



Minutes

Council Meeting held at 12.30 PM on Monday 6 May 2024 in the Council Chamber, Pleasant Creek Historic Precinct, Stawell.

Present

Cr Rob Haswell (Mayor)
Cr Murray Emerson
Cr Kevin Erwin
Cr Trevor Gready
Cr Karen Hyslop
Cr Eddy Ostarcevic PhD

Mr Brent McAllister, Chief Executive Officer
Mr Camille Buntsma, Acting Director Corporate Services
Mr Trenton Fithall, Director Infrastructure and Amenity
Ms Justine Kingan, Director Strategy, Prosperity and Engagement

Affirmation

We recognise the traditional owners of the land.
We are inspired by the early pioneers and by those who gave their lives for our country.
We now ask God's blessing on our deliberations
and on our commitment to build a better lifestyle and environment.

To be confirmed at the meeting of Council on Monday 3 June 2024.

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1. Apologies

An apology was received from Cr Lauren Dempsey

RESOLUTION

That the apology be received and leave of absence granted.

Moved: Cr Eddy Ostarcevic

Seconded: Cr Karen Hyslop

Carried

2. Confirmation of Minutes

Council Meeting held on Monday, 8 April 2024

RESOLUTION

That the minutes as listed, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.

Moved: Cr Murray Emerson

Seconded: Cr Kevin Erwin

Carried

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

4. Presentations/Awards

Nil

5. Presentation of Petitions and Joint Letters

Nil

6. Disclosure of a Conflict of Interest at a Council Meeting

A Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at a Council meeting at which he or she-

- (i) is present must disclose that conflict of interest by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present at the Council meeting immediately before the matter is considered; or**
- (ii) intends to be present must disclose that conflict of interest by providing to the Chief Executive Officer before the Council meeting commences a written notice-**
 - advising of the conflict of interest;**
 - explaining the nature of the conflict of interest; and**
 - detailing, if the nature of the conflict of interest involves a Councillor's relationship with or a gift from another person, the-**
 - name of the other person**
 - nature of the relationship with that other person or the date on receipt, value and type of gift received from the other person; and**
 - nature of that other person's interest in the matter;**

and then immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting announcing to those present that he or she has a conflict of interest and that a written notice has been given to the Chief Executive Officer.

The Councillor must, in either event, exclude themselves from the decision-making process, including any discussion or vote on the matter and any action in relation to the matter and leave the Council meeting immediately after giving the explanation or making the announcement (as the case may be) and not return to the meeting until after the matter has been disposed of.

Members of Staff

A member of Council staff must disclose any conflict of interest in a matter in respect of which they are preparing or contributing to the preparation of a report for a Council meeting. They must immediately upon becoming aware of the conflict of interest, provide a written notice to the Chief Executive Officer disclosing the conflict of interest and explaining its nature.

Nil

7. Informal Meetings of Councillors

[Brent McAlister, Chief Executive Officer]

Council's Governance Rules require that if there is a meeting of Councillors that-

- is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors;
- is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- is not a Council meeting, delegated committee meeting or community asset committee meeting

the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting are:

- tabled at the next convenient Council meeting; and
- recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

The records for the period since the last Council Meeting are listed below.

17/04/2024	Councillor Briefing Budget Meeting	1. Camp grounds discussion 2. Budget	Councillor/Officer Nil	Item Number Nil	Left Meeting? Nil
16/04/2024	Councillor Briefing Budget Meeting	1. VNI West Drilling 2. 2024/25 Budget overview 3. Budget	Councillor/Officer Nil	Item Number Nil	Left Meeting? Nil
15/04/2024	Councillor Briefing	8.1 Infill Housing Engagement Plan 8.2 Resilience Project Update 8.3 11am Presentation: Western Renewable Link 8.4 Tourism Local Area Action Plan 8.5 Waste and Recycling Exemption Policy	Councillor/Officer Cr Hyslop	Item Number 8.3	Left Meeting? Yes
02/04/2024	Advisory Committee CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting	1. CEO Presentation 2. Salary Recommendation 3. General Business/Conclusion	Councillor/Officer Nil	Item Number Nil	Left Meeting? Nil
08/04/2024	Councillor and CEO Meeting	Confidential item	Councillor/Officer Nil	Item Number Nil	Left Meeting? Nil
08/04/2024	Councillor Briefing	8.1 10.30am Presentation: Grampians Health 8.2 Great Western VCAT Update 8.3 Wayfinding Strategy 8.4 Tourism Local Area Action Plan 9.1 Council Agenda Review	Councillor/Officer Nil	Item Number Nil	Left Meeting? Nil
25/03/2024	Councillor Briefing Councillor and CEO Meeting	Thomas Foods Freezer site visit Councillors operational matters Harmony Day debrief	Councillor/Officer Nil	Item Number Nil	Left Meeting? Nil
25/03/2024	Councillor Briefing	9.1 Passive Place Decision 9.2 Integrated Early Years Project Update 9.3 Great Western Pavilion Upgrade Budget Review 9.4 Fee Waiver Requests 9.5 St Arnaud Pool Funding Application 9.6 12.30pm Presentation: VNI Renewable Project Update	Councillor/Officer Cr Erwin Cr Hyslop	Item Number 9.4 9.6	Left Meeting? Yes Yes

RESOLUTION

That the report on Informal Meetings of Councillors be approved.

Moved: Cr Kevin Erwin
Seconded: Cr Murray Emerson

Carried

8. Items Brought Forward

Nil

9. Consideration of Reports of Officers

9.1. Enhance Lifestyles and Community

9.1.1. Memorial Park Master Plan

Author/Position: Tina Baker, Community Development Officer

Purpose

To acknowledge and endorse the Memorial Park Master Plan as a record of community aspiration for the park and to confirm this plan will go through the Council's 10 year capital planning process to monitor delivery of the plan.

Summary

The Memorial Park Master Plan (the plan) is an action in the Great Western Future Plan 2014, in which the future committee has led the delivery of and has now endorsed the Plan for councillors' consideration.

Great Western Future Committee has engaged Laimiga Design Studio to prepare a master plan for Memorial Park, Great Western and provide a roadmap for the next 5-10 years with the support of Northern Grampians Shire Council. This work has been funded through the Bulgana Wind Farm Grants.

Prior to this project, the Great Western Future Committee sought funding through Council's Arts and Culture Grants to engage Laimiga to design a sculpture park within Memorial Park to celebrate the local history of winemakers in Great Western. The successful design of this project has led to greater capacity within the group to embark on the larger landscape master plan project with the support and guidance of Council.

The Memorial Park Master Plan has provided a detailed functional layout and direction for the guidance and future development in the park. The plan has captured the aspirations and vision of the community and considers the opportunities for recreational and sporting activities within the park.

Recommendation

That Council acknowledges and endorses the Memorial Park Master Plan as a record of community aspiration for the park and to confirm this plan will go through the Council's 10 year capital planning process to monitor the delivery of the Plan.

RESOLUTION

That Council acknowledges and endorses the Memorial Park Master Plan as a record of community aspiration for the park and to confirm this plan will go through the Council's 10 year capital planning process to monitor the delivery of the Plan.

Moved: Cr Trevor Gready

Seconded: Cr Kevin Erwin

Carried

Background/Rationale

The Plan was developed with the Great Western Futures Committee, the Great Western community and Northern Grampians Shire Council to capture community aspirations for Memorial Park. It will allow strategic improvements to be made to the park and enable the Great Western Future Committee to source their own funding to deliver parts of the Plan.

The Plan project has been a new model for Council to work with the community, to build community group capacity and to enable the Great Western Future Committee to work with Council and Council processes to deliver a concept plan.

Legislation, Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

Local Government Act 2020

Council Plan 2021-25 – Provide Sustainable Infrastructure

Options

Option 1

That Council acknowledges and endorses the Memorial Park Master Plan as a record of community aspiration for the park and to confirm this plan will go through the Council's 10 year capital planning process to monitor delivery of the Plan. **[recommended]**

Option 2

That Council does not acknowledge or endorse the Memorial Park Master Plan or approve for this plan to go through the Council's 10 year capital planning process to monitor delivery of the Plan. **[not recommended]**

Implications

Any identified sustainability issues (economic, social, environmental or climate change) or heritage/cultural, amenity, human rights/gender equality, privacy, risk management, budgetary and asset management implications have been addressed in this report.

Procurement

No procurement requirements were required for this report.

Community Engagement

A survey by Great Western Future Committee, Northern Grampians Shire Council and Laimiga was undertaken during November/December 2023 to determine the priorities of the community.

The survey was available in the following locations:

- online via Council website - Have Your Say Page.
- via Facebook
- hardcopy available from Post Office
- hardcopy available at a workshop on 18 December 2023
- QR code advertised in the park and around town
- phone audio messages

21 online surveys and 12 paper copies were returned, equaling 33 surveys.

The key priorities identified through the survey area are as follows:

1. upgrade playground (consider relocation of playground, nature play, water, sand, challenging equipment, shade, seating, paths)
2. planting for succession, shade, windbreak, native flora, sensory detail
3. review tennis facilities in Northern Grampians Shire context (upgrade facilities with new surface, two tennis courts)
4. improve facilities for children and teenagers – skate, scooter, multi-use courts
5. improved picnic facilities – more picnic settings and inviting materials, accessibility, drinking fountains
6. sculpture Park – winemakers, detail area with water features
7. memorial area to be renovated and preserved
8. improved circulation throughout the park
9. fencing throughout the park

10. improved signage - for directions, safety, connection to the broader region
11. talking book tour of park and connection to the region – history, culture and community
12. consider feasibility of dump point locations – Recreation Reserve/Memorial Park
13. consider feasibility of charging stations
14. consider feasibility of dog park off leash
15. consider feasibility of container deposit point location
16. improve general amenities – lighting, seating, path surfaces/width, sightlines, etc.

Engagement for the draft was undertaken from 4-18 March 2024 which included:

- a survey mail dropped into each Great Western Post Office Box
- an online form posted to Facebook
- the draft plans and an online form QR code posted on the notice board in Memorial Park.

Responses received were:

- 17 online submissions
- five paper form submissions
- one letter from the Great Western Tennis Club.

The tennis courts have been identified as a separate project that will need to be developed to address participation numbers and future use in the context of the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy and the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.

Great Western Futures Committee endorsed the Memorial Park Master Plan at a special meeting on 7 April 2024.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The subject matter of this report does not raise any implications regarding innovation or improvements.

Collaboration

No collaboration with other councils, governments or statutory bodies was required for this report.

