#### BIRCHIP 5 YEAR COMMUNITY PLAN

The Birchip 5 Year Community Plan has been developed by the Birchip Community Forum with the aim to strengthen community connections, protect community assets and celebrate community pride. It is based on feedback received from the local community and is designed to be a live document that continues to reflect the progress of the priority projects as they develop.

#### WHAT WE WILL DO, ADVOCATE FOR AND SUPPORT OTHERS TO DO:

## Housing & Community Infrastructure

- **1.1** Explore co-op models for shared housing or short-stay accommodation.
- **1.2** Investigate options to purchase Commercial Hotel.
- 1.3 Identify funding opportunities with Regional Development Victoria and apply for grants.
- **1.4** Identify vacant or derelict homes that may be redeveloped.

#### Health & Wellbeing Services

- 2.1 Advocate to Central Mallee
  Health to increase visiting
  services (e.g. counselling, chiro,
  osteo, dentist).
- **2.2** Investigate shared or mobile service models.
- **2.3** Advocate for sustained funding for rural health services.

#### Sport & Recreation

- 3.1 Advocate for and support actions identified in the Birchip Leisure Centre Master Plan. (including facility needs/ upgrades to lighting, surfaces, change rooms).
- 3.2 Promote and support youth participation in sport and recreation, including subsidised programs, skill development clinics, and come-and-try day

A STANDARD OF THE STANDARD OF

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## Tourism, Events, Arts & Culture

- 4.1 Promote Tchum Lake as a signature destination for Birchip, highlighting its natural beauty, recreation opportunities, and facilities.
- 4.2 Create a tourism development strategy, highlighting events, nature, and local stories.
- 4.3 Improve signage and storytelling at key attractions, including historical and Indigenous heritage sites
- 4.4 Deliver silo art and mural projects celebrating Birchip's local identity, history, agriculture, and natural environment.
- **4.5** Renovate and modernise the Birchip Town Hall to support concerts, theatre, civic events, and cultural performances.

#### Transport, Parking & Access

- 5.1 Create a designated car park area for long vehicles (e.g. trucks, caravans, RVs) near the town centre. Work with council to review parking layouts and access points.
- **5.2** Advocate for accessibility and pedestrian safety in township planning.
- 5.3 Advocate for and support the construction of a roundabout at the 5-ways intersection to improve traffic flow and significantly enhance safety.
- **5.4** Advocate for urgent road repairs across Birchip and surrounding areas.

## Town Infrastructure & Streetscape

- **6.1** Map out critical road safety and drainage issues
- 6.2 Initiate long-term beautification and greening projects, including street tree planting, landscaped entrances to town, garden beds in public areas, and seasonal clean-up or planting days with local volunteers.
- 6.3 Install additional shade structures in key public areas including playgrounds, skatepark, netball courts, BBQ spaces, and Tchum Lake.
- 6.4 Seek funding opportunities and support the continued improvement and upkeep of Birchip's Memorial Park.

#### 7 Environment

7.1 Provide input into the development of a town-wide beautification plan, including drought-tolerant landscaping, green spaces, and public gardens.

# Essential Services & Infrastructure

8.1 Work with a local business to install a DIY fuel pump in Birchip offering both unleaded petrol and diesel, accessible 24/7.

The Birchip Community Forum are the custodians of the Birchip 5 Year Community Plan and will monitor its implementation on an ongoing basis, with regular updates provided to Council and the community through an annual review process.

For information about any of the priority projects, or how you can be involved, contact the Birchip Community Forum at

#### **SCAN THE QR CODE**

to view an electronic version of the Plan on the Buloke Shire Council website

