk which can be used to assist in future management and design of the transport system. The amendment is unlikely to have a significant impact on the transport system.

How does the amendment have regard to the principles set out in the *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong)* Act 2017 in relation to Yarra River land and other land, the use or development of which may affect Yarra River land?

The amendment does not affect Yarra River land under Part 3 of the *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong)* Act 2017.

Resource and administrative costs

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

The amendment will improve the application and administration of the Buloke Shire Planning Scheme by providing greater certainty for the Buloke Shire Council, North Central Catchment Management Authority, landowners, occupiers, local businesses, and the community.

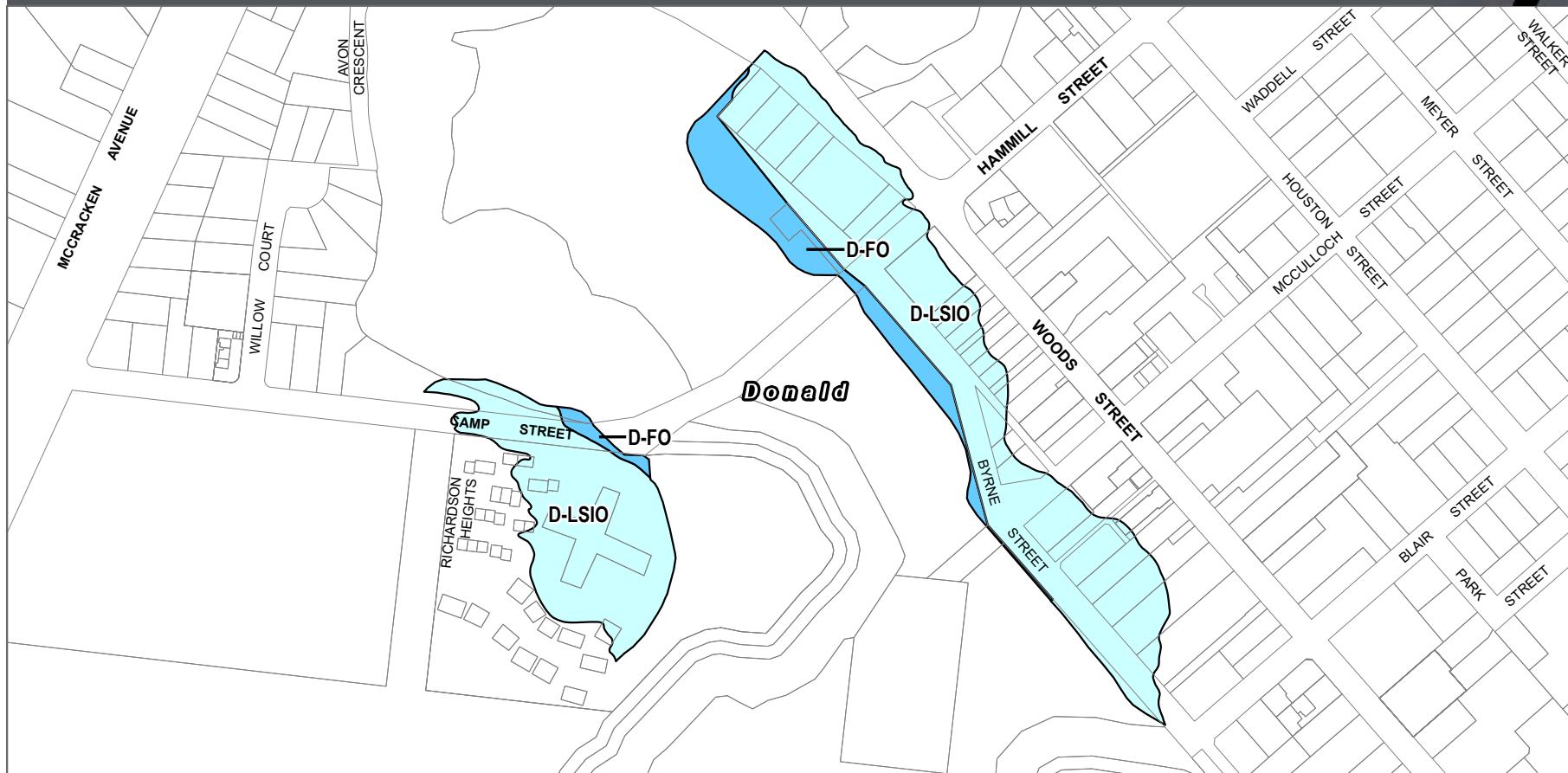
The updated planning controls will reduce planning permit applications. The impact of the amendment is anticipated to be manageable. It is unlikely that the removed planning provisions will have a significant financial burden on Council.

Delete mapping reference table attachment if not required.

**Attachment 1 – Mapping reference table (PENDING
FINALISED MAPPING FROM DTP)**

Flood study/Area	Mapping Reference	Proposed Overlay changes	Proposed deletion changes
Charlton	40 UFZ 40 TZ		Delete UFZ Introduce TZ
Donald	37 LSIO-FO		Delete FO and LSIO

BULOKE PLANNING SCHEME - LOCAL PROVISION AMENDMENT C47blok



LEGEND

- D-FO - Area to be deleted from a Floodway Overlay
- D-LSIO - Area to be deleted from a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay
- Local Government Area

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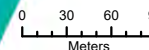
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Planning Spatial Services
 Print Date: 01/09/2025
 Amendment Version: 1

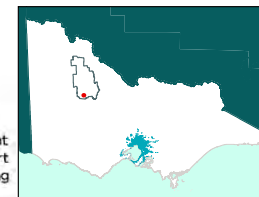


VICTORIA
 State Government

Department of Transport and Planning



Part of Planning Scheme Map 37LSIO-FO



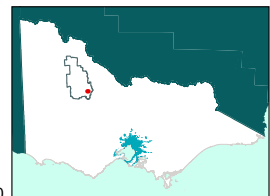
BULOKE PLANNING SCHEME - LOCAL PROVISION AMENDMENT C47blok



LEGEND

- TZ - Township Zone
- Local Government Area

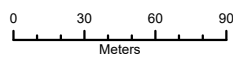
Part of Planning Scheme Map 40



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Print Date: 01/09/2025
Amendment Version: 1



8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Nil.

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

8.4.1 BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY SATISFACTION REPORT 2026

Author's Title: Director Infrastructure and Delivery

Directorate: Infrastructure and Delivery

File No: CR/19/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Objective: Council leadership and engagement
Responsible leadership and decision making
Consulting with and informing our community

PURPOSE

To note the results of the Buloke Shire Council Community Satisfaction Report 2026.

SUMMARY

The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is held annually and co-ordinated by the Department of Government Services on behalf of the Victorian councils. This year is the first year the survey has been conducted by new contracted provider Klein Research, having previously been undertaken by JWS Research. The results of the survey undertaken inform the Buloke Shire Council Community Satisfaction Report 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the results of the Buloke Shire Council Community Satisfaction Report 2026.
2. Endorses the Buloke Shire Council Community Satisfaction Report 2026 to be placed on Council's website to be viewed and accessed by public.

DISCUSSION

The Local Government Victoria (LGV) Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) is a state-wide program that measures how residents rate the performance of their local council. It provides councils with an independent, consistent and comparable view of community perceptions across key service and performance areas, helping them to:

1. Understand strengths and areas for improvement
2. Benchmark against similar councils and the wider sector
3. Track performance over time
4. Support planning, service improvement and community accountability.

The LGV CSS program provides a common framework for understanding and benchmarking council performance from the community perspective.

Fieldwork for the CSS was conducted in February and March of this year. 406 surveys were completed by residents of which 301 were by telephone and 105 were conducted online. Participants were residents of Buloke Shire Council aged 18 and over.

Minimum quotas of gender within age groups were applied during fieldwork. Post-survey weighting was then conducted to ensure accurate representation of the ABS age and gender profile of the council area.

Buloke Shire Council achieved an overall score of 51, a significant increase of +10, but still trails the State benchmark.

Every core measure has improved markedly year-on-year, with general direction up 17, and customer service up 14.

General Direction of Council has risen by a significant 17 points. Sentiment increased significantly amongst residents aged 35+, with the largest increase amongst 35-49-year-olds.

A Local Government Victoria Core Summary is demonstrated in the graphic below:

		Buloke SC 2026	Chg vs 2025	State 2026	Chg vs 2025	Small Shire 2026	Chg vs 2025
Overall Performance <i>Overall Performance of Council</i>		51	+10	58	+4	53	-
Spending Public Funds* <i>Spending public funds... in ways that benefit the community</i>		46	+9	51	+4	47	-1
General Direction <i>Views on direction of council's performance</i>		46	+17	48	+2	46	-
Customer Service <i>...on most recent contact, rate Council for Customer Service</i>		65	+14	68	+2	65	-
Opportunities to Give Feedback* <i>Opportunities offered by Council to give your feedback on key local issues</i>		53	+10	55	+5	54	+2
Waste management* <i>Waste Management including garbage, recyclables and green waste</i>		69	+6	72	+6	71	+5
Making decisions* <i>Making decisions in the interest of the community</i>		51	+11	52	+3	51	+1
Sealed local streets* <i>Condition of sealed local streets</i>		41	+5	54	+9	45	+1

Changed questions are marked with an asterisk.

Top performing areas

Waste management

Waste management was the overall best scoring area. Waste collection and management was identified as a positive theme raised by residents.

The appearance of public spaces

The appearance of public areas is one of the highest-scoring service areas measured and rated 67 and up 4 points year-on-year. Open-ended feedback cited the upkeep of parks, gardens and town presentation, and this performance gives Council a visible, well-regarded foundation to build from.

Recreational facilities

This was the first time that Recreation Facilities was tested as a service area and returned a strong score of 65 points, the third highest ranked area overall.

Lower performing areas

Whilst Council's road and footpath networks continue to be identified as one of the lower-performing service areas, it is important to note that satisfaction levels have improved compared to last year, and in the case of the sealed roads and footpaths quite significantly.

Maintenance of unsealed roads

Whilst this is still a low rating area it has improved by 1 point. Council's preventative maintenance program that has been rolled out across the network is delivering strong results and this may be resulting in improving community perception.

Condition of sealed roads

Recent flood events may have contributed to deterioration in road conditions for many of these assets. However, these roads remain safe and serviceable for traffic and the result reflects a strong 5-point improvement.

Condition of footpaths

This result, although one of the lower scoring areas this also represents a strong improvement of 4 points.

Key strengths of Buloke Shire Council identified in the survey were:

- Customer Service
- General direction of Council
- Advocating for the community
- Appearance of public spaces

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council has noted this report in a timely manner each year, at its July Ordinary Meeting of Council.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Results from the Buloke Shire Council Community Satisfaction Report 2026 may be used to inform decisions around sustainability.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Fieldwork for the CSS was conducted in February and March of this year. 406 surveys were completed by residents of which 301 were by telephone and 105 were conducted online. Participants were residents of Buloke Shire Council aged 18 and over.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

In noting the Buloke Shire Council Community Satisfaction Report 2026, Council may consider future opportunities for innovation in response to the results as well as develop initiatives for continuous improvement.

COLLABORATION

Council's Executive Management Team collaborated with Klein Research on the development of the survey, and Councillors received a briefing from Klein Research on the report.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The cost of conducting the survey was as per the budget allocation made in Council's Annual Budget 2025/26.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Local Government Act 2020.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Councils participating in the Community satisfaction Survey have various choices each year as to some of the content of the questionnaire and the sample size to be surveyed, depending on their individual strategic, financial, and other considerations.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.4.1.1 - Buloke Shire Council Community Satisfaction Report 2026

Buloke Shire Council

Community Satisfaction Report 2026



klein

Coordinated by the Department of Government
Services on behalf of Victorian councils

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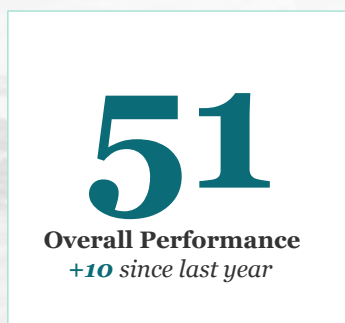
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Executive Summary



Buloke Shire Council Community Satisfaction



58 State Performance
+4 vs last year

53 Small Shire Performance
- vs last year

Key Takeouts

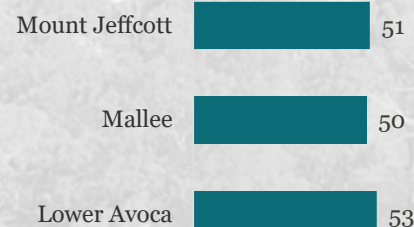
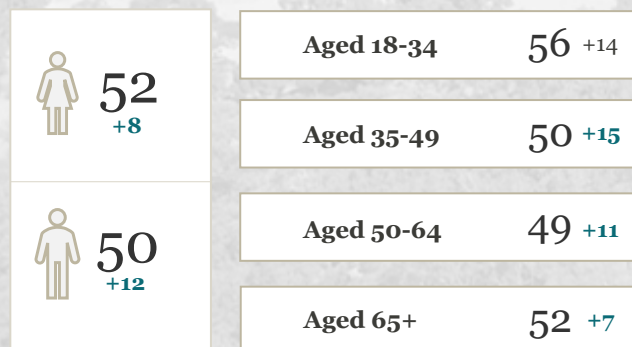
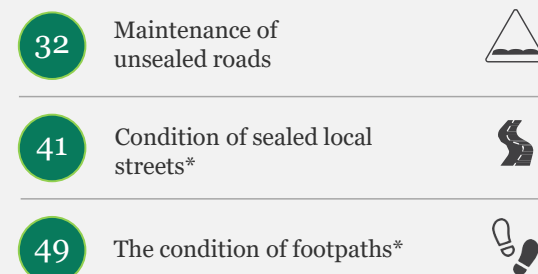


Buloke Shire Council achieved an overall score of 51, a significant increase of +10, but still trails the State benchmark. Sentiment increased significantly amongst residents aged 35+, with the largest increase amongst 35–49-year-olds.

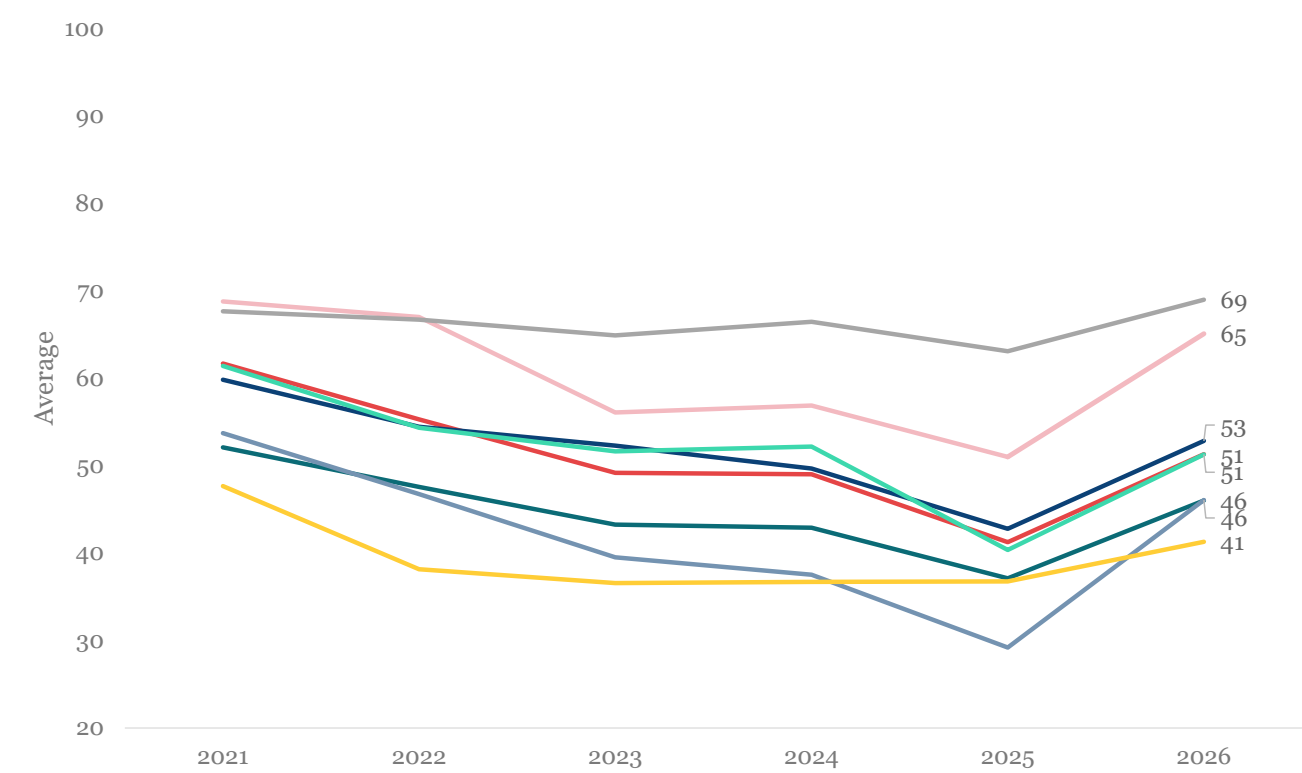
Top performing areas



Lowest performing areas



Core Measures by Year



Changed questions are marked with an asterisk.



Change on Previous Year		
+10	Overall Performance	
+9	Spending Public Funds*	
+17	Direction of council	
+14	Customer Service	
+10	Opportunities to give feedback*	
+6	Waste Management*	
+11	Making Decisions*	
+5	Sealed local Streets*	

LGV Core Summary



		Buloke SC 2026	Chg vs 2025	State 2026	Chg vs 2025	Small Shire 2026	Chg vs 2025
Overall Performance		51	+10	58	+4	53	-
<i>Overall Performance of Council</i>							
Spending Public Funds*		46	+9	51	+4	47	-1
<i>Spending public funds... in ways that benefit the community</i>							
General Direction		46	+17	48	+2	46	-
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Customer Service		65	+14	68	+2	65	-
<i>...on most recent contact, rate Council for Customer Service</i>							
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<i>Opportunities offered by Council to give your feedback on key local issues</i>							
Waste management*		69	+6	72	+6	71	+5
<i>Waste Management including garbage, recyclables and green waste</i>							
Making decisions*		51	+11	52	+3	51	+1
<i>Making decisions in the interest of the community</i>							
Sealed local streets*		41	+5	54	+9	45	+1
<i>Condition of sealed local streets</i>							

Changed questions are marked with an asterisk.

Performance of Council Services – Summary by Service Area



Governance, Engagement & Advocacy 			Infrastructure & Maintenance 			Community Services & Support 			Community Facilities & Recreation 			Planning & Development 		
Service	2026	vs LY	Service	2026	vs LY	Service	2026	vs LY	Service	2026	vs LY	Service	2026	vs LY
Advocating for the community*	53	+13	The appearance of public areas	67	+4	Waste Management*	69	+6	Recreational facilities	65	-	Emergency and disaster management	63	+2
Opportunities to give feedback*	53	+10	The condition of footpaths*	49	+4				Libraries*	61	NA	Enforcement of local laws and regulations*	59	+5
Making decisions in the interest of the community*	51	+11	Condition of sealed local streets*	41	+5				Arts Centres*	55	NA	Environmental sustainability	59	+6
			Maintenance of unsealed roads	32	+1							Business and community development and tourism	55	+8
												Planning and building permits	49	+15

Changed questions are marked with an asterisk.

Executive Summary – Key Strengths of Buloke Shire Council



Customer service

Customer service is a clear strength for Buloke Shire Council in this year's results. Performance sits at 65, matching the Small Shire benchmark and is up 14 points year-on-year, a significant increase. Customer service is the most frequently raised strength in open-ended feedback, with residents repeatedly noting the helpfulness and responsiveness of Council staff.



General direction of Council

Resident perceptions of Council's overall direction have improved substantially, with the score at 46 - the single largest year-on-year movement (+17 points) across the core measures. This signals a meaningful shift in resident sentiment about where Buloke Shire Council is heading.



Advocating for the community

Advocacy is rated 53 and up 13 points year-on-year and is one of the largest improvements across the service areas. Advocating for the community now performs at a similar level of other governance and advocacy service areas for Buloke Shire Council.



Appearance of public areas

The appearance of public areas is one of the highest-scoring service areas measured in this report, rated 67 and up four points year-on-year. Open-ended feedback cited the upkeep of parks, gardens and town presentation, and this performance gives Council a visible, well-regarded foundation to build from.

Executive Summary – Key Opportunities for Council to Address



Condition of sealed local streets

The condition of sealed local streets is the largest negative gap against benchmarks across the services measured in this report, with Buloke Shire Council rated thirteen points below the State average and four below the Small Shire benchmark. Open-ended feedback overwhelmingly identifies road conditions and maintenance as the dominant improvement priority residents raise, and Mallee residents feel this most acutely.



Maintenance of unsealed roads

Maintenance of unsealed roads is the lowest-scoring service area measured, rated 32 and effectively flat year-on-year. Given the spread of the municipality and how much residents may rely on the unsealed road network, this sits alongside sealed streets as an important driver of overall infrastructure sentiment.