Officer's Declaration of Interest

All officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Tina Baker, Community Development Officer

In providing this advice as the author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Attachments

1. Memorial Park Landscape Master Plan Drawings [9.1.1.1 - 7 pages]

- 1 **Carparking** - asphalt carparking with Chinese Elm street trees
- 2 **Enhance Path** - granitic gravel pathway with garden bed edge and Prunus trees
- 3 **Interpretive Signage** - Great Western Wine & Heritage Cycle Trail interpretive signage with historic photos, text and map adjacent timber slab bench seats
- 4 **Hesperocyparis macrocarpa aurea (syn. Cupressus macrocarpa)** - historic Cupressus macrocarpa (Monterey Cypress) - exotic Californian tree used as windbreaks throughout Victoria
- 5 **English Elm** - Ulmus procera established 10+ years old with attractive form, however, appears to have an infestation of the Elm Tree Beetle
- 6 **Petanque** - petanque court with some weed invasion and court surface damage
- 7 **Maintenance access** - chicane maintenance entrance
- 8 **Tennis** - open access tennis courts with asphalt surface and nets in place
- 9 **Toilets** - 5 toilets in excellent condition (frequently visited by travellers)
- 10 **Commemorative area** - cenograph, traditional gates, dedications, memorials, pines, seating and picnic settings
- 11 **Rolunda shelter** - BBQ, seating/picnic settings, memorial rose plantings, commemorative plaques and shelter overhead
- 12 **Play Equipment** - junior equipment with ladder, clutter bridge, tunnel and slide - upper platform 1400mm
- 13 **The Lock up** - originally built in 1858 was used as a lockup until 1912. It was then moved to Kaniva in 1922 returning back in 1988
- 14 **Great Western Entrance** - branded entrance detailing as a welcome to Great Western



KEY PRIORITIES

(Identified through the community survey & workshop - in random order)

1. Upgrade **playground** (consider relocation or upgrade) of playground, nature play, water, sand, challenging equipment, shade, seating, and paths)
2. **Planting** for succession, shade, windbreak, native flora, sensory detail & continued legacy
3. Consider the **feasibility of upgraded tennis/ multi-use facilities** within the NGSC (consider the demand for an upgrade of facilities with new surface, 2 tennis courts/ multi-use)
4. Improve **facilities for children and teenagers** skate, scooter, multi-use courts, gathering areas, & hard surface paths
5. Improved **picnic facilities** more picnic settings and of inviting materials, accessibility, & drinking fountain
6. **Sculpture Park** winemakers, detail area with water features/ gathering areas
7. **Memorial area** to be renovated and preserved
8. Improved **circulation** throughout the park
9. **Fencing** throughout the park
10. Improved **signage** - for directions, safety, connection to the broader region
11. **Talking book** tour of park and connection to the region history, culture and community
12. Consider feasibility of **dump point** locations Rec Res/ Mem Park
13. Consider feasibility of **charging stations**
14. Consider feasibility of **dog park off leash**
15. Consider feasibility of **Container deposit point** location
16. Improve **general amenity** lighting, seating, path surfaces/width, sightlines, etc

REFERENCES

- NGSC - Sport & Active Recreation Strategy (incomplete 2023)
- NGSC - Sport & Active Recreation Strategy (2014)
- NGSC - Great Western Memorial Park Arboicultural Assessment & Report (CIVICA) 20 July 2023

LEGEND

- BUILDING LAYOUT
- BOUNDARY FENCELINE
- EXISTING TREES TO BE RETAINED AND PROTECTED
- LAWN (NOT IRRIGATED)
- EXISTING GARDEN BED
- PLAYGROUND MULCH (IMPACT ATTENUATING TO AS 402)
- COMPACTED GRANITIC SAND SURFACE
- SHADE STRUCTURE



Landscape Master Plan - Existing Conditions & Analysis
Great Western Memorial Park - Master Plan
Western Highway GREAT WESTERN VIC 3374

2.04.2024
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- 1 **Carparking** - asphalt carparking with Chinese Elm street trees to be retained
- 2 **Entrance Path** - pathway to connect to township to Memorial Park through the memorial gates
- 3 **Memorial** - renovate existing memorials/ seats/ walling, ensure all names are updated, provide connecting pathways, irrigation to trees & lawn, additional deciduous shade trees in lawn, quiet places to reflect and replace missing *Cupressus sempervirens* in avenue
- 4 **Central information area** - enhance existing information board with additional interpretive town signage (showing connection to other town features & amenities), water refill station, bicycle repair station, bicycle racks, seating, lighting and an opening up of planting with additional paved area
- 5 **Sculpture walk** to include leading founders, owners and wine makers of the Great Western Region including irrigated lawn areas, party table with pergola/grapes, seating and petanque (review usage of petanque)
- 6 **Hardcourt facilities** - continue to support Great Western's active participation in both social and organised sport (or a healthier & happier community through the **investigation into the feasibility** of upgrading the existing tennis courts, consider the following:
- upgraded surface/ refurbished surface/ maintenance implications
- tennis courts /multi-sport court/ footprint of sealed surface to support informal recreation - seating/ fencing/ gates/ lighting/shelter
- inclusive design for accessibility
[refer to Draft Sport & Recreation Strategy 2024 NGSC]
- 7 **Playspace & Nature Play** - investigate opportunity to extend the play value and accessibility of play environment to ensure a broad spectrum of the community is included in the play / fitness elements
- 8 **Kick-about** - irrigated open green lawn area suitable for kickabout games, markets, functions, etc. path around outside with occasional seating opportunities and shade trees. Provide a connected and seamless path system throughout the whole of Memorial Park to provide a variety of safe walking/jogging/ rolling options
- 9 **Monterey Cypress Aurea** - to be retained & protected with the inclusion of mulch under and controlled vehicle access (maintenance only)- provide pathways and low key seating opportunities outside of canopy
- 10 **Lock-up** - relocate existing lock-up, provide necessary restorative works and review shelter design to provide improved protection of materials from weathering and response to the cultural and historical context of the lock-up. Include additional interpretative signage with potential links /QR code information and connection to other Great Western Tourist trail information and future sites for commemorative sculptures and historical agricultural and horticultural implements
- 11 **Boundary fence** - provide fence to entire site with safety latch gates and maintenance entrances as required. Consider fencing to complement existing Memorial Gates - black flat top style
- 12 **Great Western Entrance** - branded entrance detailing as a welcome to Great Western to be retained and enhanced as required with additional planting & lighting



DESIGN INTENT

Ensure the principles of **Inclusive design** are adopted throughout the park to provide a safe and welcoming environment that supports a diverse range of users

Support continued **succession planting** of the *Hesperocyparis macrocarpa* 'Horizontal Aurea' Monterey Cypress. Consider involvement of local community/school children of initial planting of missing species (refer to NGSC - GWMP Arboricultural Assessment & Report 20.07.2023)

Support **care & ongoing maintenance** of the *Hesperocyparis macrocarpa* 'Horizontal Aurea' Monterey Cypress with the removal of mowed lawn under the trees and replacement with mulch to avoid ongoing scalping and damage to surface roots ULE of remaining trees 25-50years (refer to NGSC - GWMP - Arboricultural Assessment & Report 20.07.2023)

Establish a variety of additional deciduous **shade trees** for shelter, shade, and contrast with existing evergreen vegetation

Potential inclusion of additional **shade structures of play area & sculpture walk** shade and year round protection

Fencing of entire park to compliment existing memorial gates and support an open and safe use of the park for all - ensure fencing design reflects context and is transparent

Extend/ renew/ replace existing **play area** to provide individual and social **play elements** to support a diverse community - including basket swing, strap seat and baby cradle seat, rocker, monkey bar and accessible pathways throughout the play area

Nature play - with focus on landform, mounding, rock boulders, logs horizontal and vertical, pebbles, sand, granitic materials, hand operated water pump, sandplay area, shop front and treform seating and digger

Paths for connections throughout the path - providing a circuit path for skaters/scooters using a sealed surface and connecting pathways of a compacted granitic gravel

Irrigated lawn area (using recycled water for irrigation TBC) for grassed kick-about areas, memorial area and picnic areas near playspace and sculpture garden

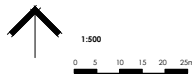
Consider the feasibility of upgrading the **hardcourt surface**

Social gathering areas for small groups throughout the park - keep it open and connected - provide freeform natural seating, picnic setting under shelter, seat with back & arms located close to activities and with shade

General amenity - lighting for safety, water fountain with dog refill/ accessible/ water bottle refill / cycle repair station/ bike racks

LEGEND

- BUILDING & BOUNDARY**
- BUILDING LAYOUT
 - SHADE STRUCTURE
 - EXISTING FENCE
 - PROPOSED FENCE
- VEGETATION**
- EXISTING TREES TO BE RETAINED AND PROTECTED
 - EVERGREEN TREES
 - DECIDUOUS SHADE TREES
 - PROPOSED GARDEN BEDS
 - LAWN (NOT IRRIGATED)
 - LAWN (IRRIGATED)
- GROUND SURFACES**
- CONCRETE PAVING
 - HARDCOURT PAVING
 - COMPACTED GRANITIC SAND SURFACE
 - PLAYGROUND MULCH (IMPACT ATTENUATING TO AS 4422)
 - RANDOM STONE PAVING
 - SAND
 - PEBBLE CREEK
 - TIMBER/ COMPOSITE DECKING
- FURNITURE & FEATURES**
- ROCK EDGING
 - TIMBER LOG EDGING
 - VERTICAL LOG EDGING
 - DIRECTIONAL/ INTERPRETIVE / INFORMATION SIGNAGE
 - HAND OPERATED WATER PUMP
 - LIGHTING
 - FESTOON LIGHTING
 - BICYCLE RACK
 - PICNIC SETTING
 - BENCH SEATS - WITH BACKS & ARM RESTS
 - BBIQ
 - AGRICULTURAL/ HORTICULTURAL/ VITICULTURAL HISTORICAL IMPLEMENTS
 - HISTORIC SCULPTURES



Landscape Master Plan - Overarching Plan
Great Western Memorial Park - Master Plan
Western Highway GREAT WESTERN VIC 3374

2.04.2024
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- LEGEND**
- BUILDING & BOUNDARY**
- BUILDING LAYOUT
 - SHADE STRUCTURE
 - EXISTING FENCE
 - PROPOSED FENCE
- VEGETATION**
- EXISTING TREES TO BE RETAINED AND PROTECTED
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 - LIGHTING
 - FESTOON LIGHTING
 - BICYCLE RACK
 - PICNIC SETTING
 - BENCH SEATS - WITH BACKS & ARM RESTS
 - BBO
 - AGRICULTURAL / HORTICULTURAL / VERTICAL HISTORICAL IMPLEMENTS
 - HISTORIC SCULPTURES



Landscape Master Plan - Detail Memorial Lawn
Great Western Memorial Park - Master Plan
Western Highway GREAT WESTERN VIC 3374

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Granitic gravel path - minimum 2200mm wide circuit walk of approximately 100m

Hesperocyparis macrocarpa (Monterey Cypress) - to be protected and retained - ease maintenance demands and root damage with mulch underneath canopy

Sculptural Collections - potential siting of sculptures - 'picnicking in the park' under the shade of the existing Elm site sculptures picnicking on irrigated lawn

Picnic Areas - location of inclusive picnic settings along the 'sculpture walk' to encourage rest and movement through the area

Sculptural Collections - potential siting of sculptures - 'tending the vines' establish vines to reflect those on the rise beyond and provide an interactive form with the warm smooth timber. Consider interpretive signage and QR codes with locals talking for their ancestors

Petanque Court - to be edged and formed to a standard 4x12m area (review usage of petanque)

Hesperocyparis macrocarpa (Monterey Cypress) - to replace missing specimen

Sculptural Collections - potential siting of sculptures - 'watching petanque with a glass' sit on the lawn - consider interpretive signage and QR codes with locals talking for their ancestors

Maintenance & pedestrian access - ensure continued boundary fence and magna latch gates, directional signage and lighting for safety



Sculptural Collections - potential siting of sculptures - 'sitting down to dinner' with supporting seats and small table for visitors

Central information area - enhance existing information board with additional interpretive town signage (showing connection to other town features & amenities), water refill station, bicycle repair station, bicycle racks, seating, lighting and an opening up of planting with additional paved area

Existing seating - to be retained, sanded and re-oiled and located off set from directly facing the path so as to support movement into sculptural walk area

Existing Interpretive Heritage Cycle Trail - retain existing signage and add to the west/west/ear of signage with interpretive information for sculptures - to avoid 'back of the sign' for the activated space

Sculptural Collections - potential siting of sculptures - 'in the roses' with stepping stones, low groundcovers and herbaceous perennials

Community cupboard - potential location of community book, toy, game library to read and play in the park

Shelter - shelter over sealed pathway as interface from clubrooms/ pergola and multi-use courts

Gathering area - with party table and festoon lighting, pergola and climbing grape vine - located to connect to adjacent activities and provide options for gathering in the park

Path - sealed pathway to connect to southern pathway in park

- LEGEND BUILDING & BOUNDARY**
- BUILDING LAYOUT
 - SHADE STRUCTURE
 - EXISTING FENCE
 - PROPOSED FENCE
- VEGETATION**
- EXISTING TREES TO BE RETAINED AND PROTECTED
 - EVERGREEN TREES
 - DECIDUOUS SHADE TREES
 - PROPOSED GARDEN BEDS
 - LAWN (NOT IRRIGATED)
 - LAWN (IRRIGATED)
- GROUND SURFACES**
- CONCRETE PAVING
 - HARDCOURT PAVING
 - COMPACTED GRANITIC SAND SURFACE
 - PLAYGROUND MULCH (IMPACT ATTENUATING TO AS 4422)
 - RANDOM STONE PAVING
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 - HAND OPERATED WATER PUMP
 - LIGHTING
 - FESTOON LIGHTING
 - BICYCLE RACK
 - PICNIC SETTING
 - BENCH SEATS - WITH BACKS & ARM RESTS
 - BBQ
 - AGRICULTURAL / HORTICULTURAL / VITICULTURAL HISTORICAL IMPLEMENTS
 - HISTORIC SCULPTURES



Landscape Master Plan - Sculpture Walk
Great Western Memorial Park - Master Plan
Western Highway GREAT WESTERN VIC 3374

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Existing path - retain existing path, replace mass planting of existing Lomandra's with low growing groundcovers to encourage views through. Raise canopy of plum trees to encourage views through

Shelter - shelter over sealed pathway as interface from clubrooms/ pergola and multi-use courts

Hardcourt facilities - continue to support Great Western's active participation in both social and organised sport for a healthier & happier community through the **investigation into the feasibility** of upgrading the existing tennis courts. Feasibility Study to consider the following:
 - upgraded surface/ refurbished surface/ maintenance implications
 - tennis courts /multi-sport court/ footprint of sealed surface to support formal sport and informal recreation
 - seating/ fencing/ gates/ lighting/shelter
 - inclusive design for accessibility (refer to Draft Sport & Recreation Strategy 2024 NGSC)

Path - sealed pathway to connect to southern pathway in park. Locate outside rootzone of existing Monterey Cypress



LEGEND BUILDING & BOUNDARY

- BUILDING LAYOUT
- SHADE STRUCTURE
- EXISTING FENCE
- PROPOSED FENCE

PLAYSPACE & NATURE

- Play** - investigate opportunity to extend the play value and accessibility of play environment ensuring engagement for a diverse user group. Potential to include playful fitness elements
- Boundary Fence** - to compliment existing Memorial Gates
- Swing** - Basket nest swing and swing with baby cradle seat/ or joey seat and strap seat backed into fence/line to reduce conflict

VEGETATION

- EXISTING TREES TO BE RETAINED AND PROTECTED
- EVERGREEN TREES
- DECIDUOUS SHADE TREES
- PROPOSED GARDEN BEDS

LAWN (NOT IRRIGATED)

LAWN (IRRIGATED)

GROUND SURFACES

- CONCRETE PAVING
- HARDCOURT PAVING
- COMPACTED GRANITIC SAND SURFACE
- PLAYGROUND MELCH (IMPACT ATTENUATING TO AS 4422)
- RANDOM STONE PAVING
- SAND
- PEBBLE CREEK
- TIMBER/ COMPOSITE DECKING

FURNITURE & FEATURES

- ROCK EDGING
- TIMBER LOG EDGING
- VERTICAL LOG EDGING
- DIRECTIONAL/ INTERPRETIVE / INFORMATION SIGNAGE
- HAND OPERATED WATER PUMP
- LIGHTING
- FESTOON LIGHTING
- BICYCLE RACK
- PICNIC SETTING
- BENCH SEATS - WITH BACKS & ARM RESTS
- BBQ
- AGRICULTURAL/ HORTICULTURAL/ VITICULTURAL HISTORICAL IMPLEMENTS
- HISTORIC SCULPTURES

Monterey Cypress - mulch under existing Cypress and avoid maintenance of lawn

Shade trees in lawn - deciduous shade trees in lawn with seats to overlook court or southern park

Directional signage & light - mulch under existing Cypress and avoid maintenance of lawn

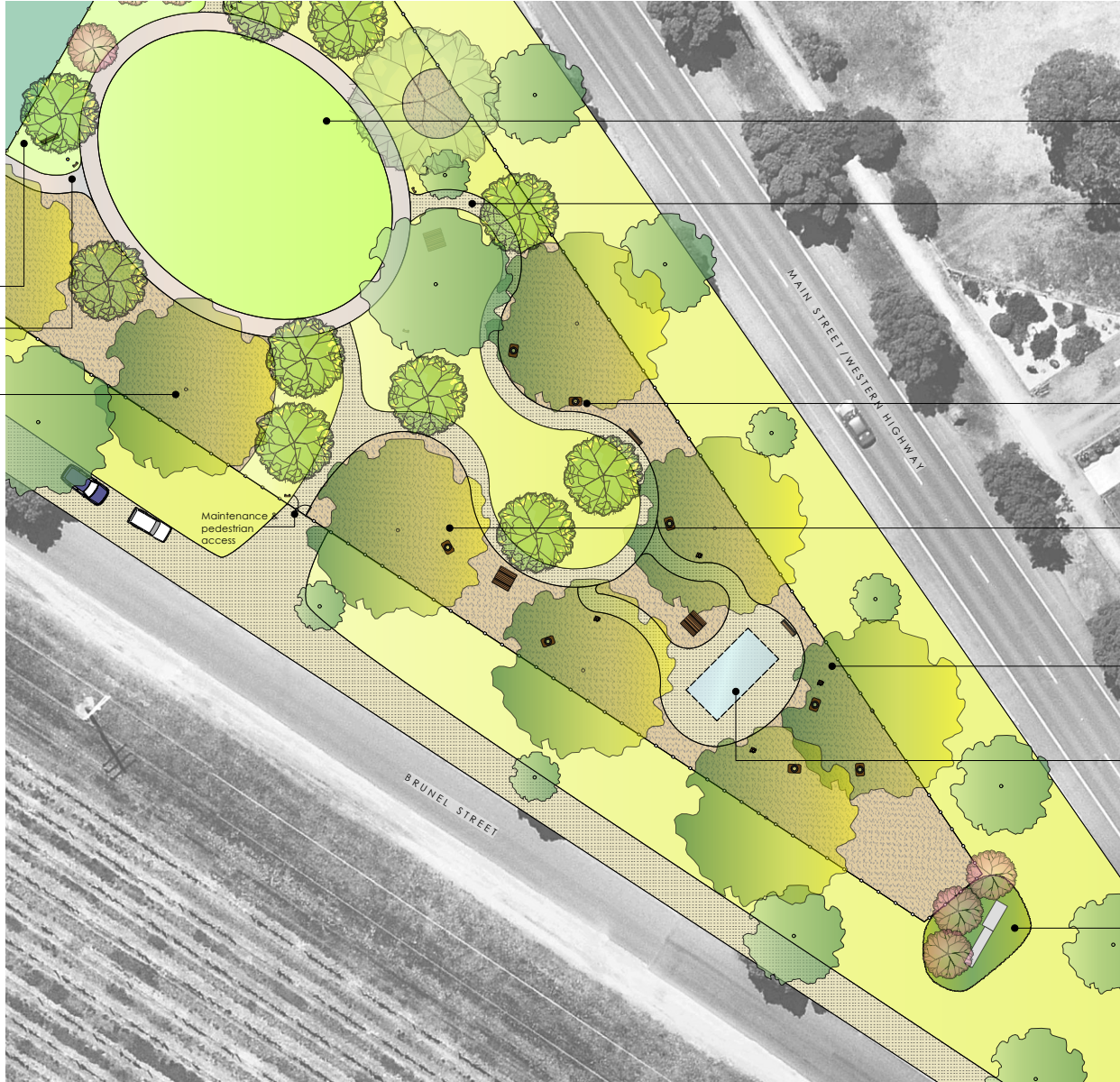


Landscape Master Plan - Playspace & Hardcourt facilities
Great Western Memorial Park - Master Plan
 Western Highway GREAT WESTERN VIC 3374

2.04.2024
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Shade trees in lawn - deciduous shade trees in lawn with seats to overlook court or southern park

Directional signage & light - mulch under existing Cypress and avoid maintenance of lawn

Monterey Cypress Aurea - to be retained & protected with the inclusion of mulch under and controlled vehicle access (maintenance only)- provide pathways and low key seating opportunities outside of canopy

Maintenance pedestrian access

Kick-about - irrigated open green lawn area suitable for kickabout games, markets, functions, etc., path around outside with occasional seating opportunities and shade trees. Provide a connected and seamless path system throughout the whole of Memorial Park to provide a variety of safe walking/jogging/rolling options

Circle path - continue path system to meander outside canopy of Monterey Cypress, provide occasional seats and picnic setting in protected cool environment

Historic walk - continue path system to meander outside canopy of Monterey Cypress provide opportunities for additional prominent local sculptures and historic agricultural/horticultural/viticultural implements and memorabilia

Monterey Cypress Aurea - to be retained & protected with the inclusion of mulch under and controlled vehicle access (maintenance only)- provide pathways and low key seating opportunities outside of canopy

Boundary fence - provide fence to entire site with safety latch gates and maintenance entrances as required. Consider fencing to complement existing Memorial Gates - black flat top style

Lock-up - relocate existing lock-up, provide necessary restorative works and redesign shelter to provide protection to materials from weathering. Shelter design to complement the historic context of the 'Lock-up', include additional interpretative signage with potential links /QR code information and connection to other Great Western Tourist trail information. Potential location of additional sculptural elements and seating opportunities