Spending public funds

Perceptions of how Council spends public funds is the weakest of the core measures relative to peers, rated 46 and five points below the State average. While the score has improved nine points year-on-year, residents continue to question how rates are allocated and prioritised, with budget and spending decisions recurring in open-ended feedback.



Condition of footpaths

The condition of footpaths is rated 49; six points below the State average among the infrastructure services measured. Residents raise footpaths alongside roads as a connected concern in open-ended feedback, and pedestrian safety and trip hazards are a particular focus among older residents.

Executive Summary – Recommendations



Build on this year's momentum

Every core measure has improved markedly year-on-year, with overall performance up ten points, general direction up seventeen, and customer service up fourteen. We recommend Buloke Shire Council view this as a turning-point and consolidate the gains by maintaining current standards of performance while focusing on the most influential service areas: sealed local streets, making decisions in the interest of the community, and developing community business and tourism.

Prioritise sealed local streets

We recommend that Buloke Shire Council view the condition of sealed local streets as a priority service area to address. It carries the largest negative benchmark gap (thirteen points below State) and dominates resident open-ended feedback as the improvement priority. A clearly communicated plan and progressive work is recommended - particularly for Mallee townships where concern is more acute.

Address the broader roads picture

Buloke Shire Council should consider pairing a sealed-streets focus with a coordinated response on unsealed roads (rated 32) and footpaths (49), since residents raise these as connected areas rather than as separate services. A consolidated infrastructure narrative - covering what is being maintained, what is being upgraded, and on what timeframe is likely to be well received by residents.

Demonstrate value for rates spent

Perceptions of how Council spends public funds (46) and decisions in the community interest (51) remain among the softest of the core measures relative to benchmarks, even after this year's improvements. Buloke Shire Council should consider focusing on providing residents with a clear explanation of how rates are being allocated and what residents are getting in return.

Summary of Approach



About the LGV CSS program

What the program is

Program overview

The **LGV Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS)** is a state-wide program that measures how residents rate the performance of their local council. It provides councils with an independent, consistent and comparable view of community perceptions across key service and performance areas, helping them to:

Understand strengths
and areas for improvement

1

Track performance
over time

3

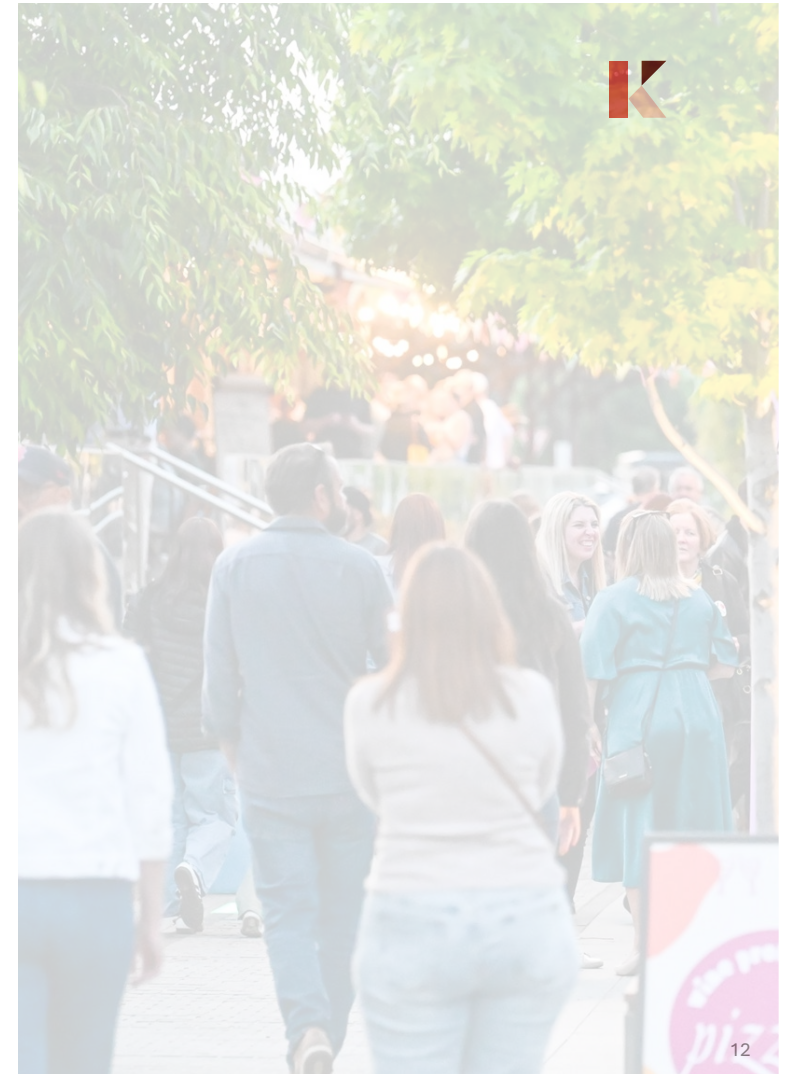
Benchmark against similar
councils and the wider sector

2

Support planning, service
improvement and community
accountability

4

The LGV CSS program provides a common framework for understanding and benchmarking council performance from the community perspective.



About Klein

What the program is and Klein's role in its next phase

Klein's appointment to the program

Klein is the newly appointed and Government-endorsed provider for the LGV CSS program. Our appointment through a robust and competitive procurement process provides confidence in the strength of the approach and the quality of delivery.



A new phase for the program

As the new provider, Klein brings energy, curiosity and a modern perspective — helping to refresh the program while maintaining the integrity, comparability and credibility that councils rely on.

Independent. Comparable. Credible. Refreshed for the program's next phase.

The LGV CSS program provides a common framework for understanding and benchmarking council performance from the community perspective.

About Klein

- 30 years' experience in community and customer satisfaction tracking.
- Diverse expertise in public-sector, local-government and stakeholder engagement, as well as commercial clients.
- Proven in managing large tracking programs.
- A “safe set of hands” - independent, transparent, and responsive.

13

Explanation of Survey Metrics

How the key survey measures should be interpreted



Key metrics included in this report

This report includes a range of measures to understand how residents view Council's performance, services and role in the community.

Key Performance: Measures overall views of Council, including overall performance, value for money and direction.

Core measures: Covers key areas such as decision-making in the interests of the community, waste management, opportunities to give feedback, and the condition of sealed local streets.

Importance of council services: Measures how important different services are to residents.

Performance: Measures how residents rate Council's performance in each area over the past 12 months.

Experience: Measures whether residents or anyone in their household has used particular services in the past 12 months.



Service reporting categories

For ease of interpretation, service results are grouped into the following categories

Governance, Engagement & Advocacy

Infrastructure & Maintenance

Community Facilities & Recreation

Community Services & Support

Planning & Growth



How results are reported

Results are typically shown for

Total Council sample

Demographic sub-groups within the Council such as age, gender and region

Similar councils for benchmarking

State-wide results for broader comparison



Note on interpretation

Residents may rate Council based on either direct experience or broader perceptions. Both are valuable, as they help show not only how services are experienced, but also how Council is seen by the wider community.

This report includes a range of measures to understand how residents view Council's performance, services and role in the community.





Benchmarking and comparison

How Council's results are interpreted in context

Why Benchmarking matters	Benchmarking helps put Council's results into context by comparing performance with relevant peers, historical results and key resident groups.
What it helps show	Benchmarking helps answer four key questions: • How is Council performing overall? • How is Council performing compared with all participating councils? • How is Council performing compared with similar councils? • Which results reflect Council-specific issues versus broader sector-wide patterns?
Important note	Comparisons are based on a common methodology and question set. Where differences are observed, significance testing is used to identify whether Council is <i>meaningfully above or below</i> benchmark.

Benchmark comparisons used in reporting

Comparator	What it helps show
State-wide average	How Council compares with all participating councils across the program
Council group average	How Council compares with similar councils, providing the most relevant peer context
Previous years	Whether performance is improving, stable or declining over time
Resident sub-groups	Which groups score higher or lower, and where perceptions differ across the community



Buloke Shire Council is classified as a **Small Shire** council. The **Small Shire** group includes: Alpine, Central Goldfields, Indigo, Murrindindi, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Strathbogie, Towong, West Wimmera.

Benchmarking helps distinguish between council-specific performance and broader patterns seen across the sector.



Mixed method control

How online surveying was introduced while maintaining comparability

Methodology change

Why online was added

In 2026, the LGV CSS program introduced online surveying via social media recruitment alongside the traditional CATI (telephone) methodology.

Online was added to broaden participation and improve the representativeness of the sample, rather than relying only on residents who are reachable by phone.

This also provides greater access to younger, digitally engaged and other harder-to-reach residents.

CATI remains a core part of the methodology; online has been added to improve coverage and respondent mix.

How the mixed method approach is controlled

Same questionnaire and measurement framework

Telephone and online respondents answer the same questions, using the same scales and core question order.

Mode review before merging

Each response is flagged as telephone or online, allowing results to be checked by mode before they are combined.

Comparison of results

Klein reviews demographic profiles and key results across modes to identify whether any meaningful differences are present.

Integrated weighting

Once verified, telephone and online results are combined and weighted together to align with ABS population benchmarks.



What this means

The mixed method approach improves access, engagement and representativeness, while the control process helps maintain continuity and comparability with previous CATI-only results.

Online was introduced to improve reach and representation, with controls applied to preserve comparability and produce a single combined dataset.

Enhanced Questions

Question wording review and comparability assessment



CORE MEASURES



In consultation with Local Government Victoria and participating councils, a number of questions used in the Community Satisfaction Survey were reviewed and updated to improve clarity and relevance.

As wording changes can affect comparability with historical results, a split-sample approach was used to assess the impact of the main revisions. One group received the historic wording and another received the enhanced wording.

The following table summarises the changes made and the extent to which the revised wording affected results.

Enhanced Wording	Historic Wording	Estimated Impact	Outcome
How would you rate [COUNCIL NAME] at spending public funds on infrastructure and services in ways that benefit the community	How would you rate [COUNCIL NAME] at providing good value for money in infrastructure and services provided to your community?	N/A	Not tested. The historic question focused on perceptions of value for money, while the revised measure assesses perceptions of how effectively council directs public funds to generate community benefit. As these are related but not equivalent concepts, direct trend comparability was not assumed.
The opportunities offered by [NAME OF COUNCIL] to give your feedback or engage on key local issues.	Community consultation and engagement	+1pts	No material impact detected. Results are considered comparable.
Condition of sealed local streets in your area. This includes local streets but does NOT include highways and major arterial roads such as [INSERT UP THREE LOCAL EXAMPLES].	The condition of suburban sealed local roads in your area. This includes local streets and roads managed by your council but excluding highways and main roads that are managed by VicRoads.	+2pts	No material impact detected. Added specificity does not appear to have materially changed responses.
Waste management including the collection of garbage, recyclables and green waste	Waste management	+6pts	Material impact detected; revised wording appears to have increased positive ratings likely by making the measure more concrete and inclusive.
Making decisions in the interest of the community	Decisions made in the interest of the community	-1pt	No material impact detected. Results are considered comparable.
Advocating for, and representing the community to government and other organisations	Lobbying on behalf of the community	+2pts	No material impact detected. Results are considered comparable.
Developing and promoting local tourism	Tourism Development	-3pts	No material impact detected. Movement appears within expected variation.
Developing and promoting the local economy	Business and community development	-3pts	No material impact detected. Movement appears within expected variation.
Enforcement of local laws and Council regulations	Enforcement of local laws	-5pts	Potential material impact detected. Expanded reference to "Council regulations" may have broadened respondents' frame of reference and contributed to lower ratings.
The condition of footpaths in your area	The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area	+2pts	No material impact detected. Revised wording appears comparable.
Keeping the community informed on council services, events and programs	Informing the community	+3pts	No material impact detected. Revised wording appears comparable.

Changed questions are marked with an asterisk.

Enhanced Methodology

The incorporation of Online and comparability assessment



In 2026, the LGV CSS program expanded beyond its traditional CATI (telephone interviewing) approach, with online surveying via social media recruitment available as an option for councils.

This reflected a desire to modernise the program while retaining the consistency and comparability of the long-standing methodology.

Where used, online broadened participation and improved the representativeness of the sample, particularly by improving access to younger, digitally engaged and other harder-to-reach residents.

Index Score	Score Impact	Impact of including Online
Overall Performance	0 pts	No material impact detected. Movement appears within expected variation
Spending Public Funds	-1 pts	No material impact detected. Movement appears within expected variation
General Direction	-1 pts	No material impact detected. Movement appears within expected variation
Customer Service	-1 pts	No material impact detected. Movement appears within expected variation
Consultation/ Engagement	-1 pts	Material impact detected; the introduction of online approach may have allowed respondents to be more critical.
Waste management	0 pts	No material impact detected. Movement appears within expected variation
Making decisions	-2 pts	Material impact detected; the introduction of online approach may have allowed respondents to be more critical.
Sealed local streets	0 pts	No material impact detected. Movement appears within expected variation

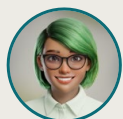


After weighting for demographic differences, CATI and online results were broadly aligned.

Any remaining differences were generally small and mostly within expected variation.

Importantly, the differences observed are generally small and not statistically significant, supporting a combined dataset that improves reach while maintaining comparability.

Elicitation of Qualitative Feedback



Open ended comments are a great way to capture information and insights.

To encourage richer, more natural feedback, our survey platform utilises a technology called 'EVE' (Evolved Verbatim Engine).

EVE uses natural language processing to enable human-like interactions with survey respondents. It enables us to provide

- **Deeper and richer insights from open comments**
- **An improved respondent experience**

Think of EVE having a chat with the respondents (where there are open-ended question in the survey), allowing them to engage with an inquisitive feedback companion using two-way, automatically moderated conversation. 'EVE' probes them further in unique ways depending upon what the customer has said.

This leads to more reliable feedback and insights.



EVE
Evolved Verbatim Engine



How to interpret results

Statistical significance and margin of error

Statistical significance

Statistical significance testing at the 95% confidence level has been applied to key comparisons in this report.

Where a difference is highlighted, it is unlikely to be due to chance alone. Where no difference is highlighted, the results should be treated as broadly similar.

95%

Reading the charts and tables



Up arrow or green text = significantly higher



Down arrow or red text = significantly lower



Circle / marker or black text = not statistically significant, but may still be noteworthy

Approximate margins of error used in this report

All survey results are subject to a margin of error, which varies depending on sample size.

Sub-Group	Sample	Margin of error
Buloke SC	406	+/-4.9 pts
State	17,730	+/-0.7 pts
Small Shire	3,994	+/-1.6 pts
18 to 34	47	+/-14.3 pts
35 to 49	84	+/-10.7 pts
50 to 64	151	+/-8.0 pts
65+	124	+/-8.8 pts
Male	206	+/-6.8 pts
Female	200	+/-6.9 pts
Lower Avoca	131	+/-8.6 pts
Mallee	164	+/-7.7 pts
Mount Jeffcott	111	+/-9.3 pts

Larger groups have a smaller margin of error; smaller groups have a larger one.

Margins of error are approximate and are shown to support interpretation of key results and sub-groups.

Why the sample size is appropriate

Understanding the Sample



Sample size

This survey includes enough interviews to give a reliable overall picture of community views.



Margin of error

All surveys have a small amount of natural variation. A bigger sample reduces this (and Councils have the option to increase sample size), but the improvement in accuracy becomes smaller as sample size increases.



Confidence level

We use the standard "95% confidence level". In simple terms, this means we can be highly confident the survey gives a trustworthy picture of wider community views.

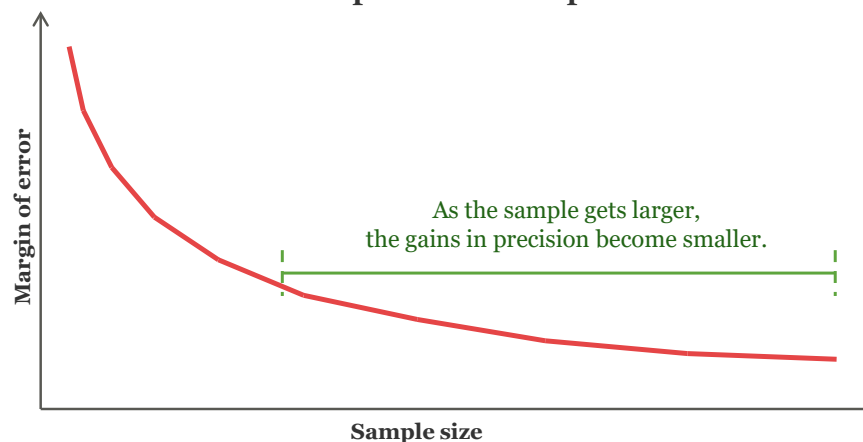


Statistical significance

In our analysis, we test whether differences and movements in scores are large enough to be meaningful, rather than just normal survey variation. These are highlighted through the report.



How sample size affects precision



What this means

Larger samples can improve precision, but after a point they are unlikely to materially change the overall story.

Results are weighted to reflect the community profile (for example age and gender), helping ensure the findings are representative.



How weighting is used

What weighting does	Weighting adjusts the final results so the achieved sample more closely reflects the actual community profile.
Why it matters	Some groups can be a little over- or under-represented in the raw sample. Weighting helps ensure no group has too much or too little influence on the final results.
How to read the table	“Unweighted” shows the profile of the achieved sample. “Weighted” shows the profile after adjustment. Each council receives its own weighting table.

Sample weighting

Age	Unweighted	Weighted
18-24	4%	7%
25-34	7%	12%
35-49	21%	18%
50-64	37%	35%
65+	31%	29%
NET	100%	100%

Gender	Unweighted	Weighted
Male	51%	51%
Female	49%	49%
NET	100%	100%



Weighting improves representativeness, but it does not change what respondents said. It simply helps ensure that each group is reflected in the right proportion in the final results.

Weighting tables are provided for each council to show how the achieved sample compares with the final weighted profile.

Comparative Benchmarks



In addition to the core LGV questions, each council was able to select additional service areas to assess. As a result, the number of councils in the benchmark for each questions varies. The following are the number of councils for each service area assessed within this report. Where there is only one other council in the benchmark, we have not provided a benchmark and labelled it as NA.

Performance	State	Small Shire
Art centres*	12	3
Planning and building permits	12	2
Business and community development and tourism	10	3
Libraries*	17	4
Emergency and disaster management	14	2
Enforcement of local laws and regulations*	16	4
Advocating for the community*	20	5
Environmental sustainability	19	2
Recreational facilities	20	4
The appearance of public areas	23	6
Maintenance of unsealed roads	15	5
Condition of sealed local streets*	38	10
Decisions in the interest of the community*	38	10
Opportunities to give feedback on key local issues*	38	10
The condition of footpaths*	15	3
Waste management*	38	10

Importance	State	Small Shire
The condition of footpaths*	8	2
Environmental sustainability	9	1
Community events and cultural activities	10	3
Waste management*	11	2
Recreational facilities	12	3
The appearance of public areas	12	3
Emergency and disaster management	8	1
Opportunities to give feedback on key local issues*	10	2
Enforcement of local laws and regulations*	8	3
Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area	7	3
Business and community development and tourism	7	3
Planning and building permits	7	2



How Performance Index Scores are Calculated

A simple guide to how 5-point ratings are converted into a 0 to 100 index

In simple terms

Performance is asked on a 5-point scale from Very poor to Very good.

Responses are then converted into an index from 0 to 100 so results can be compared consistently.

Scale



Index Values

- 0 Very poor
- 25 Poor
- 50 Average
- 75 Good
- 100 Very good

Can't say is excluded from the calculation

Worked example

Each response 'share' is multiplied by its index value. The contributions are then summed to create the score.

Response	Index Value	Share	Contribution
Very good	100	25%	25.0
Good	75	30%	22.5
Average	50	20%	10.0
Poor	25	10%	2.5
Very poor	0	10%	0.0
Can't say	-	5%	Excluded
Total index score		100%	60.0

How to interpret scores

Higher scores indicate stronger performance.

Band	Interpretation
85+	Very strong performance
75-84	Positive performance
50-74	Mixed or passable performance
40-49	Underperforming
<40	Clear community dissatisfaction

Direction in the past 12 months

The same principle is used for the Direction metric: Improved = 100, Stayed the same = 50, Deteriorated = 0. "Can't say" responses are excluded.

How to read the results slide - Performance Distribution



Guide to reading results

What this slide shows

This slide shows the overall result, the distribution of responses, and how results vary across benchmarks and key sub-groups.