Great Western Entrance - branded entrance detailing as a welcome to Great Western to be retained and enhanced as required with additional planting & lighting

- LEGEND**
- BUILDING & BOUNDARY**
 - BUILDING LAYOUT
 - SHADE STRUCTURE
 - EXISTING FENCE
 - PROPOSED FENCE
 - VEGETATION**
 - EXISTING TREES TO BE RETAINED AND PROTECTED
 - EVERGREEN TREES
 - DECIDUOUS SHADE TREES
 - PROPOSED GARDEN BEDS
 - LAWN (NOT IRRIGATED)
 - LAWN (IRRIGATED)
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 - CONCRETE PAVING
 - HARDCOURT PAVING
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 - SAND
 - PEBBLE CREEK
 - TIMBER/COMPOSITE DECKING
 - FURNITURE & FEATURES**
 - ROCK EDGING
 - TIMBER LOG EDGING
 - VERTICAL LOG EDGING
 - DIRECTIONAL/INTERPRETIVE/INFORMATION SIGNAGE
 - HAND OPERATED WATER PUMP
 - LIGHTING
 - FESTOON LIGHTING
 - BICYCLE RACK
 - PICNIC SETTING
 - BENCH SEATS - WITH BACKS & ARM RESTS
 - BBO
 - AGRICULTURAL/HORTICULTURAL/VITICULTURAL HISTORICAL IMPLEMENTS
 - HISTORIC SCULPTURES



Landscape Master Plan - Southern walk
Great Western Memorial Park - Master Plan
Western Highway GREAT WESTERN VIC 3374

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9.1.2. Sport and Active Recreation Strategy

Author/Position: David Hwang, Manager Strategic Planning and Prosperity

Purpose

To seek Council endorsement and adoption of the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.

Summary

The Northern Grampians Shire Sport and Active Recreation Strategy will provide strategic direction to Council ensuring the provision of sport and active recreation infrastructure and programs is developed to an appropriate standard and to meet the sport and active recreation needs of current and future residents.

Recommendation

That Council endorses the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.

RESOLUTION

That Council endorses the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.

Moved: Cr Eddy Ostarcevic

Seconded: Cr Murray Emerson

Carried

Background/Rationale

As Council's Sport and Open Space Strategy 2014 is set to expire, Council engaged ROSS Planning to develop a new 10 year strategy for both Sport and Active Recreation and Open Space and Active Transport.

Following extensive research, audit and engagement process – the strategy is ready to be considered for endorsement by Council.

Legislation, Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

Local Government Act 2020

Council Plan 2021-25 – Enhance Lifestyles and Community

Options

Option 1

That Council endorses and adopts the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy. **[recommended]**

Option 2

That Council does not endorse and adopt the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy. **[not recommended]**

Implications

Any identified sustainability issues (economic, social, environmental or climate change) or heritage/cultural, amenity, human rights/gender equality, privacy, risk management, budgetary and asset management implications have been addressed in this report.

Procurement

No procurement requirements apply for the subject of this report.

Community Engagement

The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy survey created by ROSS Planning was sent to all Northern Grampians Shire sporting and recreation clubs, which was open for four weeks. 45 of the 72 clubs responded to the survey.

All clubs (72) were then contacted again once the draft version was completed to provide feedback on the draft. Six clubs responded and provided feedback on the draft version.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The subject matter of this report does not raise any implications regarding innovation or improvements.

Collaboration

Sport and Recreation Victoria was heavily involved in the design and development of this strategy as a key government partner. Various state sporting associations were also engaged to inform and provide their perspective.

Officer's Declaration of Interest

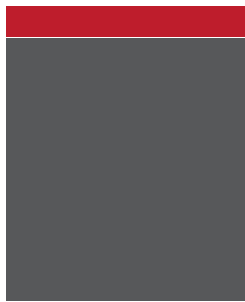
All officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

David Hwang, Manager Strategic Planning and Prosperity

In providing this advice as the author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

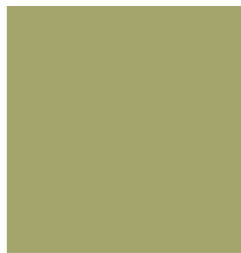
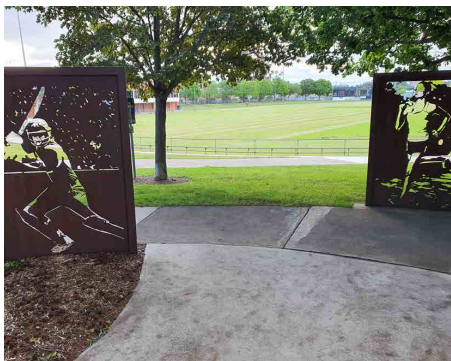
Attachments

1. Sport and Active Recreation Strategy [9.1.2.1 - 84 pages]



Northern Grampians Shire Council

Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2024-34



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Northern Grampians Shire Council acknowledges the Baringji Gadjin (the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk peoples), the Dja Dja Wurrung peoples and the Eastern Maar peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands throughout the Northern Grampians Shire and pays our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2024-34 was supported by the Victorian Government. The report has been prepared for:



This report has been prepared by:



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Document control:

Version	Date	Document	Author	Reviewer	Recipient
1.0	09/11/23	Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy	SW	DC	DH
2.0	12/02/24	Amended Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy	SW	DC	TD
3.0	16.02.24	Amended Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy	SW	DC	JK
4.0	11.03.24	Amended Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy	SW	DC	DH
5.0	16.04.24	Amended Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy	SW	DC	TD

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Glossary

Classification	Description
Active recreation	Active recreation refers to activities undertaken during leisure time that requires physical exertion. It includes organised forms of passive (non-sport) recreation activities such as Parkrun, yoga and Pilates, gym workout and group fitness, for example.
Core open space	Core open space is active (sport) and passive (non-sport) open space that meets cCouncil's requirements specified by its Desired Standards of Service (DSS). This is particularly important to ensure equitable distribution and quality open space across planning areas, as well as ensuring development contributions are calculated and captured accurately
Non-core open space	Non-core open space includes active open space areas that are privately owned or operated and that are not freely available for public use, and passive open space areas where appropriate recreation use is typically a secondary use of the land. The primary use of non-core passive open space can be for a range of uses including conservation, stormwater management, utility reserves and amenity.
Open space	Open space is land that provides recreation and leisure benefits, although that may not be its primary purpose. It can include beaches, parks, natural areas, utility and drainage corridors, and conservation areas.
Passive recreation	A range of unstructured activities and social interactions undertaken for enjoyment, relaxation, physical and mental health. Passive recreation can be undertaken in all forms of open space (parks and natural areas) and may include walking, cycling, children's play, picnicking, fishing, kayaking and relaxing in nature.
Public open space	Public open space is land that is set aside for public recreation or as parkland, or for similar purposes. Public open space incorporates active and passive open space. The terms park and/or reserve are also used interchangeably with public open space.
Recreation park	Settings for passive recreation and social activities. Parks provide a range of embellishments such as play equipment, kick-about areas, picnic facilities, formalised walks, gardens, landscaped areas, access to water bodies and car parking.
Sport	A range of structured activities capable of achieving a result requiring physical exertion and skill, that is competitive or training for competition.
Sports park facilities	Designed to primarily support a range of active recreation activities for training and competition. These sports parks are designed to accommodate the playing surface and infrastructure requirements of specific sports. Sports facilities are further broken down into a number of categories.





Executive summary

The development of this Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2024-34 (the Strategy) reflects the Northern Grampians commitment to working collaboratively with businesses, government agencies, community members and visitors to preserve and enhance the lifestyle on offer in the townships and communities within its council area.

The Strategy has been prepared based on qualitative and quantitative data including demographic and major trends in sport and active recreation. Understanding the shire's demographic profile including age, household composition and income and employment patterns provides an insight into potential sport and recreation needs for the people living across the Northern Grampians Shire.

The Strategy will be used by council as a mechanism to prioritise future investment and development of hard and soft sport and recreation infrastructure across Northern Grampians. It has been developed in parallel with the complementary Open Space and Active Transport Strategy, ensuring that council develops initiatives, programs and facilities consistently across the Shire, meeting identified community needs.

For the purpose of the Strategy, sport and active recreation are defined as:

Sport

A range of structured activities capable of achieving a result requiring physical exertion and skill, that is competitive or training for competition.

Active recreation

Active recreation refers to activities undertaken during leisure time that requires physical exertion. It includes organised forms of passive (non-sport) recreation activities such as Parkrun, yoga and pilates, gym workout and group fitness, for example.

Following an extensive process of research, consultation, and inspections (of all relevant sport and active recreation facilities), a thorough analysis was undertaken to develop actions that will ensure council provides the appropriate opportunities for the community to participate in a range of sport and active recreation activities.

The consultation process included utilising a range of tools and techniques to engage stakeholders (such as State Sporting Organisations, Northern Grampians sporting clubs/organisations and council officers).

The Strategy provides a snapshot of active sport and recreation provision for each township and community in the shire, providing an analysis of each respective location.

Integral to the Strategy's proposed actions are the key findings for the shire as a whole:

- there is a sufficient number and distribution of sport and active recreation facilities across the shire
- there is the opportunity to greatly improve the use of the existing facilities through increased efforts in the delivery of appropriate programs and activities
- maximising council existing investment in sport and recreation infrastructure by increasing sport and recreation participation and programming across the shire, facilitating stronger partnerships with community sport and active recreation organisations, (including local clubs) and Sport and Recreation Victoria.

Following the above processes and the analysis of the outcomes, key actions for council to focus on in the coming years have been presented.

People living in townships and communities across the shire area have access to natural areas, recreation parks, and sport parks providing them with opportunities to participate in a diverse range of leisure, recreation and sport activities. The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2024-34 should be read in conjunction with the Northern Grampians Shire Open Space and Active Transport Strategy. This is particularly important for actions relating to individual park development and embellishment.

Recommended actions

Specific recommended actions were developed to address the key issues identified and have been proposed in three main areas:

1. Management (policy and procedures)
2. Existing facilities and programs
3. New facilities, programs and initiatives.



Introduction

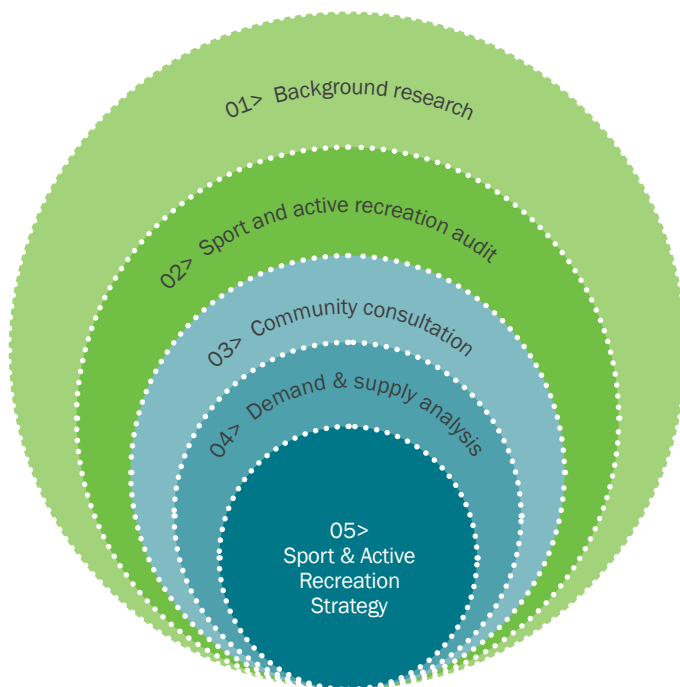
Purpose

The Northern Grampians Shire Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2024-34 will provide strategic direction to council ensuring the provision of sport and active recreation infrastructure and programs is developed to an appropriate standard and to meet the sport and active recreation needs of current and future residents. The Strategy will be used as a mechanism to prioritise future investment and development of the shire's sport and recreation hard and soft infrastructure.

Scope

For the purpose of the Strategy, sport and active recreation includes organised or structured games including training and competition, and recreation activities that contribute to meeting the Australian Physical Activity and Exercise Guidelines.

Methodology



Sport and Active Recreation Strategy Methodology

The development of strategic directions involved several steps, detailed below.



Community and connection - Increase opportunities through the provision and activation of sport and recreation places and spaces

- ensure facilities are maintained/developed to meet the needs of their respective communities
- invest in the design of appropriate facilities to cater for all user groups, including supporting gender equality and inclusive participation of women and girls in sport and active recreation
- undertake appropriate engagement with the community when initiating facility improvements and community programs/activities
- ensure the provision of equitable access to sport and recreation opportunities
- consideration of the changing community approach to sport.



Healthy and active - Support the shared outcomes of NGSC Municipal Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- identify opportunities for the programming, access, and activation of facilities across all age cohorts including our ageing population
 - responding to trends such as technology limiting sport and recreation, connection (impacting access)
- facilitate the promotion and management of programs and activities at council facilities to maximise community participation
- support for promotion and management of programs and activities at non- council managed facilities
- ensure facilities are maintained at a standard that allows the maximal amount of use by the community.



Livability - Support the shire vision “to love where we live”

- provide a range of facilities and programs that are accessible and provide sport and recreation opportunities to all residents of the shire
- ensure facilities are well maintained and add to the attractiveness of the shire
- make facilities available and appropriate for a wide range of community groups/members
- support gender equality and inclusive participation of women and girls in public recreation spaces and places by investing in well-designed and high- quality space and facilities
- support accessibility initiatives that provide improved opportunities for people living with a disability.

USE OF THIS STRATEGY:

The Strategy is to be used as a mechanism to prioritise future investment and development of the shire’s sport and recreation hard and soft infrastructure.



Planning framework

Public open space, sport and recreation infrastructure could be defined as a critical investment in current and future populations. This “Urban Health Infrastructure” delivers multiple returns on investment.

The National Heart Foundation observes:

- the health effects of physical activity are compelling. However, the potency of physical activity as a policy investment for Australia extends far beyond health. Active living plays a key role in broader economic and social goals for our nation: walking, cycling and public transport are affordable and sustainable solutions to traffic congestion
- these same behaviours contribute to cleaner air, reduced carbon emissions and sustainable environments
- active neighbourhoods and cities are more liveable, with higher levels of social capital and community cohesion and lower levels of crime
- in the context of an ageing community, physical activity enables older Australians to live more active lifestyles with reduced risk from disabling and costly chronic diseases
- fit and active workers are more productive, take fewer sick days and make a positive contribution to our economic wellbeing. (A blueprint for an active Australia, Heart Foundation, 2019).

Value and benefits

Health benefits

Sport and active recreation play an important role in increasing the physical activity levels of residents. Research demonstrates that participating in regular moderate-to-vigorous physical activity provides many health benefits, physical and mental, that can be seen in children and adolescents, young and middle-aged adults, older adults, women and men, people of different races and ethnicities, and people with chronic conditions or disabilities¹.

Physical health²

Physical activity is an important factor in preventing or reducing overweight and obesity, a leading contributor to disease in Australia. Regular, on-going participation in sport and/or active recreation activities lowers the risk of all-cause mortality, cardiovascular disease and developing and/or slowing the progression of a wide range of chronic diseases.

Healthy bone development is critical in youth development. Children, adolescents who are physically active, be it through sport, active recreation activities or play, have higher bone mass, improved bone structure and greater bone strength. In addition, they often have higher levels of cardio-respiratory fitness, stronger muscles and lower body fat.

Functional disability increases with age. Active middle aged and older adults have a lower risk of functional limitations than inactive adults, particularly those that participate in exercises where the physical benefits can be transferred to everyday activities such as sit-to-stand, stair climbing and walking tasks. Regular physical activity also helps those with osteoarthritis or other rheumatic conditions affecting the joints.

Mental health

The Australian Department of Health³ estimates that almost half of all Australians aged 16 to 85 will experience mental illness at some point in their life. The most common conditions include; anxiety, affective disorders (especially depression) and substance use disorder (especially alcohol use).

Regular participation in sport and active recreation activities has significant positive effects in preventing or reducing the risk of depression and suicide, as well as neuro-degenerative disorders such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease. Decreased levels of mental stress, life dissatisfaction and anxiety are also associated with increased levels of physical activity. Recent studies have shown that physically active people are less likely to be diagnosed with dementia⁴.

In addition to improving quality of life, regular physical activity improves sleep, aspects of cognitive function, vocabulary learning, memory and creative thinking.

Social benefits

Building communities

The shire’s variety of sport and active recreation opportunities create an environment where diverse community groups and individuals can come together and interact on a social level. Many sport and active recreation clubs/groups view their members as ‘family’ or a ‘community’ within the broader community. The associational nature of these activities and clubs can be helpful in facilitating social introductions, provide opportunity for social networking and connections, increasing levels of generalised trust, reducing social isolation and, hence, have potential to support the development of social capital, particularly at the neighbourhood level.

1 Physical Activity and Sports - Real Health Benefits, Malm, Jakobsson & Isaksson

2019

2 Blueprint for an Active Australia. National Heart Foundation of Australia, 2019

3 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2018

4 Mental Health, Department of Health, Australian Government 2020

Club leaders, often volunteers, help create connections on behalf of their club/group with the broader community. These connections not only provide clubs/groups with access to knowledge, funding, expertise, resources, and facilities; but provide significant benefits to social and business connections within the shire's community¹.

Inclusion

Council aims to create an inclusive environment for all community members regardless of age, gender, sexual preference, ability level, disability, ethnic background and socio-economic status. Sport and active recreation (organised) perform an important bridging role within the shire's community by creating settings where people can play and build relationships across age, gender, religious, ethnic and economic differences.

CALD

Immigrants from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds face many challenges in becoming active participants in sport and active recreation activities. Sport and active recreation are identified as one of the key planks of Australia's social inclusion agenda, building the sense of belonging and civic pride which is critical for integration. CALD communities around Australia have developed CALD community-based sport and active recreation leagues which strength of communities and develop trusted community mentors. These leagues and clubs also provide security and facilitate the development of key lifelong networks of friends and service providers.

The barriers to CALD community participation in sport and active recreation have been widely documented and include lack of awareness and understanding, cost of participating, uniform cultural sensitivities, communication and language barriers, culturally inappropriate food, racism and access to facilities.

Modified sports

Many sporting organisations have modified their sport to target children. However, to ensure sport and active recreation is inclusive to all, a number of sporting organisations have modified their traditional sport to make them more accessible to various potential participatory groups such as older adults, persons with disability and time poor people.

To increase and sustain participation numbers in sport among children sports have been modified to offer a fun and socially relevant activities designed to develop fundamental movement skills and encourage future participation in the targeted sport. Overall, modified sports provide structured, age-appropriate, skill development while appropriately introducing competitive sports, although the element of 'competition' may be de-emphasised. Successful modified sports programs for children include Net-Set-Go, AusKick and Milo Cricket.

Sport and active recreation are able to provide immediate and long-term relief to people with disabilities. Sport and active recreation clubs/group have the ability to develop a culture of inclusion and ensure that people with a

disability are valued for their contribution. As such, are valued for their contribution. As such, a number of sports have modified their rules to accommodate a participant's ability to perform or created mixed leagues to ensure all participants feel they are part of the team and club. Examples of such programs include wheelchair rugby, netball, basketball and tennis.

Engagement in low impact and non-competitive, playful sport and active recreation can make a real difference to the emotional and physical health of older adults and potentially enhance their quality of life^{2,3}. Modified sports, such as walking netball, have had enormous success amongst the older community, particularly women, with walking netball programs being rolled out across the country as participation numbers and demand increase.

Modified sports can also be aimed at providing faster, less formal, and more social, formats that can be attractive to adults. These modified sports seek to engage people who are either time poor or enjoy being active but with less emphasis on competition.

Social intervention

Sport, and more recently active recreation, is known for its role in preventing or reducing crime and other anti-social behaviour, particularly among the youth.

Generally, places with high levels of social capital are safer and better governed, compared to those places with low levels. The role of peer groups in anti-social behaviour is well documented. Participation in sport and active recreation clubs/groups provides youth with accessible, appropriate activities in a supportive social environment which has been found to help with desirable peer association by providing positive social contexts.

The mental health benefits gained from regular physical activity, including improved self-esteem and emotional and cognitive skills combined with reduced opportunities for boredom and unsupervised leisure time also contribute to crime reduction and anti-social behaviour.

Volunteerism

An important phenomenon in sport and active recreation is the role of volunteers. Without them, there would be fewer activities or they would be more expensive to participate in. Most importantly, volunteers often form the 'human face' of sport and active recreation. Performing coaching, management and organisational functions, the importance of their role within the community extends much further. Often the first point of contact for new and current participants, volunteers build and enhance social capital by facilitating social connectedness, networking and integrating different communities with the club.

1 A Review of the Social Impacts of Culture and Sport. Taylor, Davies, Wells, Gilbertson & Tayleur 2015

2 Mental Health, Department of Health, Australian Government 2020

3 You think you are too old to play? Bronikowska, Bronikowska & Schott 2011

Northern Grampians Shire character

The Northern Grampians Shire local government area (LGA) is characterised by its diverse and rugged landscapes. The area is dominated by the Grampians mountain range, which boasts towering peaks and scenic valleys that are covered with native bushland and dotted with waterfalls. The Grampians are a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts, offering opportunities for hiking, rock climbing, camping, and wildlife viewing. The area is home to a range of native flora and fauna, including rare and endangered species, and is considered to be of significant cultural and spiritual importance to Indigenous Australians.

The shire is also characterised by its rolling hills, farmlands, and scenic rivers. The Wimmera River, which runs through the region, along with a number of lakes, provides recreational opportunities, and water sports. The fertile farmlands of the area are primarily used for grazing livestock and growing crops, including wheat, barley, and canola. The region's rural character is emphasized by its small towns, which offer a peaceful and relaxed way of life, and by its many charming country roads and scenic drives.