It helps the reader see:

- How Council is performing overall
- How the result compares with key benchmarks
- Which groups score higher or lower
- Whether the result has improved or declined over time

What the table categories mean

Council - result for this Council

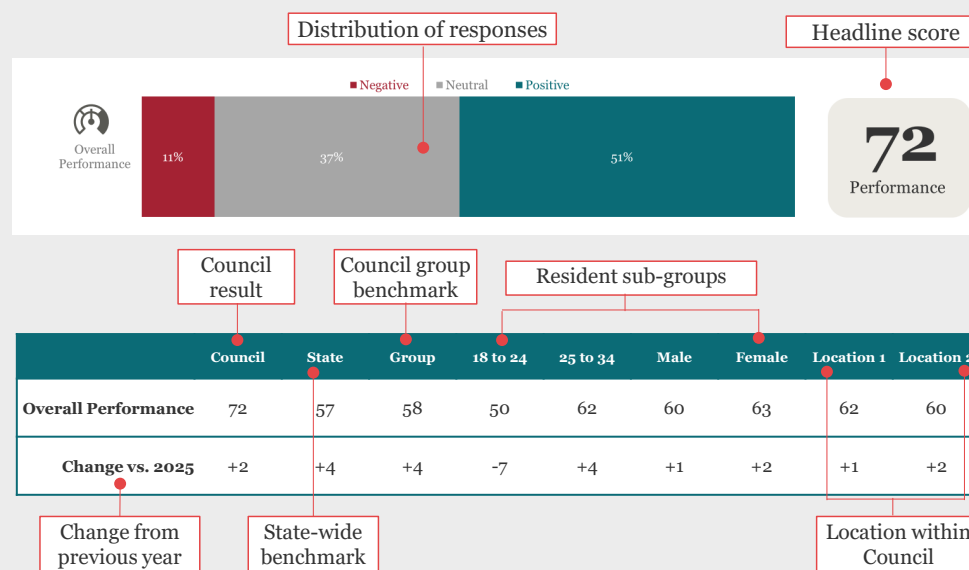
State - average across all participating Councils

Group - average for similar councils

Age / gender / location columns - results for key sub-groups within the Council area

Change vs. previous year - movement since last year

Annotated example



How to read the line chart slide - Importance and Performance



Guide to reading results

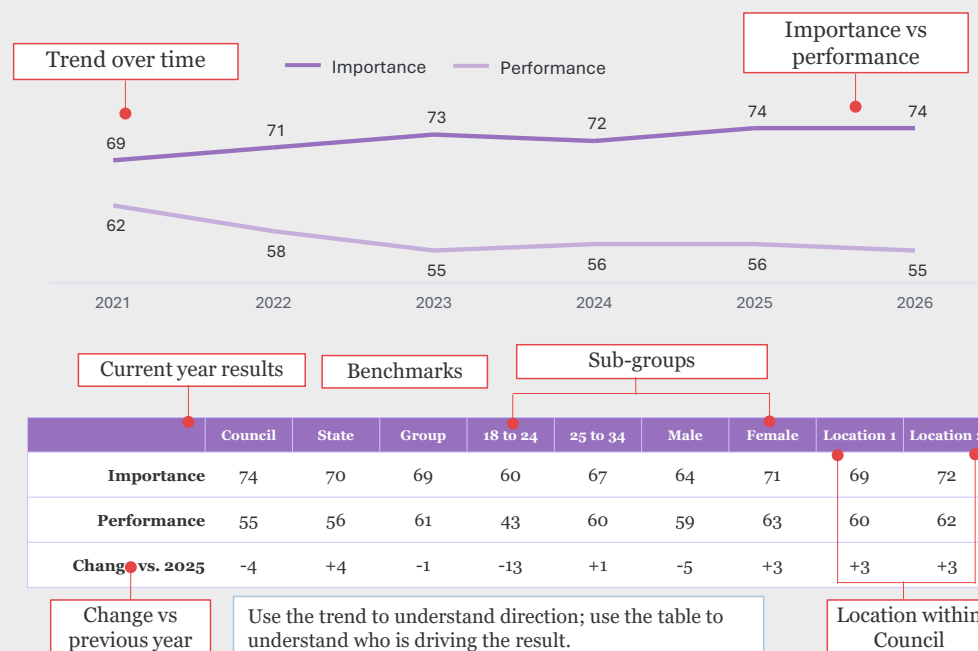
What this slide shows

- These slides show how importance and performance have changed over time, and how the current year result varies across benchmarks and sub-groups.
- The top chart shows the trend over time.
- The table below shows the current year results by benchmark and sub-group.
- The change table shows movement compared with the previous year.
- Importance = how much the area matters to the community
- Performance = how residents rate Council on that area

Table categories

Council, State and Group provide benchmarks; age, gender and location columns show resident sub-groups.

Annotated example



Fieldwork Summary

Who?

Residents of Buloke Shire Council aged 18+
Minimum quotas of gender within age groups were applied during fieldwork. Post-survey weighting was then conducted to ensure accurate representation of the ABS age and gender profile of the council area.

What?

11-minute survey
Conducted by Telephone and Online

How Many?

n=**406**
n=**301 Telephone** recruited from sourced residential sample list
n=**105 Online** recruited via social media

When?

Fieldwork conducted February/March 2026



Key Performance Measures



Overall Council Performance



Overview

This section provides a summary of overall community perceptions of Council performance. It presents key headline metrics and a high-level view of how Council is performing across the municipality.

Specifically, this section includes:

- Overall performance score
- Perceptions of Council direction
- Views on how well Council spends public funds
- Benchmark comparisons (where applicable)
- Results by key subgroups (e.g. age, location)

Together, these results provide a clear snapshot of overall community sentiment and set the foundation for the deeper insights that follow in the report.



Summary of results

Key measures:

- Community views of overall performance were significantly more positive in 2026, with the result increasing by 10 points to 51.
- Residents were also more positive about Council direction in 2026, with the result increasing by 17 points to 46.
- Perceptions of spending public funds also increased by 9 points to 46.

Vs. Benchmarks

- Overall performance sits well below the State (58) and slightly below Small Shire (53).
- Council direction is just below the State (48) and in line with the Small Shire benchmark (46).
- Perceptions of spending public funds sits below the State average (51) and broadly in line with the Small Shire benchmark (47).

Sub-group differences:

- 18 to 34 year olds tended to be more positive on overall performance, council direction and spending public funds.
- Residents aged 65+ were less positive on Council direction.
- Lower Avoca residents were generally more positive on all measures.

Performance Summary – At a Glance

Council performance summary.
Results shown are index scores out of 100.



51 ↑
Overall
Performance

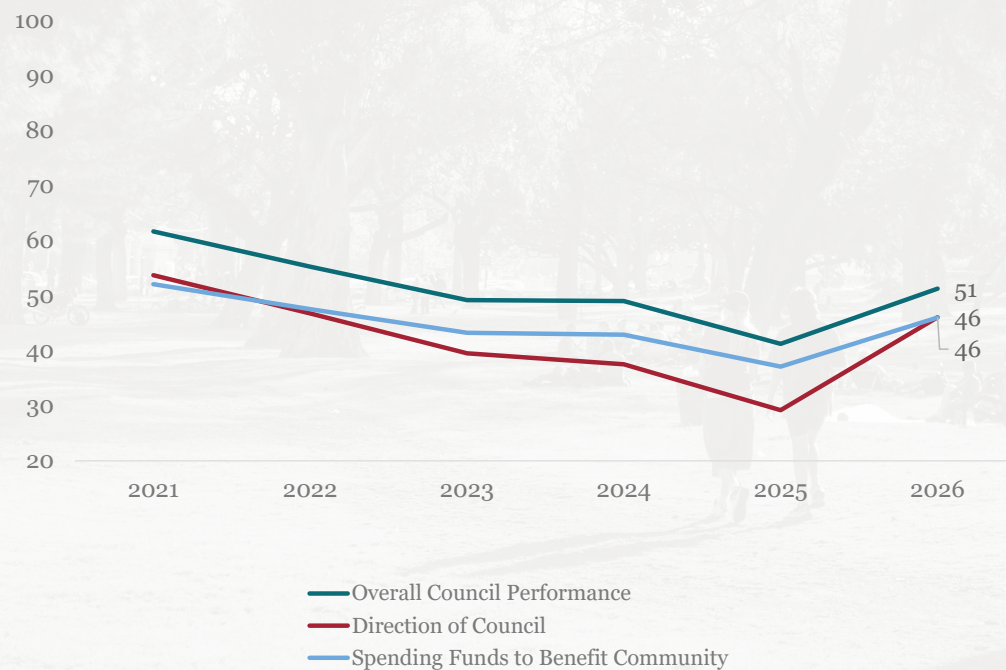


46 ↑
Direction
of Council

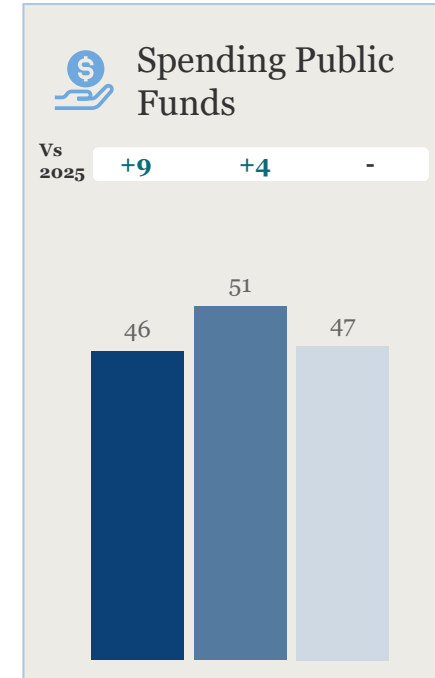
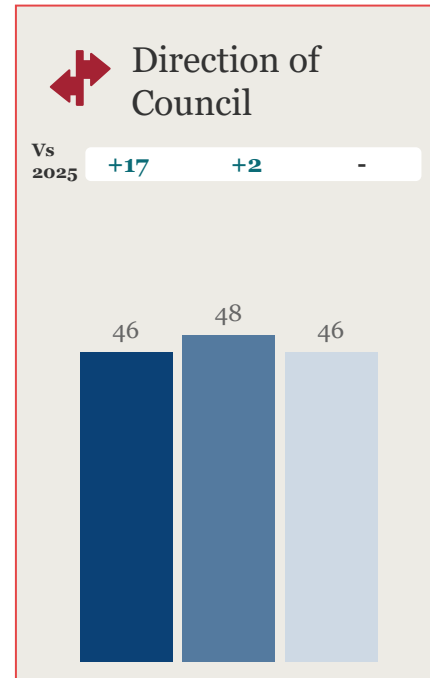
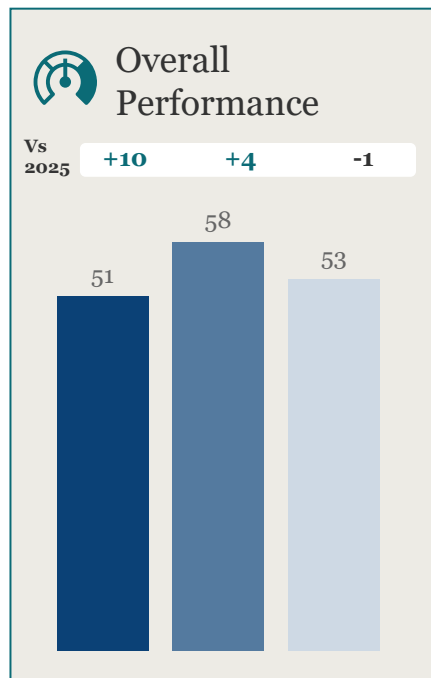


46 ↑
Spending Public
Funds

Council Performance by Year



Overall Performance – Council vs. Benchmarks



■ Buloke ■ State ■ Small Shire

Overall Performance – Distribution of Results 2026



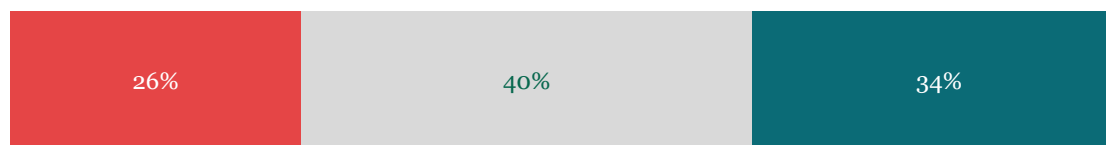
These results show the distribution of responses for **Overall Performance** (categorized into negative, neutral and positive), and by sub-group to give deeper insight into community perceptions



■ Negative (very poor + poor)

■ Neutral (average)

■ Positive (good + very good)



51
Score

	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Overall Performance	51	58	53	56	50	49	52	50	52	53	50	51
Change vs. 2025	+10	+4	-	+14	+15	+11	+7	+12	+8	+8	+5	+15

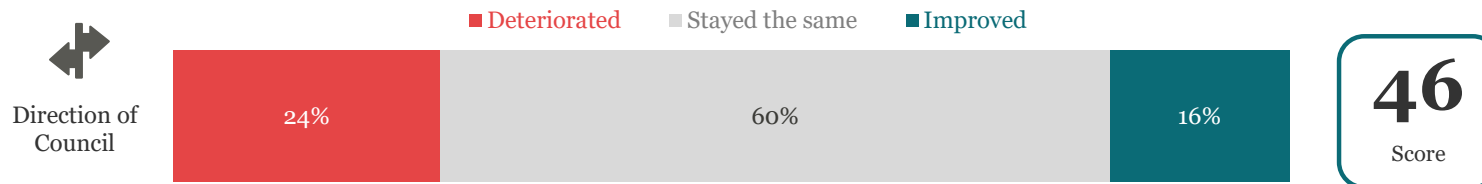
Q3. ON BALANCE, for the last twelve months, how do you feel about the performance of Council, not just on one or two issues, BUT OVERALL across all responsibility areas? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

32

Direction of Council – Distribution of Results 2026



These results show the distribution of responses for **Direction of Council** (improved, stayed the same, deteriorated), and by sub-group to give deeper insight into community perceptions



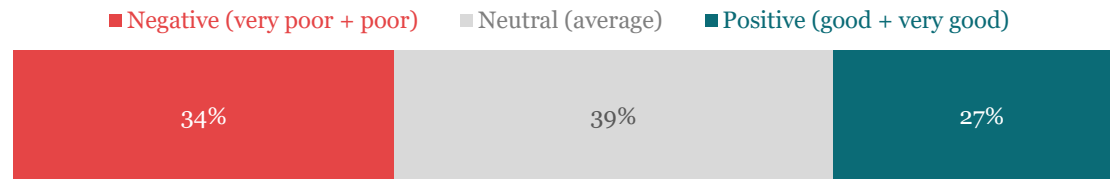
	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Direction of Council	46	48	46	56	44	45	43	46	46	48	47	42
Change vs. 2025	+17	+2	-	+28	+19	+21	+9	+19	+14	+11	+11	+24

Q6. Over the last 12 months, what is your view of the direction of Council's overall performance? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Spending Public Funds to Benefit Community – Distribution of Results 2026



These results show the distribution of responses for **Spending Public Funds** (categorised into positive, neutral and negative), and by sub-group to give deeper insight into community perceptions



46
Score

	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Spending Funds	46	51	47	52	43	43	48	47	45	47	45	47
Change vs. 2025	+9	+4	-1	+17	+13	+11	+4	+11	+7	+5	+5	+15

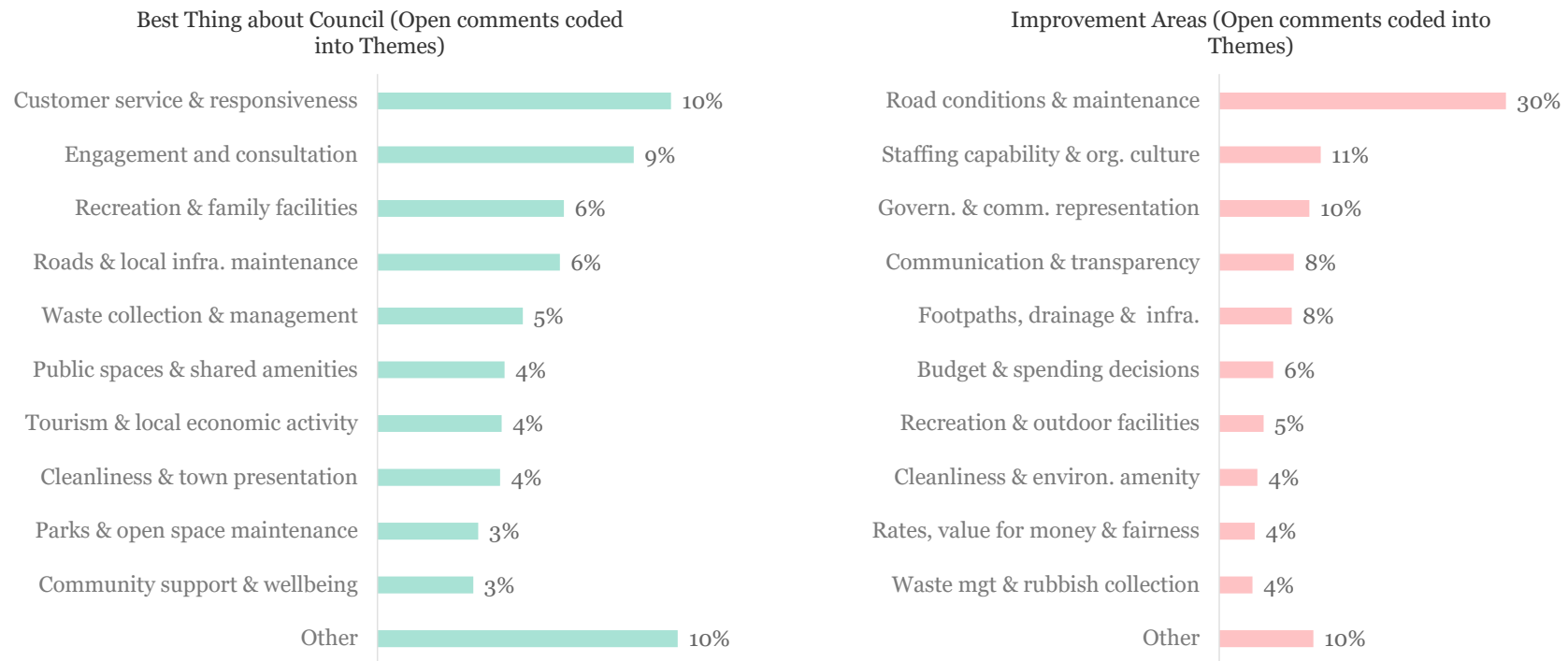
Q3b. How would you rate Council at spending public funds on infrastructure and services in ways that benefit the community? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Open Ended Resident Feedback



Open ended Resident Feedback - Reasons for Sentiment

Verbatim Comments



Q16. In your own words, please tell me what is the BEST thing about [INSERT COUNCIL NAME]? Q17. What does [INSERT COUNCIL NAME] most need to do to improve its performance? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Open ended Resident Feedback - Reasons for Sentiment

Demographic Differences



Best Thing about Council ●

- Customer service and responsiveness is the most commonly mentioned strength across the municipality.
- Engagement and consultation, recreation and family facilities and roads and local infrastructure maintenance are also recognised positively, reflecting appreciation for visible day-to-day service delivery and local infrastructure.
- Customer service and responsiveness is less commonly mentioned by residents aged 25 to 34.
- Waste collection and management and public spaces and shared amenities emerge as secondary positive themes raised by residents.
- Subgroup differences are otherwise relatively limited overall, indicating broad alignment in perceptions of Council strengths.

Improvement Areas ●

- Road conditions and maintenance overwhelmingly dominate improvement feedback across the municipality, particularly among Mallee residents.
- Staffing capability and organisational culture, governance and community representation and communication and transparency emerge as notable secondary concerns raised by residents.
- Governance and community representation is more commonly raised by residents aged 35 to 49.
- Footpaths, drainage and infrastructure and budget and spending decisions are recurring but clearly secondary concerns relative to the leading issues.
- Subgroup differences are otherwise relatively limited, suggesting broad alignment in improvement priorities across the community.

Q16. In your own words, please tell me what is the BEST thing about [INSERT COUNCIL NAME]? Q17. What does [INSERT COUNCIL NAME] most need to do to improve its performance? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Performance of Council Services



Performance of Council Services



Overview

This section provides a summary of community perceptions of performance across key Council service areas. It highlights how well residents believe Council is delivering services and where performance is strongest or may require improvement.

Specifically, this section includes:

- Performance ratings of Council services
- Trends over time

Council service areas are grouped into five key categories:

- Governance, Engagement & Advocacy
- Infrastructure, Waste & Maintenance
- Community Facilities & Recreation
- Community Services & Support
- Planning, Development and Growth



Summary of results

Key measures:

- Waste management was the strongest performing service area, scoring 69, followed by the appearance of public areas at 67.
- The lower service results were for maintenance of unsealed roads and condition of sealed local streets, scoring 32 and 41 respectively.
- Compared with 2025, planning and building permits recorded the clearest improvement, increasing by 15 points to 49.

Vs. Benchmarks

- Libraries sits well below both the State (61 vs 75) and Small Shire (61 vs 73) benchmarks, and is the lowest relative score against both groups.
- Condition of sealed local streets also sits significantly below the State (41 vs 54).

Sub-group differences:

- Residents aged 18 to 34 year olds were more positive on art centres, condition of sealed local streets, and condition of footpaths.
- Residents aged 18 to 34 year olds were less positive on emergency and disaster management and recreational facilities.
- Lower Avoca precinct residents were more positive on condition of sealed local streets, art centres, and condition of footpaths.
- Mallee precinct residents were less positive on recreational facilities, condition of sealed local streets, the appearance of public areas and opportunities to give feedback on key local issues.