Council directly manages a diverse range of parks, reserves, civic spaces and streetscapes that contribute to the lifestyle and amenity of the towns, villages and communities across the shire. Over the past decade, council has focussed on enhancing public open spaces, sport facilities and streetscapes through upgrading facilities and planting additional street trees. Increasing the network of walking and cycling paths has also been a priority.

Planning areas

The shire includes the larger towns of Stawell and St Arnaud, and several villages and outlying communities. For the purpose of the Strategy, the shire has been divided into planning areas. The planning area boundaries are determined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for data collection purposes. In effect, the entire population of Northern Grampians Shire will be considered for the Strategy. The planning areas are detailed in the table below.

Northern Grampians Shire planning areas.

Townships	Communities of Interest	
Stawell	Glenorchy	Marnoo
St Arnaud	Great Western	Navarre
	Halls Gap	Stuart Mill





Map of planning areas within Northern Grampians Shire.

Facility hierarchy

The facility hierarchy proposed in the previous Strategy should remain in place to ensure clarity in expectations for facility provision across the shire. This is a three- level facility hierarchy consistent with the research findings and industry trends utilised for the council in order to guide the future development and provision of open space and recreation facilities. Industry research indicates there will be need for categorisation systems for open space and separately for sport and recreation built form facilities and playing fields.

The three hierarchies are:

Regional

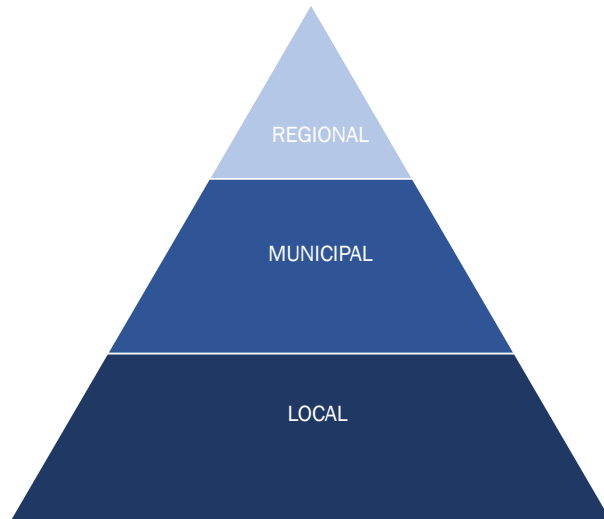
Significant facilities catering for the whole shire and surrounding areas and of a high quality. Generally only one (sometimes two) across a shire.

Municipal

Facilities that are accessed from people across the shire. Generally of a high standard and only a few within the shire, usually within the main population centres.

Local

Facilities that service their immediate town and surrounding localities without the expectations of quality as for the Regional and Municipal facilities. The most numerous type of facility, generally spread across townships and across localities.



The service levels of ground and building maintenance will be provided in line with the hierarchical structure. The higher standard Regional facility will usually require a greater level of maintenance. Classifications should be reassessed every five years or as facilities are upgraded or user needs change.

The definitions for the three- level facility hierarchy open space facilities are detailed in the following table.



Classification	Description	Examples	Indicative level of service
Regional	High quality facilities that provide either one or several sports and service the entire Shire and surrounding areas. They are also capable of attracting regular State and Regional events and may have the ability to attract National events	Central Park	High level of service from council with limited responsibilities for tenant organisations
Municipal	Catering for use across the Shire and of high quality (although generally not as high as for Regional facilities). Usually providing for two or more sports/activities, they can attract regular regional events and may sometimes cater for State events.	Stawell Leisure Centre St Arnaud & District Tennis Centre North Park Lord Nelson Park	Also a high level of service from Council but more likely to have additional contributions from tenant organisations
Local	Generally acceptable to be of a lower quality than Regional and Municipal facilities, Local facilities will generally be of a multi-purpose nature (where a demand exists) and provide for local competition and training. They service the immediate town and surrounding localities and are the most common level of facility across the Shire.	Great Western Recreation Reserve Marnoo Recreation Reserve Navarre Recreation Reserve King George's Park	Very limited level of service from council with bulk of maintenance responsibilities lying with local clubs or community committees. Council will most likely financially contribute to such committees.

It is important to note that not all levels of the Sport Facility Hierarchy are applicable to all sports. Generally lower participation sports may only have one or two levels (e.g. softball/baseball, hockey, rugby union) whilst higher participation sports may have all three levels (e.g. netball, cricket, Australian Rules Football) in order to be able to cater for the varying standards of competition.



Legislation and planning context

Australian legislation and planning context

A range of Commonwealth legislation and programs influence public open space, as well as structured (sport) and unstructured recreation pursuits during leisure time. Those that will be referenced significantly in relation to development of the Strategy are summarised below:

Sport 2030 - National Sport Plan

Sport 2030 is the Australian Government's vision for sport nationwide and aims to ensure Australia is the world's most active and healthy nation, and also known for integrity and sporting success. The National Sport Plan has four key priority areas aimed at creating a platform for sporting success. The priorities are:

- Build a more active Australia — More Australians, more active, more often
- Achieving sporting excellence — National pride, inspiration and motivation through international sporting success
- Safeguarding the integrity of sport — A fair, safe and strong sport sector free from corruption
- Strengthening Australia's sport industry — A thriving Australian sport and recreation industry.

AusPlay - The Australian sport and physical activity participation survey

The Australian Sports Commission's (ASC) task is to strengthen sport and it aims to achieve this through research to provide evidence for strategy and decision-making.

In October 2015 the ASC commenced the AusPlay survey, a large scale national survey tracking the sporting behaviours and activities of the Australian population. The survey data informs Sport 2030 - the National Sport Plan.

The objectives of AusPlay are to:

- provide insights to help sports grow participation and track trends
- provide data that informs government investment, policy and program delivery
- identify and describe links between sport participation and other influential factors.

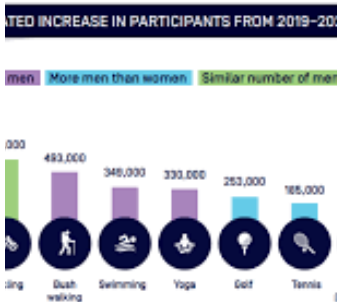
AusPlay data will be used to inform the Strategy.

Australian physical activity and sedentary behaviour guidelines

The guidelines recognise the importance of physical activity to maintaining physical and mental health and wellbeing throughout people's lifespans. The guidelines set out how much physical activity is required for age groups and during pregnancy. The guidelines outline:

- how much physical activity you should do each day
- ideas to fit more physical activity into your daily life
- the importance of reducing and breaking up the time you spend sitting or lying down when not sleeping
- how much sedentary screen time is recommended
- how much sleep children and young people should get
- how children and young people can get good quality sleep.

The guidelines reflect scientific evidence from around the world and consultation with stakeholders, state and territory governments, and national and international experts.



Victorian legislation and planning context

The provision and development of land for sport and active recreation is guided by several pieces of State Government legislation, as well as strategies and policies.

The Northern Grampians Planning Scheme also guides and supports appropriate land dedication and facility development. A summary of key legislation, strategies and policies to be used to prepare this Strategy, are listed below.

Legislation

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Land use in Victoria is regulated by the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (The Act) which allows plans to be made to guide the process of development and to regulate competing land uses. The Act enables planning through subordinate instruments including the Victoria Planning Provisions, planning scheme, regulations and Ministerial directions.

The Northern Grampians Planning Scheme is the principal land use planning instrument applying to land in the Northern Grampians local government area.

Ministerial directions

Directions can be issued by the Minister for Planning to planning authorities about the preparation of planning schemes and amendments to planning schemes. These directions apply to planning scheme layout and required information, including amendments to those planning schemes, and should be read in conjunction with the Victoria Planning Provisions. When preparing a planning scheme or an amendment, planning authorities must consider all Ministerial directions.

Subdivision Act 1988

Northern Grampians Shire Council does not currently have an Infrastructure Contributions Plan and Policy. Therefore, it currently relies on the *Subdivision Act 1988* for open space contributions.

The Act governs the requirements and guidelines for subdividing land. The Act is an important piece of legislation that helps to balance the need for urban development with the preservation of green spaces and public recreation areas.

One of the provisions of the act pertains to open space contributions. When a piece of land is subdivided, the Act requires that a certain amount of open space must be set aside for public use. This open space contribution is calculated as a percentage of the total area of the subdivision and must be provided in the form of parks, embellishments such as playgrounds, sports fields or other public recreation areas. The aim of this requirement is to ensure that new developments have adequate public open space for residents to enjoy, thus enhancing the liveability of the area.

Local Government Act 2020

The Local Government Act 2020 aims to achieve improved service delivery, innovation, collaboration, and sustainable futures through:

- better financial management and community engagement
- clearer standards of behaviour for elected representatives
- increased council and councillor accountability
- changes to election processes and candidate requirements

Strategies and policies

Active Victoria 2022-2026

Active Victoria sets out Victoria's priorities for sport and active recreation to support economic growth and jobs, contribute to health and happiness, building community cohesion and contributing to the liveability of local communities.

There are six priority outcomes of the Plan:

- increasing equitable participation in sport and active recreation
- delivering quality infrastructure that is accessible, respectful and inclusive
- building the capacity of the sport and active recreation workforce
- implementing good governance practices to ensure a safe and sustainable sector
- supporting a pipeline of sporting events within the Victorian events calendar
- encouraging Victorians to achieve success at the highest level through high performance.

Design for Everyone Guide

Victoria's Design for Everyone Guide is a practical resource to assist the planning, design and development of inclusive sport and recreation facilities. The principles underpinning the guide will be applied to both Strategies to support inclusive design.

Female friendly sport infrastructure guidelines

Female participation rates in sport and active recreation remain lower than males in Victoria, particularly in community sport and recreation clubs.

The Female Friendly Sport Infrastructure Guidelines provide information and advice on how to deliver more gender equitable environments for community clubs, governing sport and recreation bodies, facility managers, and local government.

The guidelines ultimately aim to provide the range of amenities that attract and sustain women and girls' participation, along with supporting cultural change to provide a strong foundation for participation increases.

Guidelines for preventing violence against women: Taking action through community sport

The Guidelines acknowledge the role that members of community sport clubs can play in influencing positive behaviours and attitudes around gender equality, respectful relationships and the prevention of gender-based violence.

The Guidelines include practical tools, strategies, and advice to support state sporting associations, regional sports assemblies, local councils, women's health services and community health organisations to develop projects that meet the needs of the communities they serve.

Regional strategic planning context

Regional strategic planning refers to the process of developing long-term plans for the growth and development of the various regions within the state. This planning process involves collaboration between local government authorities, state government agencies, and other stakeholders, and is aimed at ensuring that the growth and development of each region is well-coordinated, sustainable, and in line with the overall goals and priorities of the state. Regional strategic planning in Victoria is an important tool for managing the balance between economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity, and helps to ensure that the state's regions continue to be attractive places to live, work and visit. By working together, regional strategic planning helps to create thriving and sustainable communities that are well-positioned to meet the needs of residents now and into the future.

Activate Plan 2020-2030

Activate 2020–2030 is a 10-year regional strategic plan enabling a coordinated and collaborative approach aimed at increasing participation in sport and active recreation for the following Councils:

- Ararat Rural City Council
- City of Ballarat
- Golden Plains Shire Council
- Hepburn Shire Council
- Moorabool Shire Council
- Northern Grampians Shire Council
- Pyrenees Shire Council.

To provide a regional framework, a 10-year action plan and a plan-on-a-page that enables a coordinated and collaborative approach aimed at increasing participation in sport and active recreation for liveability, health and wellbeing.

The four strategic priorities of the Plan are:

- Working together
- Activating places and spaces
- Creating quality physical environments
- Community cohesion through sport and active recreation.

Regional Growth Plan

The Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan is aimed at guiding a coordinated regional response to population growth and regional change over the next 30 years. The plan recognises key environmental, cultural, recreational, economic, tourism and natural resources of value that require preservation, maintenance or development. The plan supports growth in the Northern Grampians Shire, particularly in the district towns of Stawell and St Arnaud that support communities of interest across the Shire.

Western Region Sustainable Water Strategy

The Western region covers around one-third of Victoria from Colac and Lorne in the south-east to Ouyen in the north-west. Its agricultural and urban centres include Colac, Port Campbell, Horsham, Stawell, Ararat, Hamilton, Warrnambool and Portland.

The Western Region Sustainable Water Strategy includes policy statements and 69 actions for implementation at a regional and local scale.

Waterways and water bodies often have cultural significance and contribute to the landscape character. They also can provide recreation opportunities for residents and visitors, if safe and appropriate.

Council is reaping the benefits of securing ample water supply for a range of uses and applications, including irrigation of recreation and sport parks.

Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Strategy

The Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Strategy (GRCAS) is a comprehensive plan developed to address the impacts of climate change. The GRCAS aims to help the region prepare for and respond to the impacts of a changing climate, including increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events, changes in rainfall patterns, and rising temperatures. It outlines a range of actions that can be taken to reduce the vulnerability of the region and its communities to the impacts of climate change, and to ensure that the region is better able to adapt to these changes over time.

The GRCAS takes a collaborative approach with a range of stakeholders including local government, businesses, community organisations, and government agencies. Based on the latest climate science, it considers the unique characteristics and needs of the Grampians region, and focuses on key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, water management, and infrastructure, identifying practical actions that can be taken to enhance the resilience of these sectors to the impacts of climate change. The GRCAS is an important step towards building a more resilient and sustainable future for the region and its communities.

Planning for sporting facilities for the future requires consideration of the impact of climate change, and can form part of adaptation and mitigation actions.

Wimmera Regional Catchment Strategy

The Wimmera Regional Catchment Strategy (WRCS) is a long-term plan for the management of the Wimmera region's water resources. The WRCS is aimed at balancing the region's economic, environmental, and social needs by managing water resources in a sustainable and integrated manner. It provides a framework for the protection and management of the region's rivers, wetlands, and groundwater resources, and sets out a vision for a sustainable future that supports the growth and development of the region while also safeguarding its natural assets.

The WRCS focuses on a range of key issues, including water quality, water availability, and the protection of important ecological assets such as wetlands. It also provides a framework for the integration of water management into broader planning processes, such as land use planning and economic development. By taking a collaborative and integrated approach, the WRCS helps to ensure that the region's water resources are managed in a way that meets the needs of the current and future generations.

Access to and proximity to water bodies has numerous benefits to people's health and wellbeing. Swimming, fishing, boating, and other water-based activities are popular recreational pursuits and offer a chance to exercise, relax, and connect with nature. The sound (waves, flowing water) and presence of water can also have a calming effect, reducing stress and improving mental health. Additionally, the natural beauty of waterways can also serve as a source of inspiration for artists, photographers, and writers, helping to foster creativity and a sense of purpose. Overall, the value of access and proximity to water bodies in Australia is widely recognised as a crucial aspect of a healthy, balanced lifestyle.



Sport and Active Recreation Strategy

Council strategic planning context

Northern Grampians Shire Council has undertaken strategic planning for a range of key issues to provide a clear direction and framework for decision-making and to ensure that the resources and efforts of council are aligned with its goals and priorities. Council's strategic planning includes economic development, health and wellbeing, and land use and infrastructure planning.

Quality strategic planning includes engaging with the community, gathering data and information, analysing trends, and developing a vision for the future. The resultant plan is then used as a roadmap to guide decision-making and allocate resources to achieve the desired outcomes. Through its strategic planning processes and activities, council aims to create vibrant, sustainable, and liveable communities across the shire.

A selection of council's strategic planning is summarised below to provide context for the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy under development.

Council Plan

The four-year Council Plan sets out how council will deliver outcomes identified in key council strategic planning documents such as:

- Asset Plan
- Financial Plan
- Economic Development Strategy
- Shire Vision 2041.

Economic Development Strategy Action Plan 2021-31

Council recognises that targets within the plan are ambitious goals to reach by 2031, however the aspiration is to *"Uplift our communities economic wellbeing and quality of life."*

The Action Plan identifies how council and the community aim to:

- grow the population, and lower the median age
- grow the economy
- grow the economic capacity and engagement of residents.

Of relevance to this new work under development, a key strategy (1a ii) is to 'ensure diverse and enriching places and experiences that offer an attractive lifestyle alternative'.

Financial Plan 2021-2031

Council's Financial Plan projects expenditure over the next 10 years to deliver services, maintain and renew existing assets and build new infrastructure.

Council currently spends over \$28 million to deliver an estimated 40 services and functions, and manages over \$500 million worth of community assets consisting of roads, drains, footpaths, buildings, sporting facilities, recreation reserves and streetscapes. Council can only fund \$6 million of asset replacement annually, instead of the required \$10 million, due to income and revenue constraints.



Asset Plan 2022-32

Council developed an Asset Plan in 2022 to ensure assets relating to roads, bridges and culverts, footpaths, buildings, kerb and channel, stormwater drainage, and open space are strategically managed to meet current and future needs of the community. Footpaths and open space assets are the most relevant for the Strategies being developed.

Community engagement undertaken to inform development of the Asset Plan revealed the following positive feedback from respondents in relation to open space and active recreation:

- 67% believe open space is meeting current community needs
- 69% believe open space assets are well utilised
- 90% believe the size of open spaces meet community requirements
- 70% believe the quality of open space meets community expectations
- all prefer multi-use facilities rather than single use

The plan recognises that future demands for new and altered services provided by assets will result from a range of factors that are to be proactively managed to maximise efficiency and value for money for the community. Integration with Council's long-term financial plan is integral to appropriate management of assets.

The Strategies will contribute to Council's Asset Plan by providing additional rigour around data gathered through open space and facility inspections, and by making recommendations relating to asset renewal, upgrade or replacement, as well as rationalisation where appropriate.

The Strategies may also contribute to Level of Service planning for parks and reserves, although this will be high-level input rather than detailed analysis.



Northern Grampians Shire Council Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021

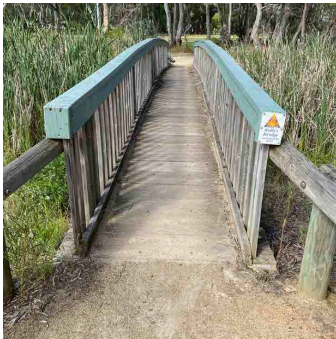
Council collaborated with state government agencies and non-government and community organisations to develop a plan to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes for residents.

The Vision of the Plan is: Northern Grampians where communities are thriving, healthy and welcoming.

The goals of the Plan are:

- improving mental health and wellbeing
- increasing access to health services
- reducing family violence
- increasing healthy eating and active living
- act on climate change.

The goals of the Health and Wellbeing Plan have been incorporated into the Strategy to ensure alignment.



Stawell Parks Precinct Plan 2019

The Precinct Plan includes Central Park, Cato Park and the Swans Project water storage and treatment ponds bordering Maude Street. Key directions included:

- paths and access
- fit-for-purpose sport facilities
- presentation and interface
- lakes and wildlife
- inclusive play facilities
- vegetation.

Implementation of the directions will be reviewed as part of the Open Space and Active Transport and Sport and Active Recreation Strategies, to either support or offer amendments, based on current community needs.



2021 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey - Northern Grampians Shire Council

The annual Community Satisfaction Survey (CCS) surveys local residents to provide feedback to council regarding services and facilities, and provides a benchmark and comparison allowing council to adjust focus to meet the needs and expectations of its community.

The overall performance of council has improved since 2019, with waste management and decisions made in the interests of the community underpinning positive ratings by residents. The survey has not sought feedback relating specifically to open space, active transport, sport or active recreation, however it may in the future.

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy 2014

In 2014, council developed an open space, sport, and recreation strategy to identify priority projects to respond to the changing needs of the community and increase participation in sport and recreation activities by all members of the community. Priority projects, programs and services were identified to meet Council's strategic objectives over a 10-year timeframe.

Council has progressed several of the recommended actions from the 2014 strategy, and these are summarised further in this report.

St Arnaud Structure Plan - emerging themes

Council is in the process of working with the community to develop a Structure Plan for St Arnaud to:

- establish the township boundary and protect its rural surrounds for agricultural uses
- support and expand existing industries, and enhance the town's role as a regional centre
- provide a range of housing for the changing community and to attract new residents and tourists
- enhance the lifestyle, character and heritage features that make the town special
- create a network of pedestrian and cycling paths, and enhance road network capacity for industry expansion.

In relation to recreation, opportunities have been identified to create opportunities to extend the network of high quality public spaces to suit different recreational needs of the existing and future community.

Shire Community Vision 2041

The Northern Grampians Shire Community Vision 2041 sets the community's priorities for the next 20 years and aims to inform the strategic planning and decision-making processes for the future of the shire.

Two key themes are of particular relevance to development of the Strategy:

- Wellness and Welfare** - develop the facilities and capabilities to deliver a range of recreational activities and events for all ages
- Improving Connectivity** - identify improved transport connections that help people get where they want to be.

These strategic directions will guide planning to develop the Strategy.

North Park Master Plan 2022-32

The purpose of the master plan is to provide an understanding of the current and potential future uses of the site, and enable council to consult, plan and design in a structured and informed manner. This plan has:

- identified active and passive opportunities, including those linked to Central and Cato Park
- identified existing and future capability and design options to ensure sustainable recreation provision
- supported investment at North Park to transform the current 'siloed' infrastructure into an integrated and well-connected precinct for active and passive recreation.

Great Western Future Plan (GWFP) 2014-2024

The GWFP presents a range of development and growth initiatives for the township.

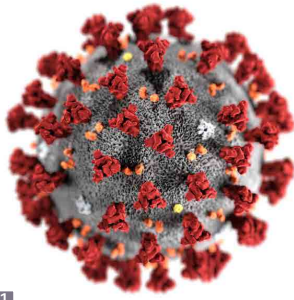
A proposed initiative relative to and considered as part of this Strategy was:

- undertake a master plan for Memorial Park (linking to Recreation Reserve and Racecourse Precinct).