Performance of Council Services – by Year

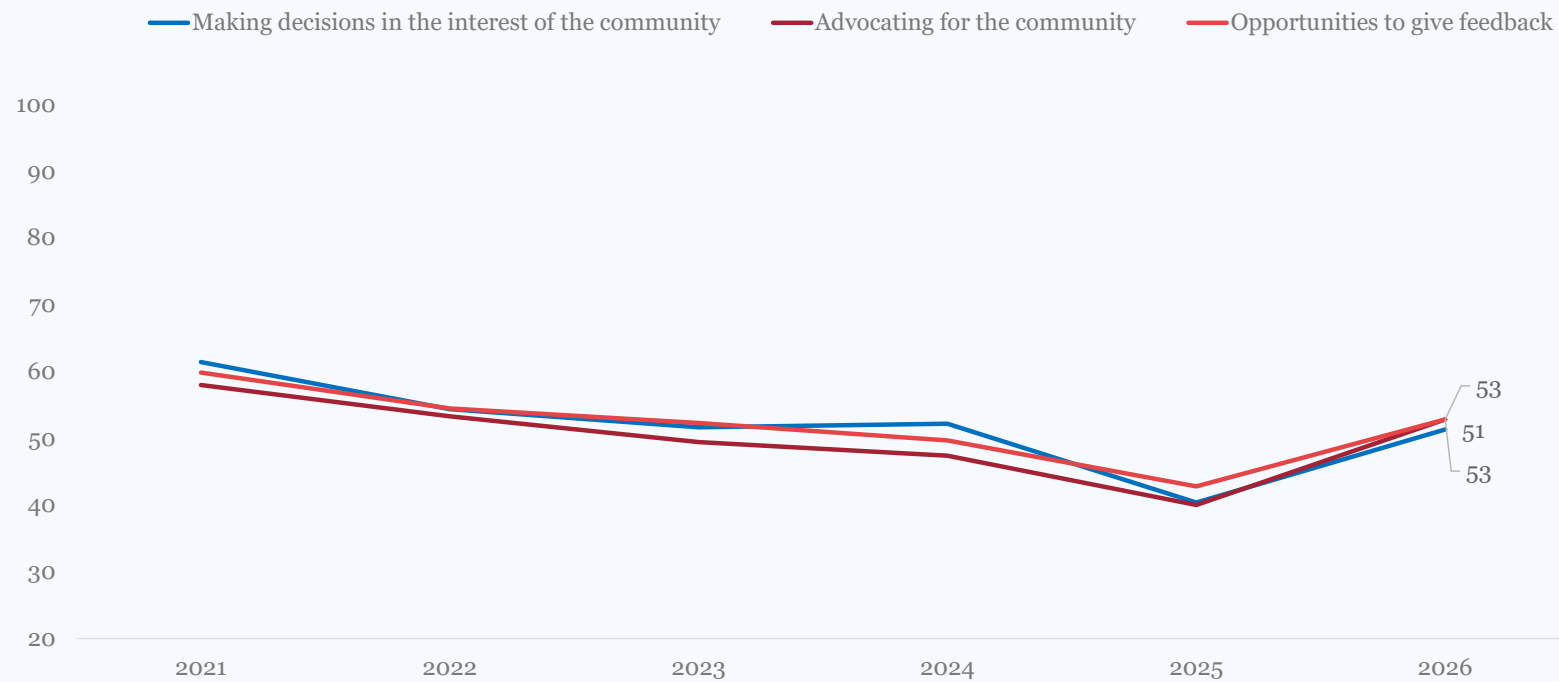


	Buloke SC 2026	Chg vs 2025	State 2026	Chg vs 2025	Small Shire 2026	Chg vs 2025
Waste management*	69	+6	72	+6	71	+5
The appearance of public areas	67	+4	63	-5	66	-4
Recreational facilities	65	-	66	-2	64	-3
Emergency and disaster management	63	+2	63	-2	64	-2
Libraries*	61	NA	75	NA	73	NA
Enforcement of local laws and regulations*	59	+5	56	-3	60	+2
Environmental sustainability	59	+6	61	+2	58	-
Art centres*	55	NA	64	NA	59	NA
Business and community development and tourism	55	+8	59	+3	58	+1
Opportunities to give feedback on key local issues*	53	+10	55	+5	54	+2
Advocating for the community*	53	+13	54	+4	52	+1
Decisions in the interest of the community*	51	+11	52	+3	51	+1
The condition of footpaths*	49	+4	53	+2	54	+1
Planning and building permits	49	+15	48	+5	48	+5
Condition of sealed local streets*	41	+5	54	+9	45	+1
Maintenance of unsealed roads	32	+1	42	+4	37	-3

Q2. I would now like you to rate the performance of Council over the last 12 months. Firstly, how has Council performed on [SERVICE] over the last 12 months? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

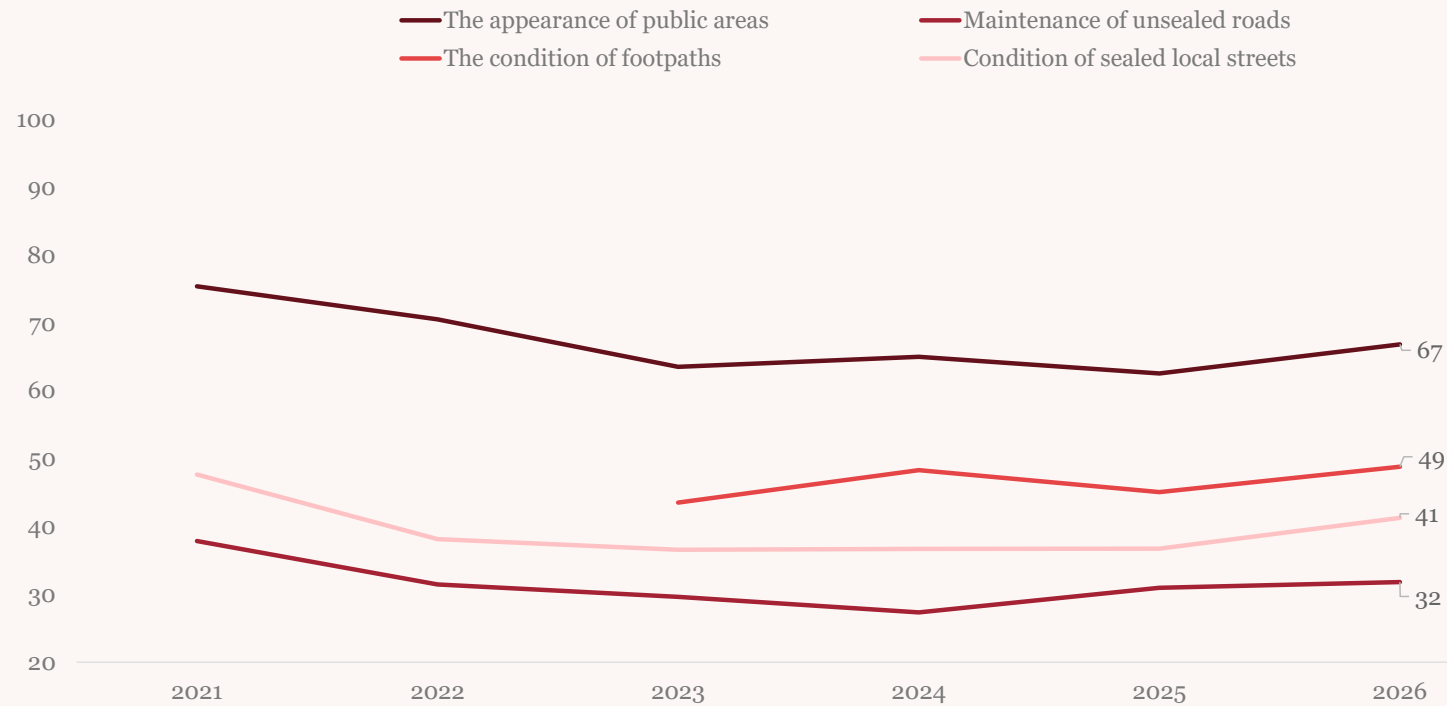
40

Performance of Council Services – Governance, Engagement & Advocacy



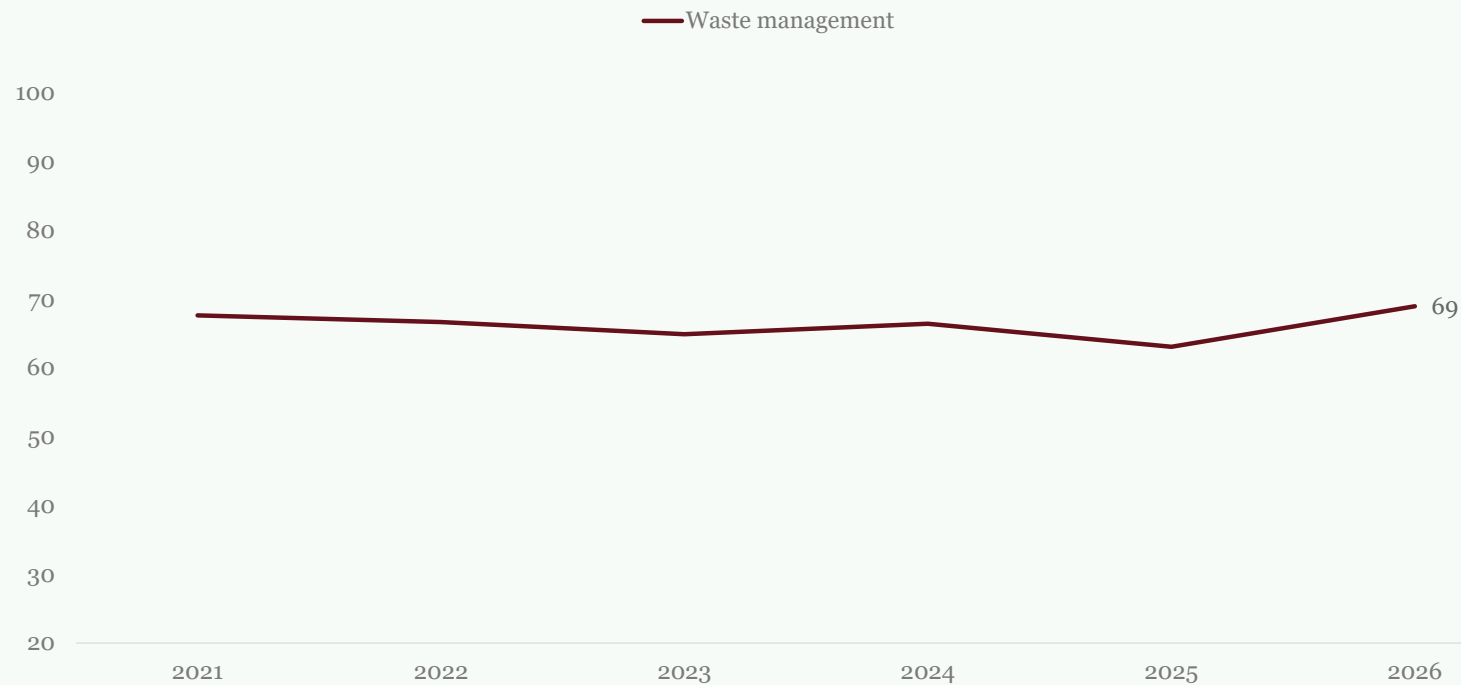
Q2. I would now like you to rate the performance of Council over the last 12 months. Firstly, how has Council performed on [SERVICE] over the last 12 months? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Performance of Council Services – Infrastructure & Maintenance



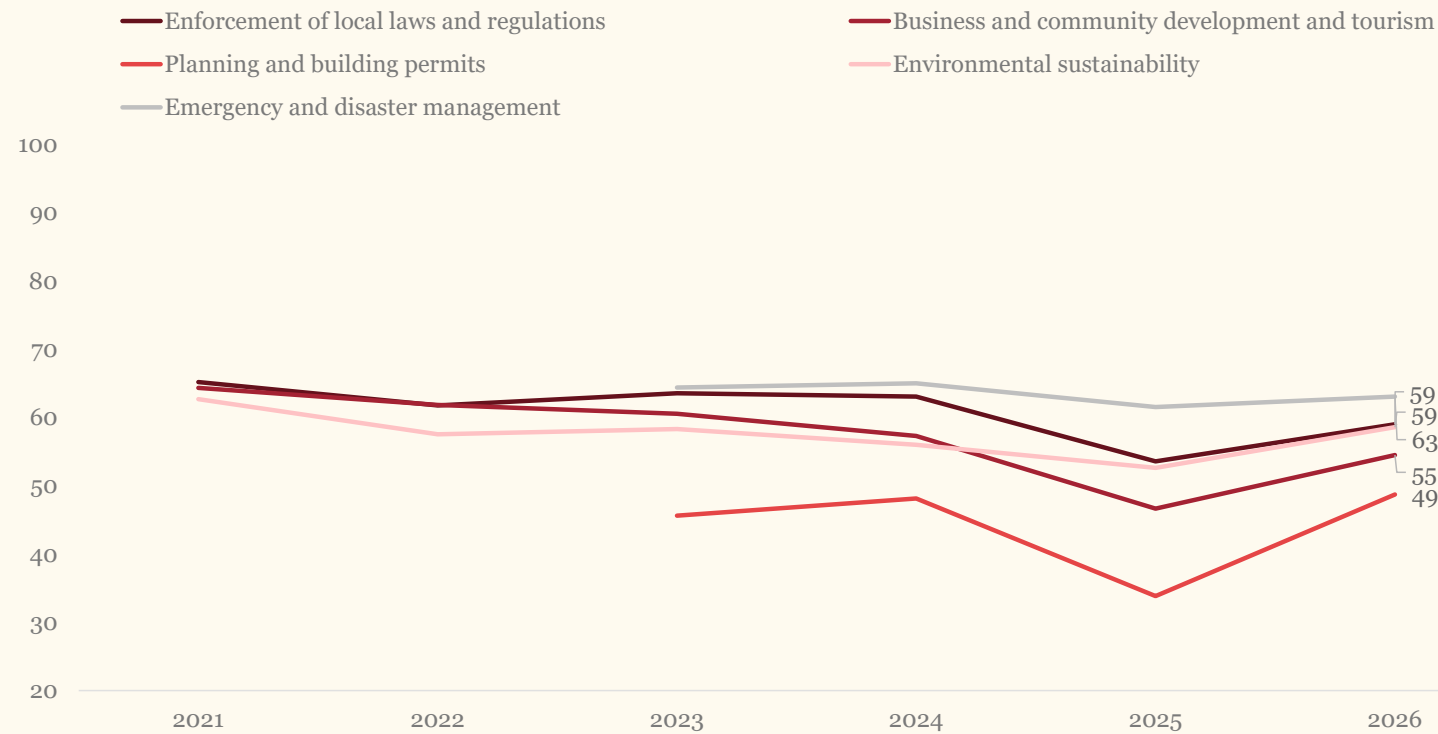
Q2. I would now like you to rate the performance of Council over the last 12 months. Firstly, how has Council performed on [SERVICE] over the last 12 months? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Performance of Council Services – Community Services & Support



Q2. I would now like you to rate the performance of Council over the last 12 months. Firstly, how has Council performed on [SERVICE] over the last 12 months? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Performance of Council Services – Planning & Development



Q2. I would now like you to rate the performance of Council over the last 12 months. Firstly, how has Council performed on [SERVICE] over the last 12 months? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Performance of Council Services – Community Facilities & Recreation



Q2. I would now like you to rate the performance of Council over the last 12 months. Firstly, how has Council performed on [SERVICE] over the last 12 months? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Influence-Performance Matrix

Analysis Framework

How to read the Matrix

The influence-performance matrix helps show which areas matter most, and where improvement is likely to have the greatest impact.

- **Influence**

is based on regression analysis, this indicates which attributes matter most to overall satisfaction. Derived influence is often preferred over asking directly (stated importance) because it uncovers subconscious drivers, hidden priorities, and actual behaviour. All aspects are important; some are more powerful at driving overall sentiment.

- **Performance**

is based on respondents' ratings of Council on each attribute.

Together, these dimensions help identify priorities for action.

High influence, high performance - important areas where Council is performing well

High influence, lower performance - highest priorities for improvement.

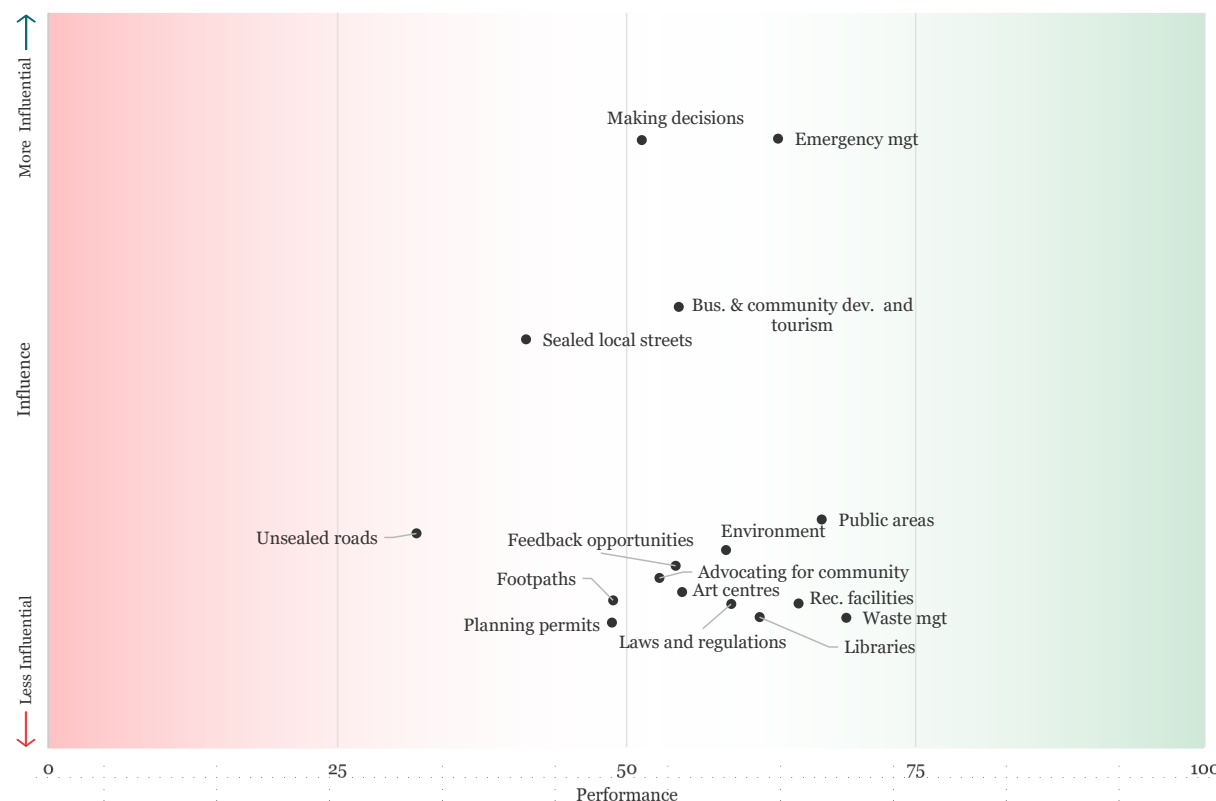
Lower influence, high performance - performing well, but less influential overall.

Lower influence, lower performance - lower priority areas for improvement.



Influence on the matrix is derived from regression analysis, while performance is based on respondents' ratings of Council attributes.

Influence vs. Performance – Service Delivery 2026



Buloke's priorities are concentrated around community confidence, local development and core local infrastructure, with several relatively influential measures sitting below the stronger-performing services.

The strongest priority areas are:

- Making decisions in the interest of the community
- The condition of sealed local streets in the local area
- Business and community development and tourism
- Emergency and disaster management

Emergency and disaster management is influential but performs stronger; the larger improvement opportunity sits with decision-making, roads and local development.

Importance of Council Service Areas



Importance of Service Areas



Overview

This section provides a summary of the importance placed on key Council service areas by the community. It highlights which services residents value most and how these priorities are evolving over time.

Specifically, this section includes:

- Importance ratings of Council services
- Trends over time

Council service areas are grouped into five key categories:

- Governance, Engagement & Advocacy
- Infrastructure, Waste & Maintenance
- Community Facilities & Recreation
- Community Services & Support
- Planning, Development and Growth



Summary of results

Key measures:

- Maintenance of unsealed roads was the highest-importance service area, scoring 85, followed by waste management at 80.
- The lowest listed importance ratings were for environmental sustainability and enforcement of local laws and regulations, at 63 and 64 respectively.
- The clearest movement from 2025 was for opportunities to give feedback on key local issues, which decreased by 8 points.

Vs. Benchmarks

- Compared with the State, maintenance of unsealed roads performed more strongly for Council (85 vs 80).
- Environmental sustainability sits below the State benchmark (63 vs 71).
- Against Small Shire, planning and building permits recorded the lowest relative score (64 vs 69).

Sub-group differences:

- Residents aged 50-64 generally considered most service areas as important compared to other age groups, particularly condition of footpaths and business development and tourism.
- Lower Avoca precinct residents placed greater importance on appearance of public areas, business and community development and tourism, and enforcement of local laws and regulations.



Explanatory Note

How should importance be interpreted?

Stated Importance:	• Calculated by directly asking residents how important each service or activity is to them • Reflects community expectations, priorities and perceived needs • Helps identify the services residents believe Council should focus on delivering well
Results for Stated importance are included in this section of the report.	
Derived Importance:	• Calculated by analysing the relationship between individual service ratings and overall performance ratings • Identifies which services have the greatest influence on residents' overall perceptions of Council • Helps identify where improvements are most likely to have the greatest impact on overall performance
Results for Derived Importance (Influence) are reported in the Influence-Performance Matrix.	



Both measures provide valuable insights, but answer different questions.

- Stated importance tells us what residents say is important and addressing these directly addresses their expectations.
- Derived importance tells us what most influences their overall assessment of Council performance.

Considering both measures together provides the most complete understanding of community priorities and performance drivers.

Importance of Council Services – by Year

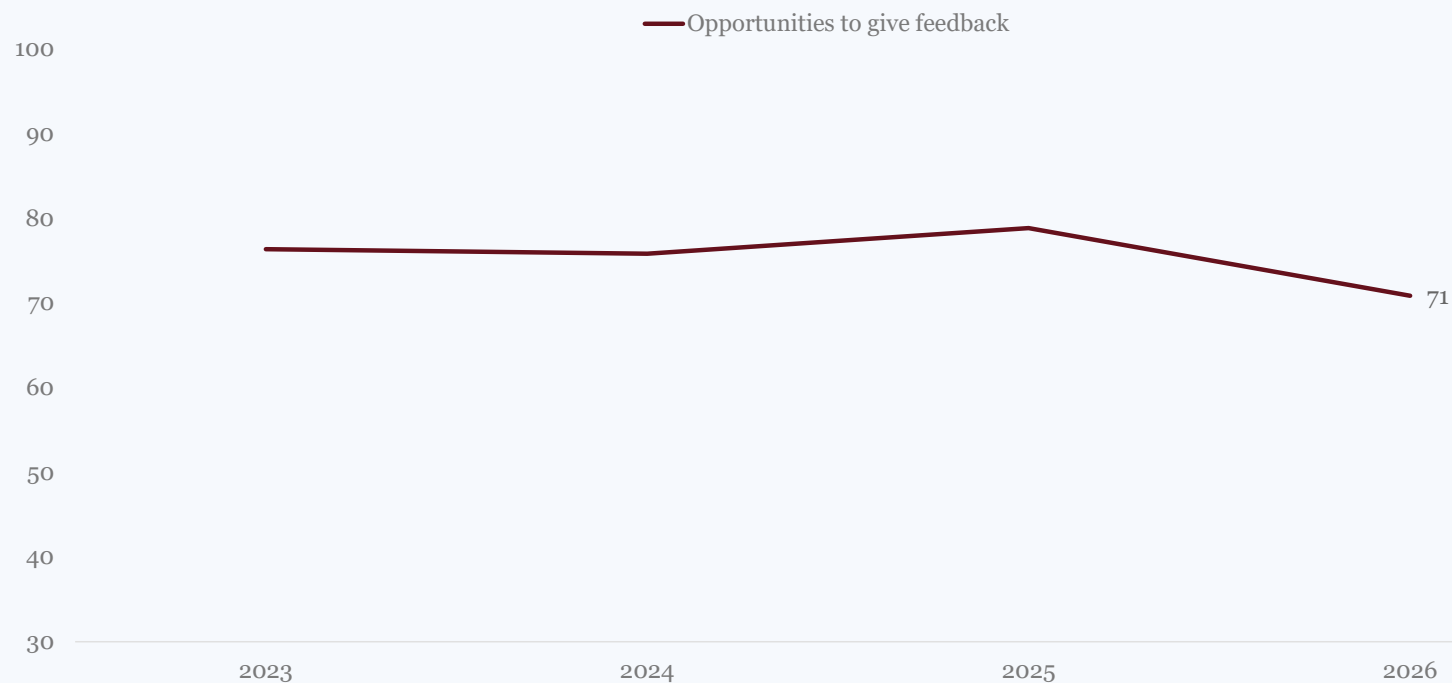


	Buloke SC 2026	Chg vs 2025	State 2026	Chg vs 2025	Small Shire 2026	Chg vs 2025
Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area	85	-1	80	-3	84	-1
Waste management*	80	+3	85	+6	81	+3
Emergency and disaster management	78	+2	79	-	NA	NA
The appearance of public areas	77	+1	77	+3	75	-
Recreational facilities	76	-	75	+2	74	+1
The condition of footpaths*	75	-6	78	-1	74	-5
Business and community development and tourism	73	+1	72	+4	72	+1
Opportunities to give feedback on key local issues*	71	-8	72	-4	72	-5
Enforcement of local laws and regulations*	64	-	70	+3	65	-1
Planning and building permits	64	-3	69	-2	69	-1
Environmental sustainability	63	+2	71	+6	NA	NA

Q1. I would like you to rate the importance of areas for which Council has some responsibility. Firstly, how important should [SERVICE] be as a responsibility for Council? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

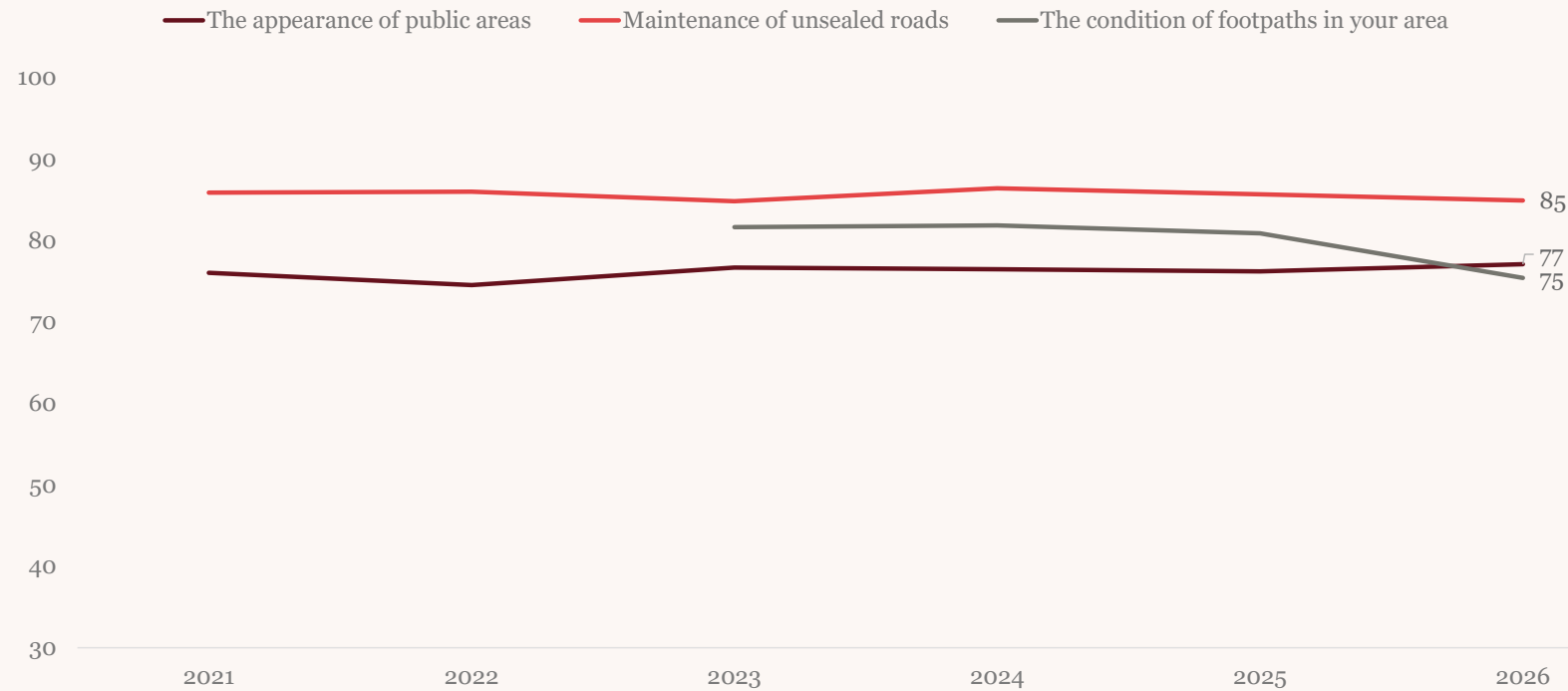
51

Importance of Council Services – Governance, Engagement & Advocacy



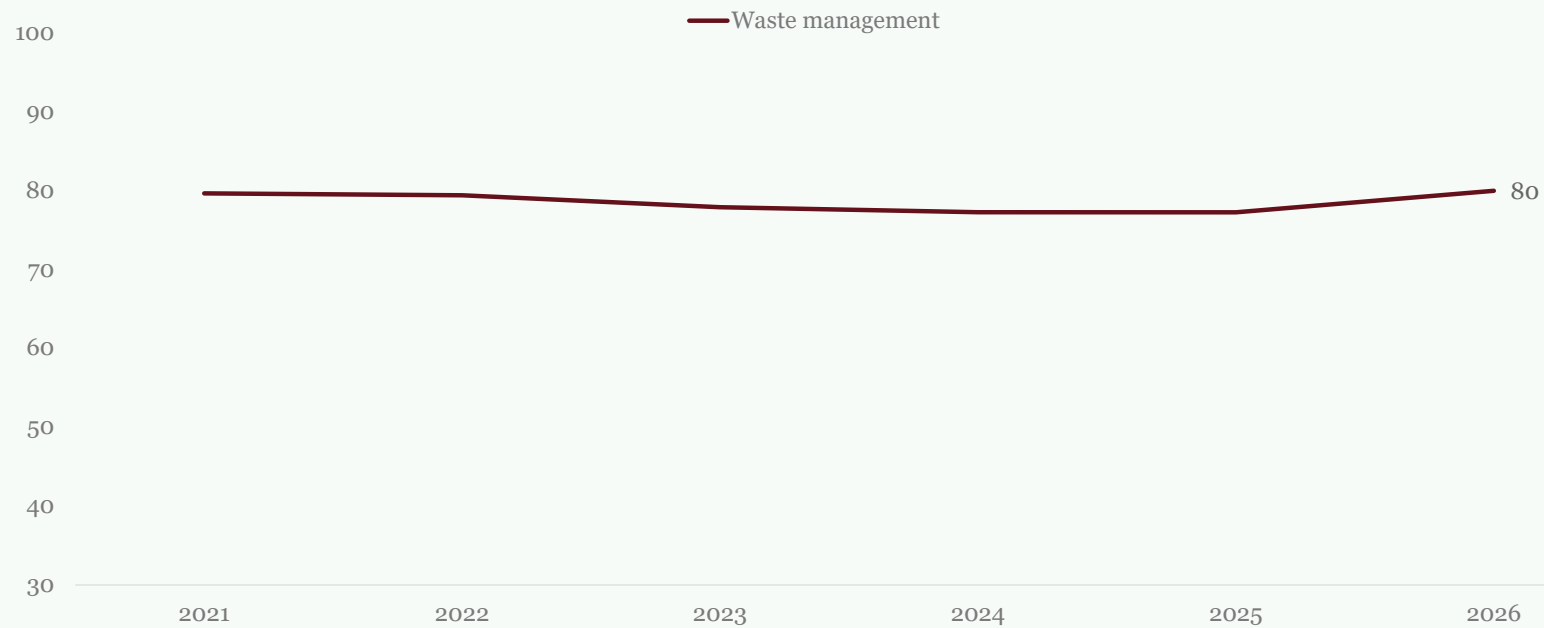
Q1. I would like you to rate the importance of areas for which Council has some responsibility. Firstly, how important should [SERVICE] be as a responsibility for Council? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Importance of Council Services – Infrastructure & Maintenance



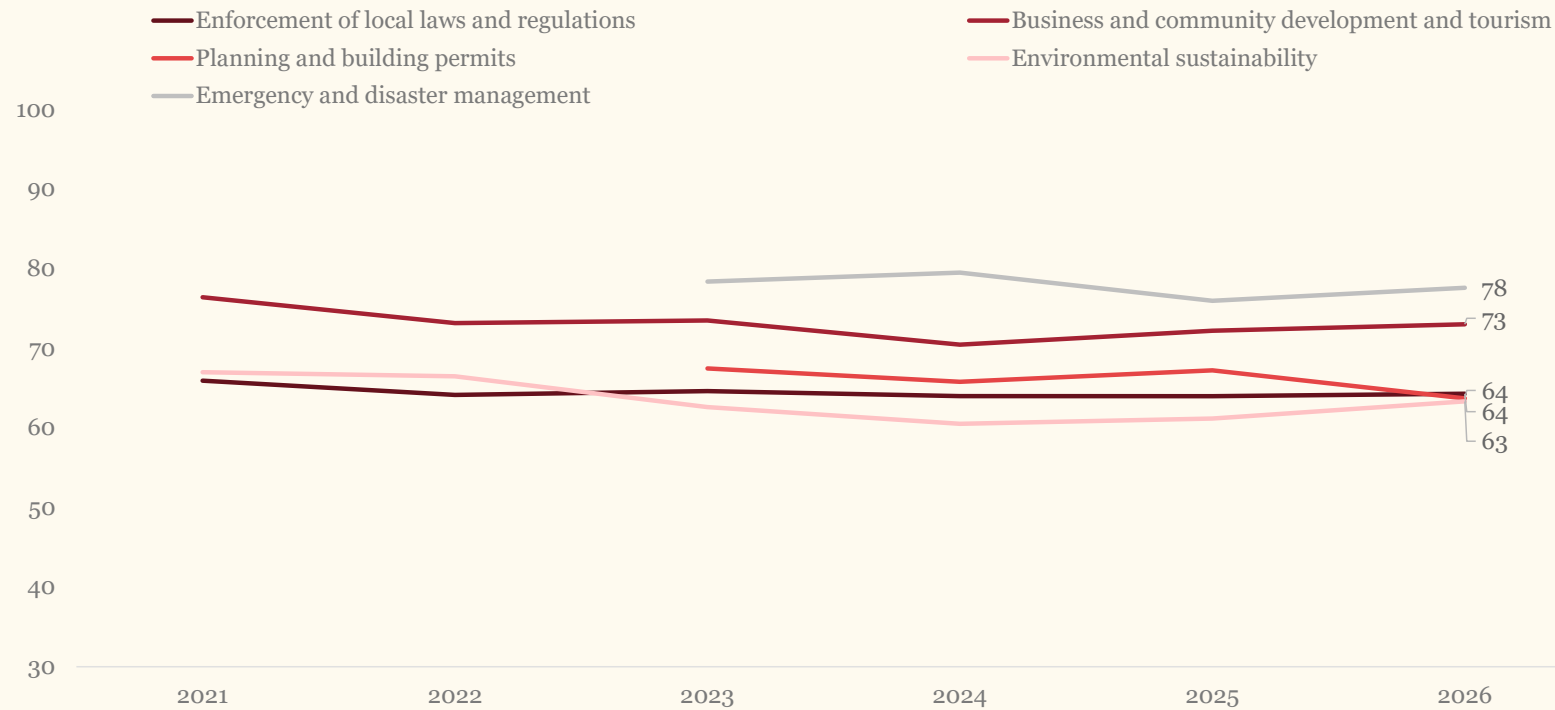
Q1. I would like you to rate the importance of areas for which Council has some responsibility. Firstly, how important should [SERVICE] be as a responsibility for Council? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Importance of Council Services – Community Services & Support



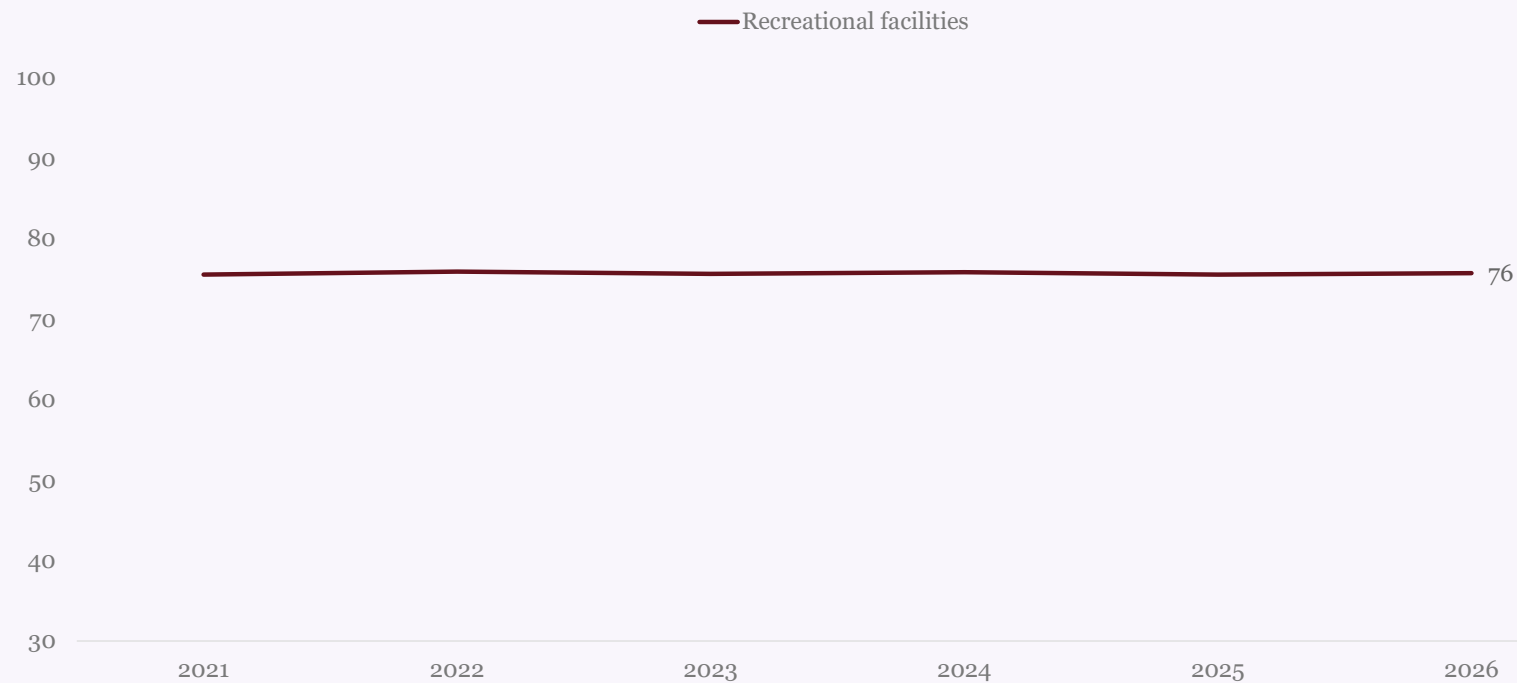
Q1. I would like you to rate the importance of areas for which Council has some responsibility. Firstly, how important should [SERVICE] be as a responsibility for Council? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Importance of Council Services – Planning & Development



Q1. I would like you to rate the importance of areas for which Council has some responsibility. Firstly, how important should [SERVICE] be as a responsibility for Council? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Importance of Council Services – Community Facilities & Recreation



Q1. I would like you to rate the importance of areas for which Council has some responsibility. Firstly, how important should [SERVICE] be as a responsibility for Council? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Engagement with Council



Engagement with Council

Overview



This section provides an overview of how residents engage with Council services and their experiences when doing so. It highlights the extent of contact with Council, satisfaction with customer service, and how engagement differs across the community.

Specifically, this section includes:

- Contact with the Council in the last 12 months
- Satisfaction with customer service
- Importance and performance ratings, with comparisons between those who have contacted Council and those who have not
- Subgroup differences
- Preferred channels for accessing information

Together, these insights provide a clear view of how residents interact with Council, the effectiveness of current service delivery, and opportunities to enhance the customer experience.



Summary of results

Key Performance:

- Two-thirds of residents had contact with Council in the past 12 months (63%), increasing by 2 points from 2025.
- The customer service rating increased by 14 points to 65.

Vs. Benchmarks

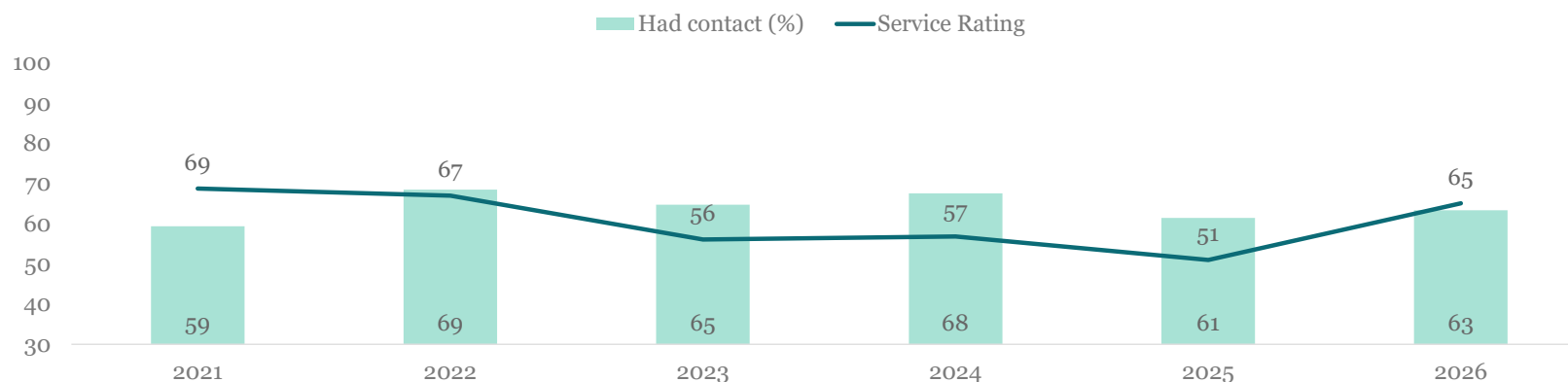
- Contact with Council sits above the State (58%) and on par with Small Shire (63%) benchmark.
- Customer service sits below the State (68) and on par with Small Shires (65).

Sub-group differences:

- Residents aged 35-49 were the most likely to have had contact with Council, and reported the highest customer satisfaction rating.
- Customer service rating improved across all age groups in 2026.
- Female residents were more likely to have had contact with Council compared to male residents.



Contact with Council and Satisfaction with Service During Contact



Contact with Council and Customer Service Rating: 2026 by Demographic Groups

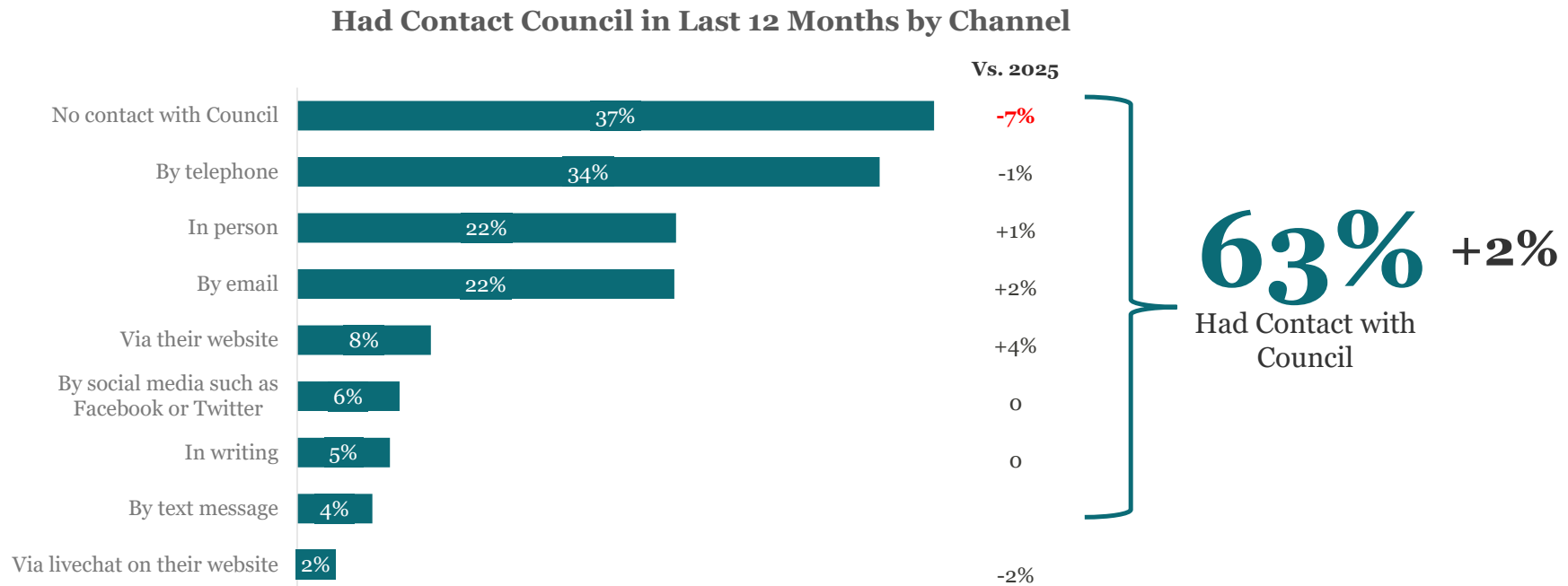
Average	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Had contact (%)	63	58	63	43	74	70	62	58	69	65	63	62
Service Rating	65	68	65	71	72	63	60	65	66	69	63	64

Difference 2026 vs. 2025

Had contact (%)	+2	-5	0	-11	+4	-4	+7	+3	+0	+1	+6	-1
Service Rating	+14	+2	+0	+9	+26	+15	+10	+18	+12	No History	No History	No History

Q5. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with [INSERT COUNCIL NAME]? Q5A. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with Council in any of the following ways? Q5C. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do NOT mean the ACTUAL OUTCOME. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

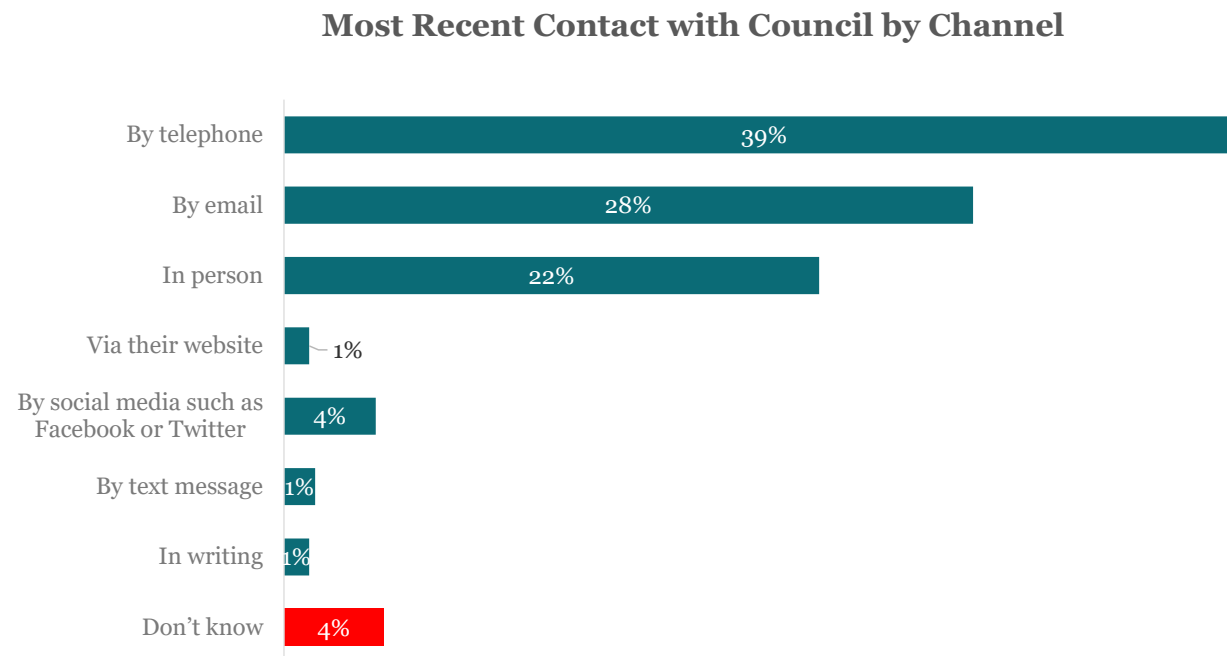
Contact with Council in Last 12 Months



Q5A. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with Council in any of the following ways? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.



Most Recent Contact with Council

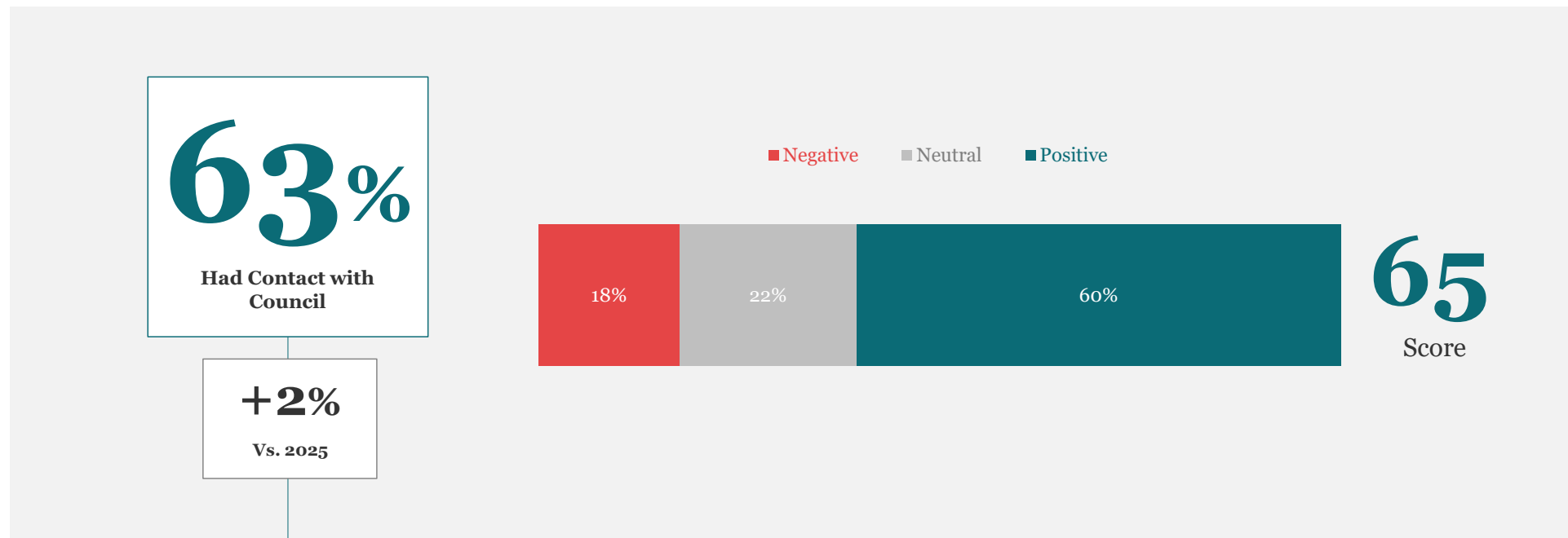


Q5B. What was the method of contact for the most recent contact you had with Council? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Note: Historic data not provided

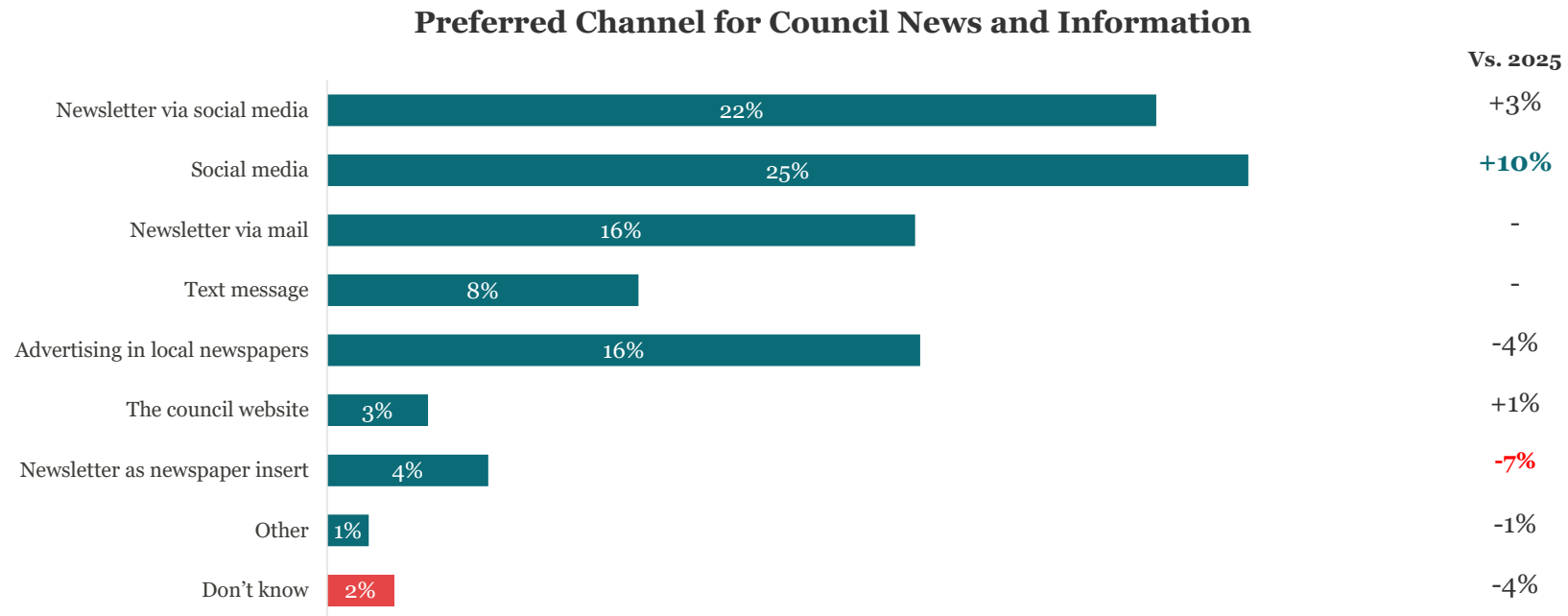
61

Satisfaction with Customer Service During Contact



Q5C. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do NOT mean the ACTUAL OUTCOME. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Preferred Channel for Council News and Information 2026



Q13A. If Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate to you? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Preferred Channel for Council News and Information 2026



Column %	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Newsletter via social media	22%	33%	27%	21%	20%	21%	27%	21%	23%	22%	26%	17%
Social media	25%	19%	22%	30%	43%	27%	8%	23%	26%	23%	22%	31%
Newsletter via mail	16%	21%	20%	13%	17%	14%	19%	17%	15%	19%	17%	11%
Text message	8%	12%	9%	11%	8%	10%	5%	9%	8%	12%	5%	9%
Advertising in local newspapers	16%	6%	12%	6%	5%	18%	26%	20%	11%	13%	13%	24%
The council website	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	4%	1%	5%	3%	2%	3%
Newsletter as newspaper insert	4%	2%	4%	6%	2%	5%	4%	4%	5%	1%	7%	4%
Other	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Don't know	2%	2%	2%	6%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%

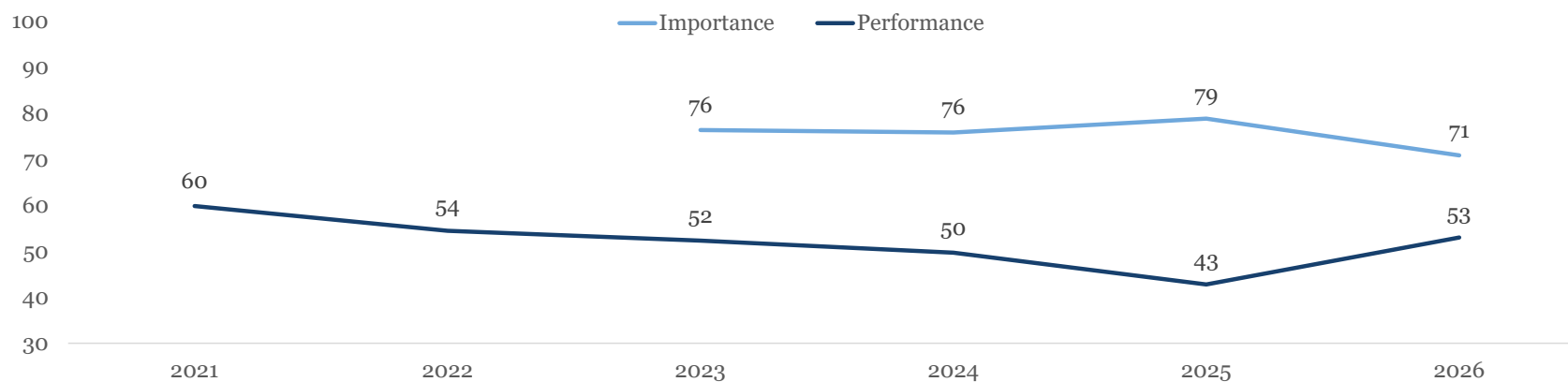
Q13A. If Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate to you? For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Council Service Areas

Importance and Performance by Year and Demographic Groups



Council Services – Opportunities to Give Feedback on Key Local Issues



Importance and Performance of Service 2026

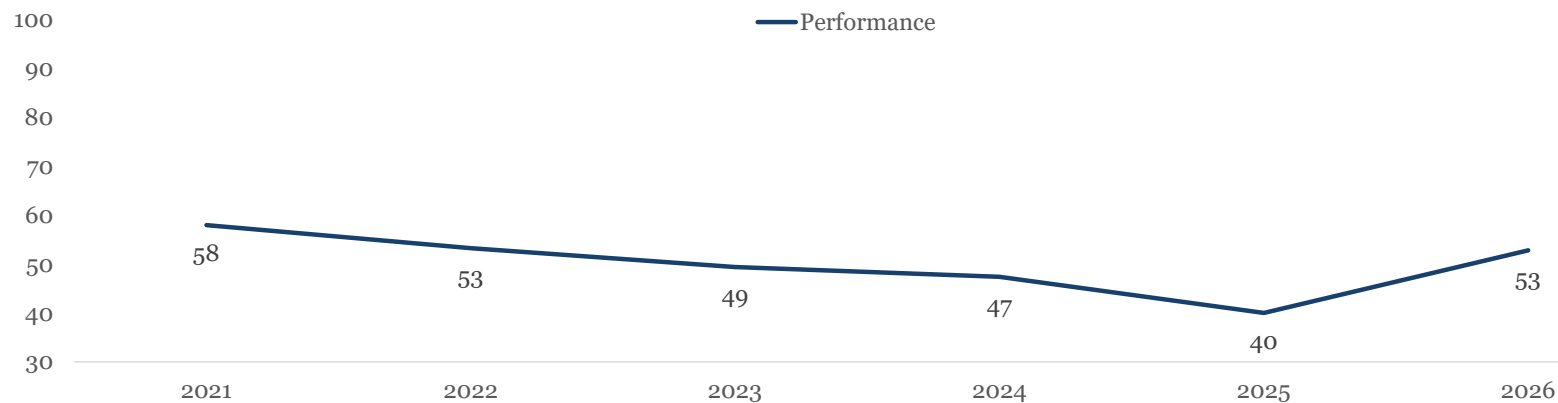
Score	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Importance	71	72	72	69	71	72	70	69	73	73	70	69
Performance	53	56	55	54	55	55	53	56	52	57	52	55

Difference 2026 vs. 2025

Importance	-8	-4	-4	-9	-9	-8	-8	-8	-9	-6	-9	-10
Performance	+10	+6	+3	+5	+21	+16	+7	+13	+10	+9	+6	+18

Q1. How important should this be as a responsibility for Council? Q2. how has Council performed on this over the last 12 months? The opportunities offered by Council to give your feedback on key local issues. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Council Services – Advocating for the Community



Performance of Service 2026

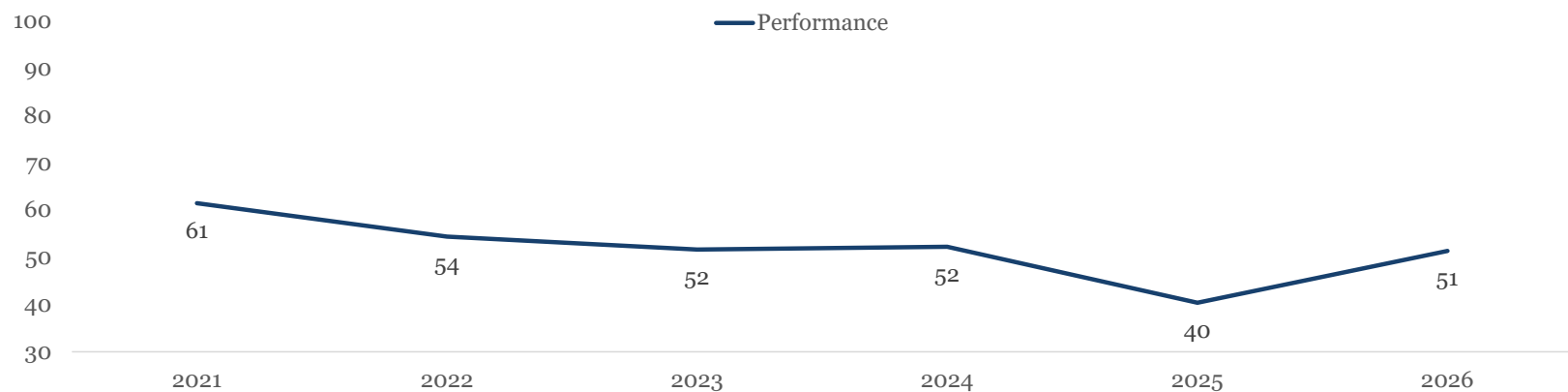
Score	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Performance	53	54	52	54	50	51	55	54	52	55	55	48

Difference 2026 vs. 2025

Performance	+13	+4	+1	+13	+16	+17	+11	+13	+13	+12	+11	+14
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Q1. How important should this be as a responsibility for Council? Q2. how has Council performed on this over the last 12 months? Advocating for, and representing the community to government and other organisations. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Council Services – Making Decisions in Interest of Community



Performance of Service 2026

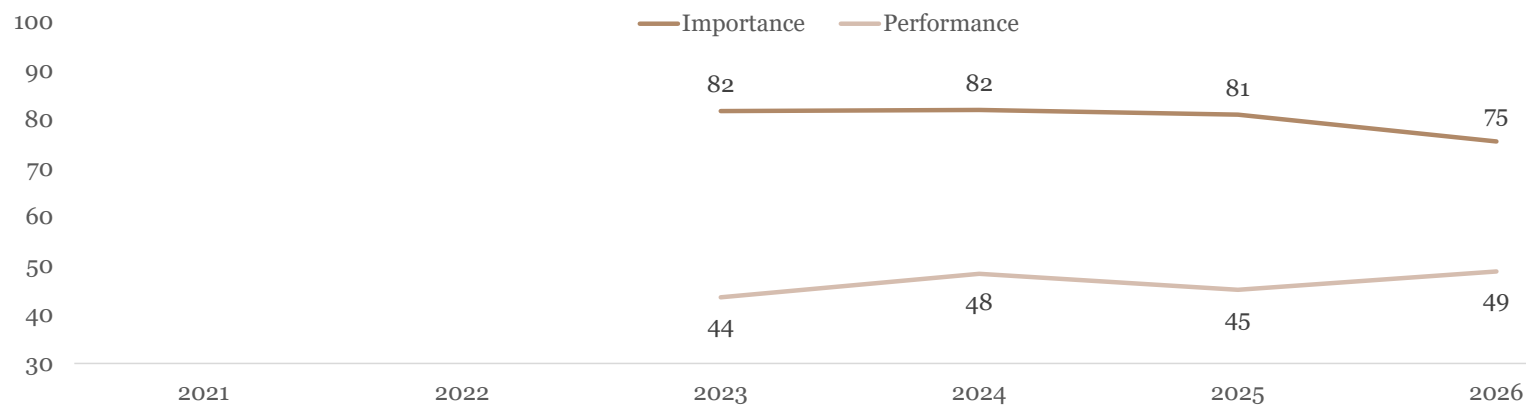
Score	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Performance	51	52	51	53	52	51	50	52	51	52	53	48

Difference 2026 vs. 2025

Performance	+11	+3	+1	+6	+22	+17	+5	+12	+10	+8	+10	+13
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Q1. How important should this be as a responsibility for Council? Q2. how has Council performed on this over the last 12 months? Making decisions in the interest of the community. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Council Services – Condition of Footpaths



Importance and Performance of Service 2026

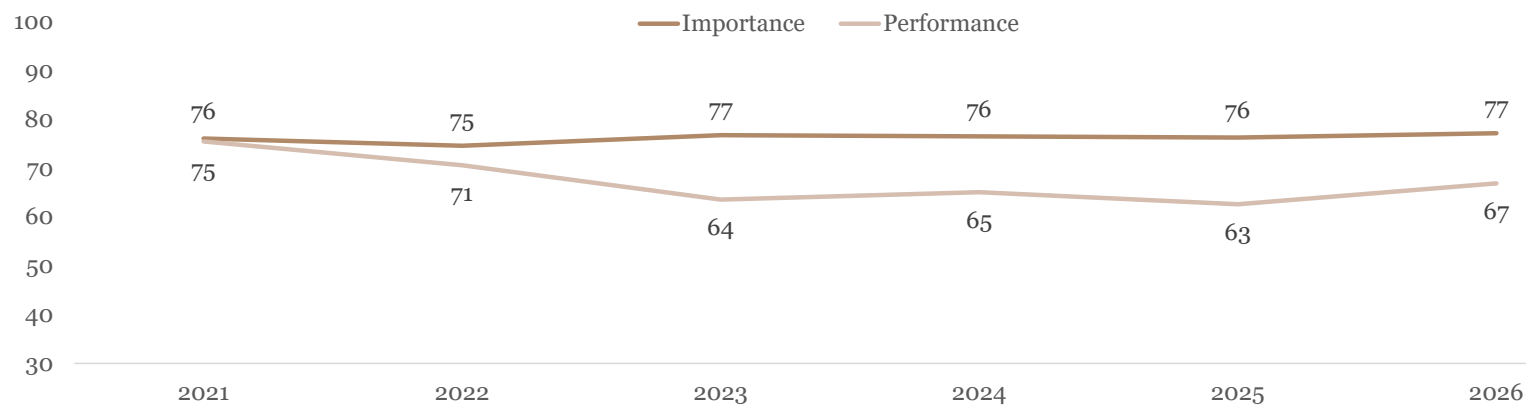
Score	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Importance	75	78	74	68	75	81	74	71	80	78	72	76
Performance	49	53	54	57	43	49	47	53	44	53	47	47

Difference 2026 vs. 2025

Importance	-6	-1	-5	-15	-8	-1	-5	-9	-2	-2	-11	-3
Performance	+4	+2	+1	+11	+3	+2	+1	+8	-1	+7	+6	-0

Q1. How important should this be as a responsibility for Council? Q2. how has Council performed on this over the last 12 months? The condition of footpaths in your area. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Council Services – Appearance of Public Areas



Importance and Performance of Service 2026

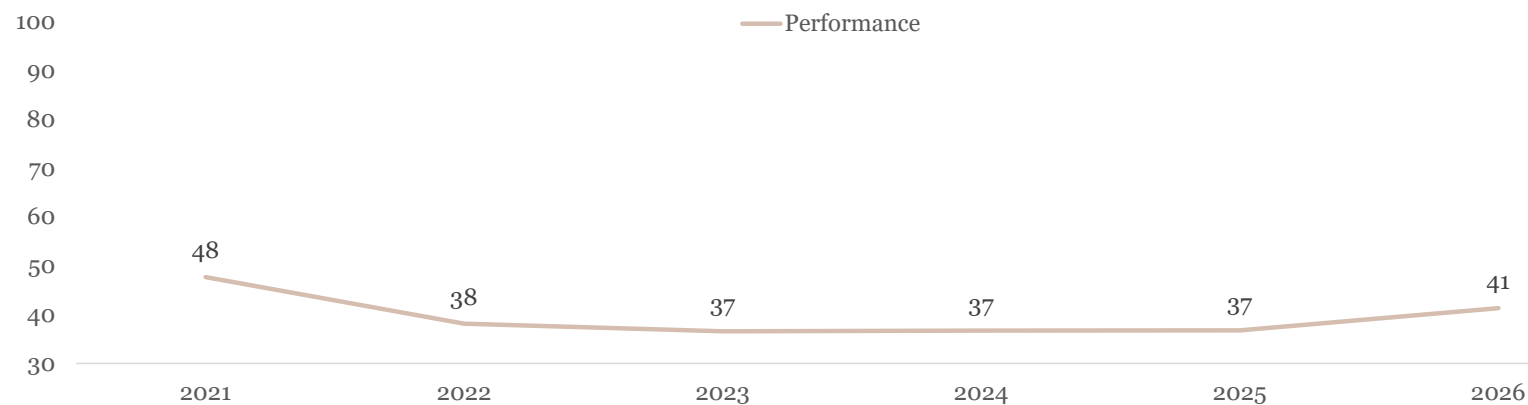
Score	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Importance	77	77	75	72	75	80	78	76	78	81	76	74
Performance	67	63	66	65	69	67	66	66	67	70	64	68

Difference 2026 vs. 2025

Importance	+1	+3	-	-	-3	+2	+2	+3	-1	+4	-1	-1
Performance	+4	-5	-4	+2	+10	+5	+2	+4	+4	+6	+6	+3

Q1. How important should this be as a responsibility for Council? Q2. how has Council performed on this over the last 12 months? The appearance of public areas. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Council Services – Condition of Sealed Local Streets



Performance of Service 2026

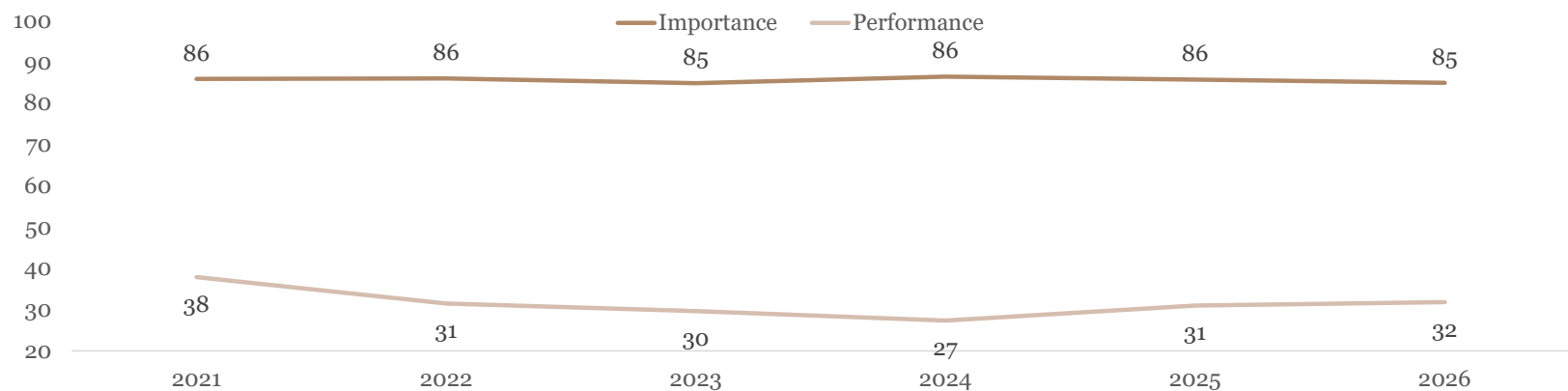
Score	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Performance	41	53	45	44	39	42	40	42	41	48	37	39

Difference 2026 vs. 2025

Performance	+5	+8	+1	+3	+3	+10	+2	+4	+6	+5	+3	+6
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Q1. How important should this be as a responsibility for Council? Q2. how has Council performed on this over the last 12 months? Condition of sealed local streets in your area. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Council Services – Maintenance of Unsealed Roads



Importance and Performance of Service 2026

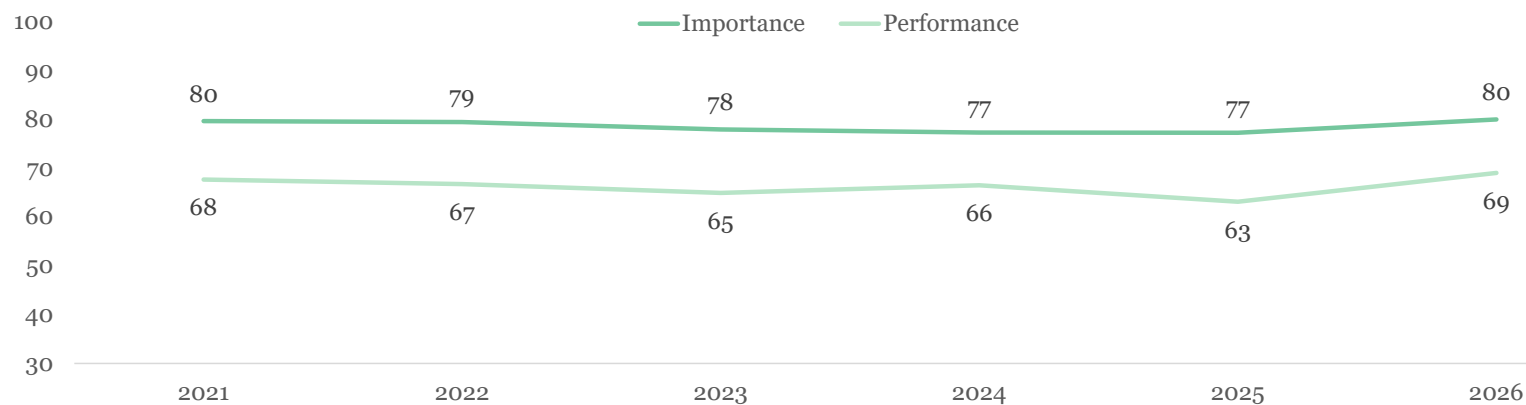
Score	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Importance	85	80	84	83	85	88	83	85	85	87	84	85
Performance	32	42	37	31	27	32	36	31	32	35	30	31

Difference 2026 vs. 2025

Importance	-1	-4	-1	-5	+2	-2	-1	-1	-1	-	-3	-
Performance	+1	+4	-3	-1	-4	+7	+2	-0	+2	+2	-2	+2

Q1. How important should this be as a responsibility for Council? Q2. how has Council performed on this over the last 12 months? Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Council Services – Waste Management



Importance and Performance of Service 2026

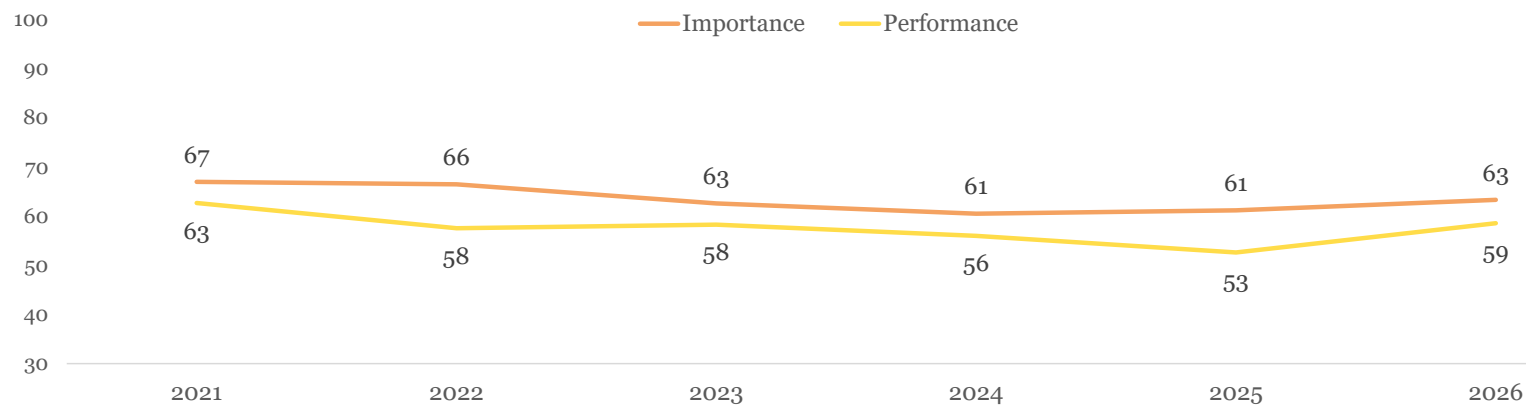
Score	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Importance	80	85	81	78	80	81	80	77	83	83	78	79
Performance	69	72	71	70	73	67	69	71	67	69	68	70

Difference 2026 vs. 2025

Importance	+3	+6	+3	-2	+4	+2	+5	+2	+4	+6	-	+3
Performance	+6	+6	+5	+5	+13	+8	+3	+8	+4	+7	+5	+7

Q1. How important should this be as a responsibility for Council? Q2. how has Council performed on this over the last 12 months? Waste management including the collection of garbage, recyclables and green waste. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Council Services – Environmental Sustainability



Importance and Performance of Service 2026

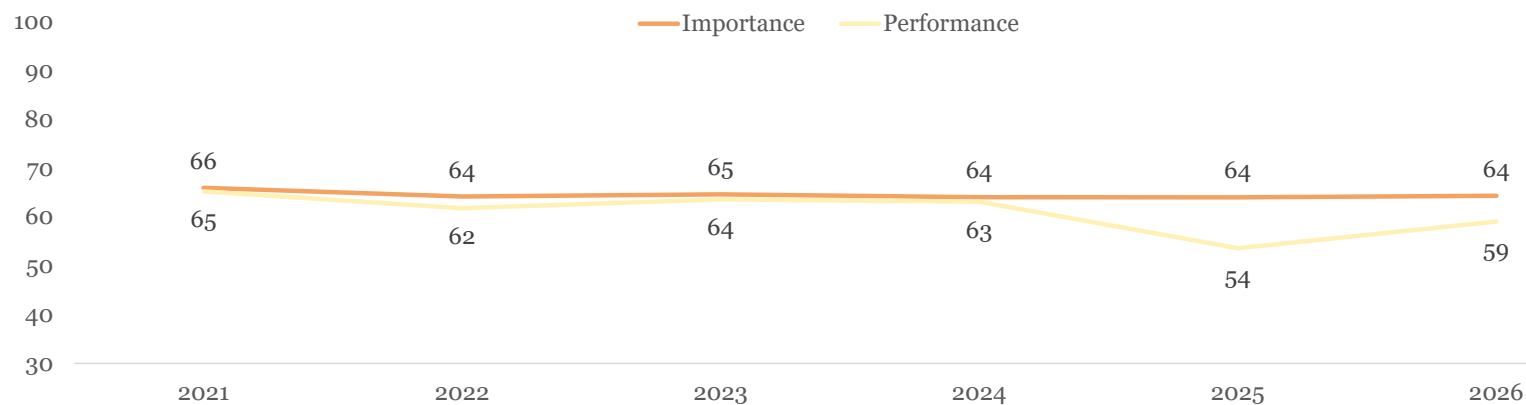
Score	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Importance	63	71	NA	67	62	64	61	59	68	66	62	62
Performance	59	61	58	60	61	57	58	62	55	58	58	60

Difference 2026 vs. 2025

Importance	+2	+6	NA	+8	+1	+2	-1	+4	-1	+4	-2	+3
Performance	+6	+2	-	+6	+8	+5	+6	+9	+3	+4	+7	+7

Q1. How important should this be as a responsibility for Council? Q2. how has Council performed on this over the last 12 months? Environmental sustainability. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Council Services – Enforcement of Laws and Regulations



Importance and Performance of Service 2026

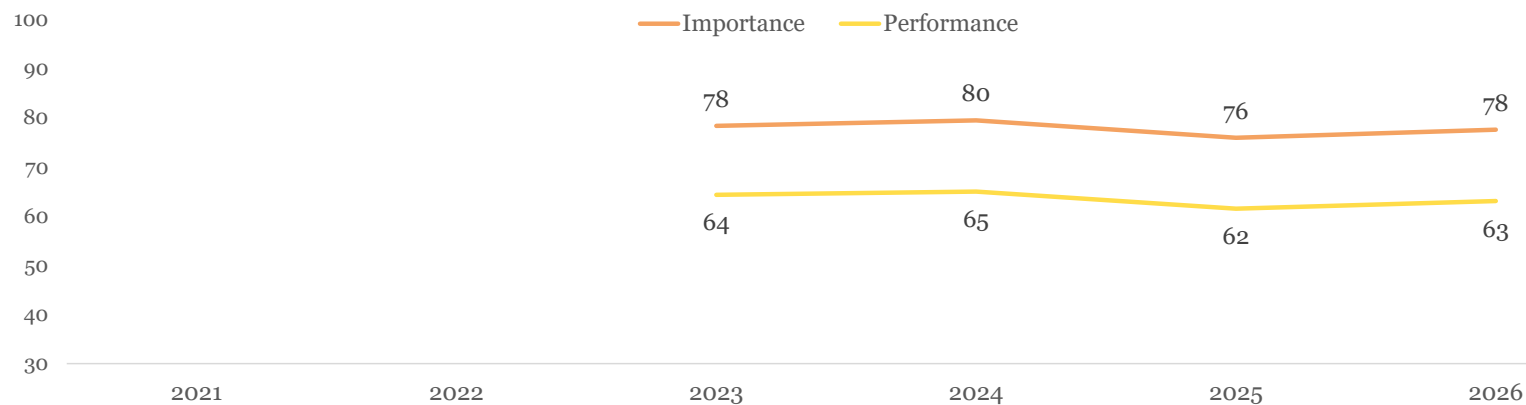
Score	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Importance	64	70	65	65	62	66	63	61	68	68	63	61
Performance	59	56	60	59	60	60	58	59	59	61	59	57

Difference 2026 vs. 2025

Importance	-	+4	-1	+4	-	+5	-5	+2	-2	+4	-3	-1
Performance	+5	-3	+2	+3	+11	+8	+2	+8	+3	+6	+5	+5

Q1. How important should this be as a responsibility for Council? Q2. how has Council performed on this over the last 12 months? Enforcement of local laws and Council regulations. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Council Services – Emergency and Disaster Management



Importance and Performance of Service 2026

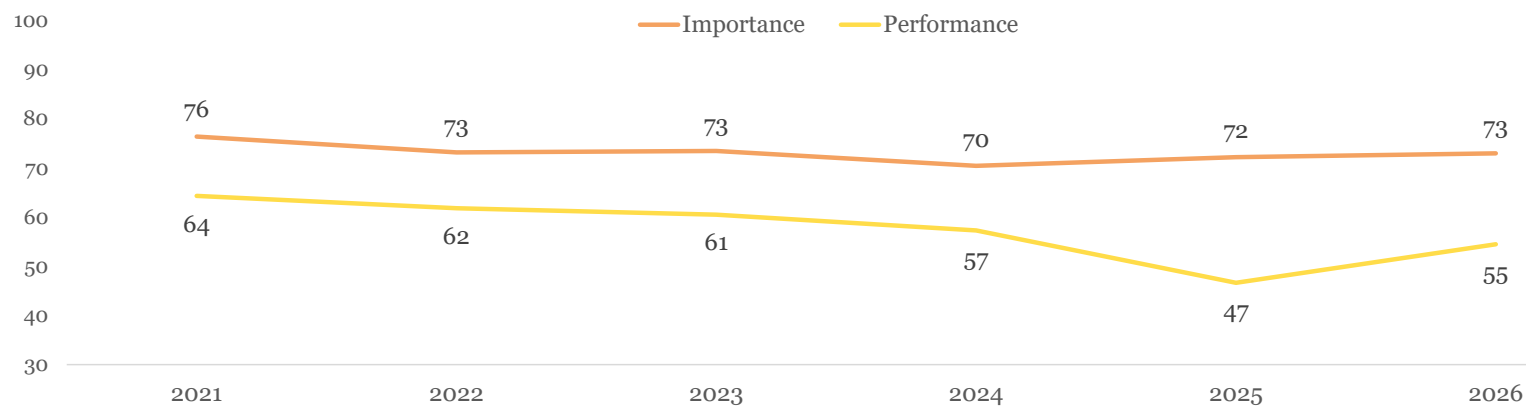
Score	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Importance	78	79	NA	79	77	78	77	75	80	80	77	75
Performance	63	63	64	59	65	61	67	64	62	65	61	64

Difference 2026 vs. 2025

Importance	+2	-	NA	-	+3	+2	+1	+2	+1	+2	+2	+1
Performance	+2	-2	-2	-2	+8	-1	+3	+6	-3	+3	+1	+2

Q1. How important should this be as a responsibility for Council? Q2. how has Council performed on this over the last 12 months? Emergency and disaster management. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Council Services – Business and Community Development and Tourism



Importance and Performance of Service 2026

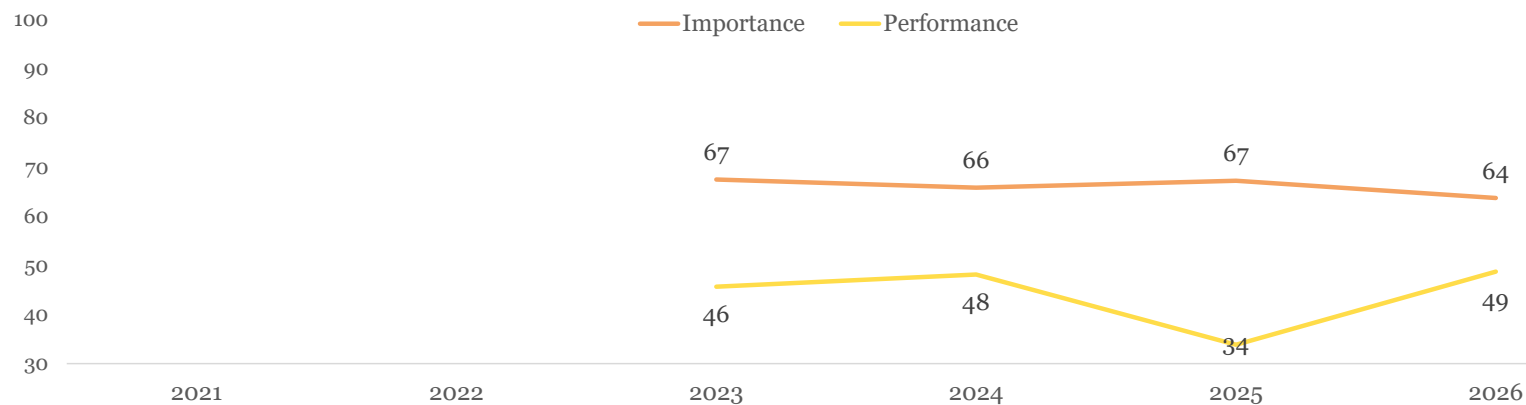
Score	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Importance	73	72	72	68	71	77	73	72	74	77	70	73
Performance	55	59	58	57	58	53	52	55	54	53	57	52

Difference 2026 vs. 2025

Importance	+1	+4	+1	-3	-3	+3	+1	+2	-1	+3	+2	-1
Performance	+8	+3	+1	+6	+16	+7	+5	+10	+6	+4	+7	+10

Q1. How important should this be as a responsibility for Council? Q2. how has Council performed on this over the last 12 months? Business and community development and tourism. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Council Services – Planning and Building Permits



Importance and Performance of Service 2026

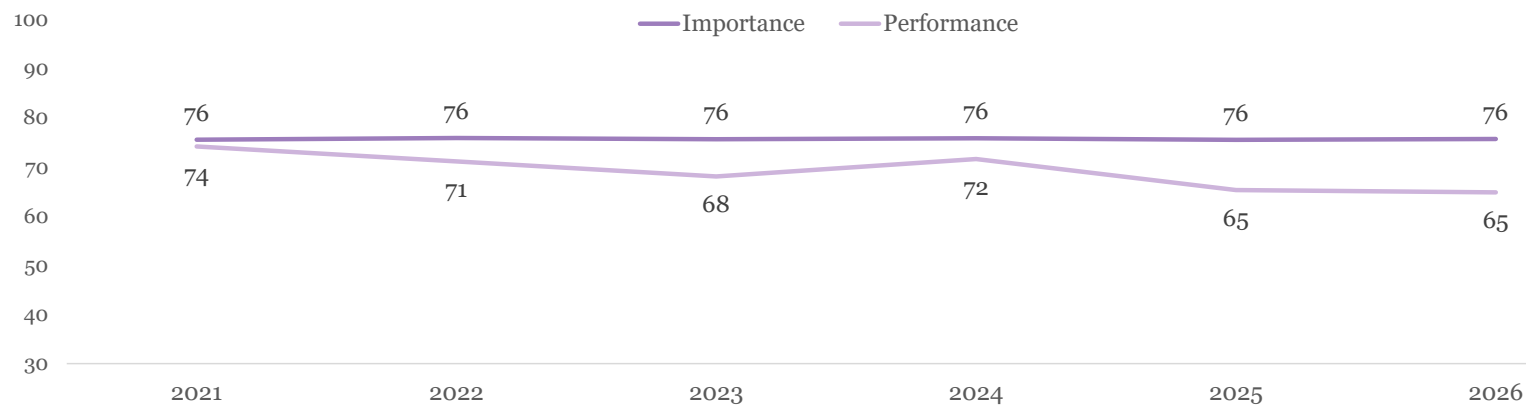
Score	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Importance	64	69	69	60	67	65	63	61	67	67	61	64
Performance	49	48	48	52	49	48	48	48	49	52	49	45

Difference 2026 vs. 2025

Importance	-3	-2	-1	-1	-1	-3	-7	-6	-1	-	-6	-4
Performance	+15	+5	+5	+15	+21	+17	+10	+15	+15	+14	+9	+18

Q1. How important should this be as a responsibility for Council? Q2. how has Council performed on this over the last 12 months? Planning and building permits. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Council Services – Recreational Facilities



Importance and Performance of Service 2026

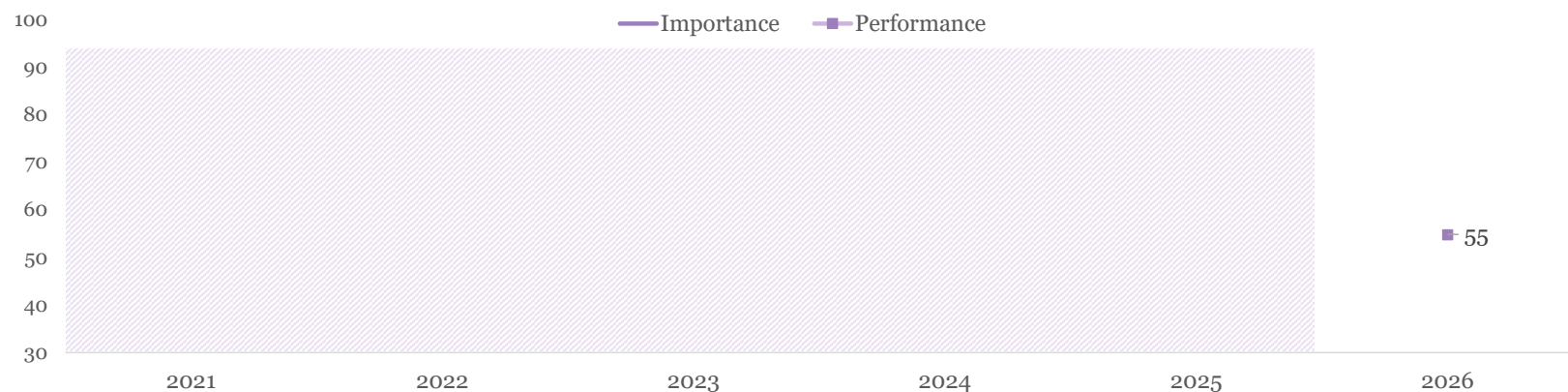
Score	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Importance	76	75	74	77	74	77	75	75	77	77	77	72
Performance	65	66	64	60	66	65	67	65	65	67	60	69

Difference 2026 vs. 2025

Importance	-	+2	+1	-	-1	-2	+1	+1	-1	+1	+4	-5
Performance	-	-2	-3	-1	+2	+2	-2	-2	+1	+1	-4	+3

Q1. How important should this be as a responsibility for Council? Q2. how has Council performed on this over the last 12 months? Recreational facilities. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Council Services – Art Centres



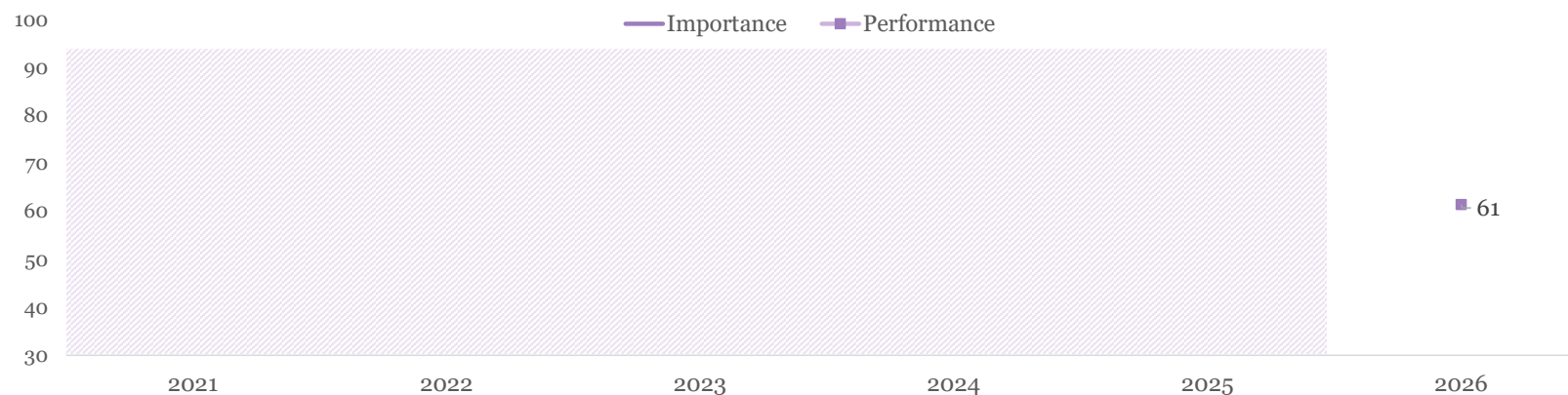
Performance of Service 2026

Score	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Performance	55	64	59	60	52	53	56	58	52	60	53	49

Note: Performance of art centres has not been historically asked

Q1. How important should this be as a responsibility for Council? Q2. how has Council performed on this over the last 12 months? Arts centres. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.

Council Services – Libraries



Performance of Service 2026

Score	Buloke SC	State	Small Shire	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Male	Female	Lower Avoca	Mallee	Mount Jeffcott
Performance	61	75	73	63	64	59	61	61	62	62	60	62

Note: Performance of libraries has not been historically asked

Q1. How important should this be as a responsibility for Council? Q2. how has Council performed on this over the last 12 months? Libraries. For base sizes, please refer to slide 20.



Thank you

Contact us for more info:

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VIC 3066

Phone

+61 3 9087 7333

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Lower Avoca Ward

Name: Cr Stephen Barratt

Date: 4 June 2026 to 1 July 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
10/06/2026	Renewables Update with Proud Mary Consulting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
10/06/2026	Councillor Briefing: Planning and Related Matters – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
11/06/2026	Nandaly Biggest Morning Tea – <i>Nandaly Hall</i>
15/06/2026	Information Session on the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia, and Jupagulk People's (WJJWJ People) Land Use Activity Agreement – <i>Online</i>
17/06/2026	Councillors Technology Update – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
17/06/2026	Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
22/06/2026	Buloke Tourism Board Meeting – <i>Charlton</i>
26/06/2026	Coffee with a Councillor – <i>Wycheproof Resource Centre</i>
01/07/2026	Councillor Briefing – <i>Charlton Council Chamber</i>

Name: Cr Bruce Stafford

Date: 4 June 2026 to 1 July 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
10/06/2026	Renewables Update with Proud Mary Consulting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
10/06/2026	Councillor Briefing: Planning and Related Matters – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
11/06/2026	CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i>
16/06/2026	Charlton Forum Meeting – <i>Charlton</i>
17/06/2026	Councillors Technology Update – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
17/06/2026	Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
22/06/2026	Charlton CWA Biggest Morning Tea – <i>Charlton</i>
22/06/2026	Coffee with a Councillor – <i>Charlton Neighbourhood House</i>
22/06/2026	Buloke Tourism Board Meeting – <i>Charlton</i>
01/07/2026	Councillor Briefing – <i>Charlton Council Chamber</i>

Mallee Ward

Name: Cr Alan Getley

Date: 4 June 2026 to 1 July 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
------	-----------------

09/06/2026	VNI West - CRG Meeting – <i>Charlton</i>
10/06/2026	Northern Grampians Shire Council Transmission Forum – <i>Online</i>
10/06/2026	Renewables Update with Proud Mary Consulting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
10/06/2026	Councillor Briefing: Planning and Related Matters – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
11/06/2026	Nandaly Biggest Morning Tea – <i>Nandaly Hall</i>
17/06/2026	Councillors Technology Update – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
17/06/2026	Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
23/06/2026	Coffee with a Councillor
26/06/2026	Wimmera Sothorn Mallee Regional Transport Group – <i>Horsham</i>
01/07/2026	Councillor Briefing – <i>Charlton Council Chamber</i>

Name: Cr Bernadette Hogan

Date: 4 June 2026 to 1 July 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
04/06/2026	Swan Hill Police District Medal Presentation – <i>Swan Hill</i>
09/06/2026	Nullawil Progress Association Meeting – <i>Nullawil</i>
10/06/2026	Renewables Update with Proud Mary Consulting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
10/06/2026	Councillor Briefing: Planning and Related Matters – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
10/06/2026	Birchip Leisure Centre Meeting – <i>Birchip</i>
11/06/2026	Nandaly Biggest Morning Tea – <i>Nandaly Hall</i>
11/06/2026	CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i>
15/06/2026	Birchip Forum Meeting – <i>Birchip</i>
16/06/2026	NCLLEN Board Meeting – <i>Online</i>
17/06/2026	Councillors Technology Update – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
17/06/2026	Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
23/06/2026	Rail Revival Alliance Meeting – <i>Birchip</i>
01/07/2026	Councillor Briefing – <i>Charlton Council Chamber</i>

Mount Jeffcott Ward

Name: Cr Charmaine Delaney

Date: 4 June 2026 to 1 July 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
09/06/2026	Sunraysia Highway Improvement Committee Meeting – <i>Online</i>
10/06/2026	Northern Grampians Shire Council Transmission Forum – <i>Online</i>
10/06/2026	Renewables Update with Proud Mary Consulting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>

10/06/2026	Councillor Briefing: Planning and Related Matters – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
11/06/2026	CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i>
15/06/2026	Information Session on the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia, and Jupagulk People's (WJJWJ People) Land Use Activity Agreement – <i>Online</i>
17/06/2026	Councillors Technology Update – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
17/06/2026	Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
01/07/2026	Councillor Briefing – <i>Charlton Council Chamber</i>

Name: Cr Graeme Milne

Date: 4 June 2026 to 1 July 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
09/06/2026	Sunraysia Highway Improvement Committee Meeting – <i>Online</i>
10/06/2026	Northern Grampians Shire Council Transmission Forum – <i>Online</i>
10/06/2026	Renewables Update with Proud Mary Consulting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
10/06/2026	Councillor Briefing: Planning and Related Matters – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
10/06/2026	MAV Pre-briefing – National General Assembly – <i>Online</i>
15/06/2026	Information Session on the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia, and Jupagulk People's (WJJWJ People) Land Use Activity Agreement – <i>Online</i>
15/06/2026	Birchip Forum Meeting – <i>Birchip</i>
16/06/2026	Dr Webster and BSC – <i>Warracknabeal</i>
16/06/2026	Dr Anne Webster and Northwest 9 Council Alliance – <i>Warracknabeal</i>
17/06/2026	Councillors Technology Update – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
17/06/2026	Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
19/06/2026	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism Board Meeting – <i>Birchip</i>
23/06/2026	National General Assembly (Day One) – <i>Canberra</i>
24/06/2026	National General Assembly (Day Two) – <i>Canberra</i>
24/06/2026	Senator Lisa Darmanin and BSC – <i>Canberra</i>
24/06/2026	Northwest 9 Council Alliance - Meeting with the Hon. Chris Bowen MP - Resource Ready Strategy – <i>Canberra</i>
24/06/2026	Meeting with Dr Anne Webster MP – <i>Canberra</i>
25/06/2026	National General Assembly (Day Three) – <i>Canberra</i>
25/06/2026	Northwest 9 Council Alliance - Meeting with Senator Jana Stewart, Chair of Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs - Resource Ready Strategy – <i>Canberra</i>
25/06/2026	Northwest 9 Council Alliance – Meeting with Chris Hancock, Advisor to the Office of Senator the Hon. Anthony Chisholm, Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – <i>Canberra</i>
30/06/2026	Second Information Session on the WJJWJ People Land Use Activity Agreement – <i>Online</i>

01/07/2026	Northwest 9 Council Alliance - Office of Minister D'Ambrosio - Resource Ready Strategy – <i>Online</i>
01/07/2026	Councillor Briefing – <i>Charlton Council Chamber</i>

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1.1 JOINING THE MULTI-COUNCIL GLASS ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

Author's Title: Cr Alan Getley

File No: GR/17/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic

Objective:

Council leadership and engagement
Responsible leadership and decision making
Advocacy and partnering to deliver priorities

PURPOSE

This Notice of Motion seeks Council's support to join the multi-council advocacy campaign and formally request that the Victorian Government reconsider the mandatory implementation of a separate glass kerbside recycling service.

The Victorian Government's *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* requires all Victorian councils to introduce a separate kerbside glass recycling service (purple-lidded glass bin) by 1 July 2027 as part of the State's four-bin waste system. A growing coalition of more than 30 Victorian councils has raised concerns regarding the cost, practicality and effectiveness of the mandatory service, particularly in rural and regional areas. These councils have advocated for a review of the policy, the release of the Government's business case, and consideration of alternative approaches such as expansion of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS).

This coalition of Victorian councils has formally sought to postpone the mandatory rollout and reconsider the legislative requirement for a glass-only kerbside collection service. Participating councils have argued that the costs to local government and ratepayers may outweigh the benefits, particularly where existing recycling and CDS arrangements are already achieving strong resource recovery outcomes.

Buloke Shire Council rejects the mandatory roll out of an additional kerbside bin for glass. For rural municipalities such as Buloke, the introduction of an additional kerbside bin service will present significant operational and financial challenges, including increased collection and processing costs, procurement of new bins and, and additional burdens on ratepayers. Councils involved in the advocacy campaign have also called for greater flexibility to allow local governments to implement waste and recycling solutions appropriate to their communities. In Buloke this is highlighted by the successful collection points for glass across our communities.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the Victorian Government's requirement for all councils to implement a separate kerbside glass recycling service by 1 July 2027 under the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*.
2. Acknowledges the concerns raised by the coalition of Victorian councils regarding the financial, operational and practical impacts of the mandatory glass-bin service, particularly for rural and regional communities.
3. Resolves to join and support the multi-council advocacy campaign calling on the Victorian Government to:

- a. Release the business case supporting the mandatory kerbside glass recycling service;
 - b. Review the economic and environmental merits of the proposed service;
 - c. Consider expansion of the Victorian Container Deposit Scheme to include wine and spirit bottles, as an alternative or complementary approach to glass recovery and build upon the two Over the Counter collection points within Buloke at Charlton and Donald;
 - d. Defer the mandatory implementation date until councils have had sufficient opportunity to assess the business case, understand the impacts on their communities and evaluate the effectiveness of the Container Deposit Scheme; and
 - e. Provide greater flexibility for councils to determine the most appropriate glass recovery solution for their municipality.
4. Writes to the Minister for Environment, the Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP, the Municipal Association of Victoria, local Members of Parliament, and participating councils advising of Buloke Shire Council's support for this advocacy position.
5. Advocates alongside the multi-council advocacy group and through relevant regional and state local government forums regarding the impacts of the proposed mandatory glass-bin service on rural communities.
6. Undertake a local communications campaign to raise awareness of the existing free glass recycling service, promote the environmental and community benefits it provides, and showcase local success stories demonstrating the positive impact of the Container Deposit Scheme.

Attachments: Nil

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Nil.

10 MEETING CLOSE