KEY THEMES FROM COUNCIL PLANNING

When considered together, the review of council's previous planning highlights a number of key considerations:

- Northern Grampians Shire offers an enviable lifestyle with community wellbeing as a cornerstone
- council engages the community to identify needs and aspirations, and plans accordingly
- council acknowledges the importance of walk and cycle infrastructure as key contributors to positive health and equity outcomes
- council acknowledges the importance of public open space, recreation and sport facilities for the community
- council recognises the unique attributes of individual communities across the shire and aims to reflect characteristics in future planning
- council is aware of the need to preserve the lifestyle available in the shire for current and future generations.



01



02



03



04

- 01_ COVID-19 has impacted the use of the public realm
- 02_ Technology changes impact recreation participation
- 03_ Social media provides new ways for people to engage with parks
- 04_ Walking remains the activity with the highest participation rate

Major trends in sport and active recreation

Participation patterns in recreation and sport are changing at a community level. Factors such as a move toward non-organised or social sport, increased outdoor nature-based recreation and increased use of technology have all had a significant impact on how people recreate and use public open space. Understanding these trends (and their impacts) is important as Council looks to develop strategies, programs and facilities to encourage people to engage in sport and active recreation.

COVID-19

At the time of undertaking this work, the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic was in its fourth year and was continuing to impact many aspects of traditional society. While in many parts of Australia semblances of 'normal' life has returned, longer term impacts are currently the subject of further study and investigation.

After Australia's initial lockdown period in the first half of 2020, a number of new, staged public protective measures commenced with State and Federal Governments enforcing restrictions to maintain good hygiene and stop the spread of the virus. The government recommendations included:

- social distancing of a minimum 1.5m from any other person
- limited numbers of people for indoor and outdoor gatherings
- limited number of patrons for restaurants
- restrictions on team sports including change rooms, number of supporters and physical distancing.

Toward the end of 2022 and early 2023, with distribution and take-up of vaccines occurring worldwide, it is likely that the impact of the pandemic will have lasting effects on design aspects and use of the public realm.

Some investigations are occurring into the potential effect of COVID-19 on where people want to live, and the influence of technological connectivity allowing some workers to choose a place to live that is not constrained by proximity to work. During the peak of the pandemic, house prices (particularly in major capital cities in Australia) continued to increase, providing another consideration for people's home location choices. The impacts of these factors on population projections in regional locations such as the Northern Grampians is not yet known, however provides an opportunity to promote the lifestyle benefits on offer across the Shire.

Council's future planning and design of public parks and places will benefit from referring to guides such as *Streets for Pandemic Response and Recovery* to ensure the optimum in public health standards are maintained in public spaces including parks and sporting facilities.

How Australians' participation in sport and physical activity is adapting to COVID-normal

In July 2022, AusPlay data was reported showing further evidence of how participation in sport and recreation is changing for Australians. In summary:

- compared with 2019, the average mix of activities per person is increasing, with fewer people relying solely on sporting clubs or organised venues for exercise
- physically-distanced (COVID-safe) or home-based activities are increasingly popular, including walking, bush walking, tennis, pilates, mountain biking, and canoeing/kayaking
- "exergaming" is now one of the top 20 activities for Australians aged 15+
- social and mental health benefits of exercise are increasingly important for Australians aged 15+
- participation by children in sport is lower than 2019, however, there are indications that children are returning to regular (1+ per week) participation.

Technology

In just one generation, there has been a dramatic shift in childhood activity from outdoors to indoors. This has been driven in part by increased use of technology. Technology remains one of the main contributors towards decreased physical activity and increased sedentary behaviour. However, active gaming is becoming a contemporary approach to exercise. In some technology-based games, participants are engaged in physical movement by using their bodies as the controllers (thus increasing their heart rate).

Increasing use of smart phones and apps allows people to obtain information, communicate with each other very quickly, and provide feedback on their recreation experience at any time of the day or night. Many people using parks, playgrounds, paths and trails make the decision on where to recreate based on the information available via the internet, blogs, forums and social media.

A number of mobile phone apps are aiding the community in tracking, recording and mapping their activities including walking, running and mountain bike riding. The apps allow participants to compete against themselves, as well as other app users. It can also be a useful tool for managing authorities in determining where the community is currently participating in activities (whether authorised or not).

There are also increasing community expectations of access to technology in recreation areas including WiFi access in key parks, and use of digital tools for information and marketing on tracks and signage.

Increasing 'screen time' during leisure time

Time spent looking at a screen is somewhat unavoidable in many workplaces and schools. More of our leisure time is also being spent looking at screens, at the cost of active leisure activities including socialising, reading, writing, arts and crafts, sports, exercise and recreation¹.

A study conducted using data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics found a clear trend of adult Americans participating in increased screen time (for leisure) and decreasing active leisure over a 13-year period ending in 2015. It is believed that a similar trend applies to adults in Australia. Excessive screen time has been associated with negative health outcomes as people have less time available to participate in physical activity.

Social media

The rise of social media over the past 15 years has provided new ways for people to engage with parks and public places and share their experiences on platforms such as TikTok, Instagram and Facebook. In some cases, this process of sharing and promoting locations has increased visitation. A recent study conducted in the United States identified that millennials are seeking 'brag-worthy' experiences to share on social media².

Participation trends

Since 2015, Sport Australia has conducted a national sport and physical activity participation survey, *AusPlay*.

1 Krause and Sawhill. *How free time became screen time.* 2016
2 *Ways to Make Your Parks Millennial Friendly*, US NRPA. 2015

The most recent results of the survey were released in April 2020. In 2011-12 and 2013-14, a similar survey, the *Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation Survey* was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Between 2001-2010, the *Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey* (ERASS) was conducted by the Committee of Australia Sport and Recreation Officials (CASRO).

Overall, participation in sport and physical activity has increased in the last two decades. More adults participate more frequently compared to 2001. Female participation (at least once each year) has remained on par with male participation throughout. However, more women have constantly participated, more often.

Participation in sport-related activities has not increased, while non-sport physical activities have increased significantly (by more than 20 percent from 2001 to 2019). Participation in non-sport recreation activities such as walking and fitness/gym have increased the most.

More children participate in organised (out-of-school) sport, than adults. The top activities children participate in changes as children age, with a focus on the life skill of swimming for infants and toddlers and running, fitness/gym, football and walking being the dominant activities by the time children reach the ages between 15 and 24 years old.

National participation rates in organised sport have been declining for a number of years as participants move toward more social (drop-in drop-out) sport and informal recreation. It will be important for Council to monitor participation trends into the future to ensure resources are allocated appropriately to support a broad range of both recreation and sport activities.

Walking

Walking continues to be the most popular physical activity across age groups in Australia. Further refinement and implementation of Council's strategic planning for infrastructure that supports walking and cycling for transport and recreation will continue to increase in importance in future years.

On Your Bike

In Australia in 2005, 13% of the population (or 2.1 million people) cycled regularly or occasionally. By 2019 this figure reached 19% (or 3.7 million people)³. Cycling has been reported as one of the top five sport and physical activities from results of the *AusPlay* survey released in 2020. Over 90% of participation in cycling is non-organised, with only 8% of cyclists participating in organised competitions.

Mountain bike riding includes a number of off-road biking styles, including cross-country, downhill, observed trials, cross-country marathon and cyclocross. In November 2020, Mountain Bike Australia, BMX Australia and Cycling Australia amalgamated to form *AusCycling*. *AusCycling* has over 54,000 members and 400 affiliated clubs nationwide across different forms of cycling. There are many mountain bikers who are not registered with *AusCycling*. It is estimated that over half of mountain bike riders are not club or group members.

3 *Roy Morgan Single Source (Australia), April 2014–March 2015 (n=15,913)*

The past decade has seen a steady increase in registered BMX club members with over 17,000 active members (excluding volunteers) nationwide in 2018. BMX bikes are also popular for non-competition recreation and skate parks are popular locations for BMX bikes, as well as other wheeled recreation devices, such as scooters.

Pump tracks are also becoming one of the more popular recreation facilities for all ages. A pump track is a 2-6m wide track for mountain bike, BMX, pedal-less balance bikes, scooters and skateboard riders. The track consists of rollers and banked turns (berms). While there is no set dimensions or design template, layouts consist of continuous loops with different combinations of rollers and berms. The 'pump' part is the pushing-down and pulling-up action performed by riders as the key source of momentum. A well-designed pump track will allow advanced riders to jump from roller to roller and across berms to different parts of the track, rather than just pumping and riding over a prescribed route. In Australia, larger pump tracks tend to be made of asphalt or dirt, with smaller plywood composite and pre-cast concrete tracks also popular.

The various forms of cycling and the growing popularity of all types of bike riding supports evidence of a shift away from structured sport to unstructured recreation. Cycling is also growing in popularity as an active transport method.

Ageing population

Australia's population is ageing due to declining fertility rates and increasing life expectancy. 16% of Australians (4.2 million) were aged 65 and over in 2020. This cohort is projected to grow to 22% of the total population by 2066.

In 2020, AusPlay data revealed that less than half (44%) of older Australians aged 65+ participated in physical activity five times per week.

The change in age structure for people living in Northern Grampians Shire between 2011, 2016, and 2021, indicates increases (+575) in people aged 70+ living in the Shire. Overall, this group represents over 5% of the population, and approximately 2,269 individuals.

Ensuring access to a range of recreation opportunities for older residents in the Northern Grampians will require conscious planning and design, including elements to ensure inclusion and access. Recent research shows that older adults who maintain a higher level of physical capacity may actually slow their ageing process, contributing to improved personal health outcomes including managing cardiovascular disease or diabetes, for example⁴.



4 Richards, R & May, C. *Mature-aged sport and physical activity*. 2019

IMPLICATIONS OF MAJOR TRENDS

Trends are significant changes occurring over the long term that are tracked with data-based evidence. The implications for Northern Grampians include:

- major interruptions from external and uncontrolled sources to 'normal' daily life can occur and may occur again in the future
- technological advances will continue to influence how we interact with the physical environment
- participation in unstructured physical activity is increasing, compared with declining participation in sport. Sport remains important particularly for children and young adults (ages 5-35 years)
- walking remains the most participated in physical activity and safe and comfortable walking and cycling options are key to creating liveable communities. Cycling continues as a strongly growing sport/recreation activity
- imagination and nature-based play provide extended play opportunities compared with traditional equipment 'playgrounds'
- people are reclaiming the public realm, particularly from car dominant uses, and creating spaces where people create a sense of belonging
- people are increasingly aware of living well into older age.

Emerging sports trends

Declining number of volunteers

The rate of volunteering in sport and recreation clubs has been declining for many years. Often, the responsibility for running clubs falls to a small group of key personnel. To address this issue, there is a move toward amalgamations, with multi-sport clubs becoming more common. In other cases, organisations may become aligned to larger licensed clubs, that take over some or all of the volunteers' roles, as well as asset management responsibilities.

Sport precinct provision

There are acknowledged benefits of developing dedicated multi-use sports precincts (rather than single-field facilities).

Large flexible-use sites provide opportunities for shared use of infrastructure and maintenance requirements and enhanced ability to attract funding given the range of users. There are a number of existing multi-use facilities across the region. These larger facilities are important in attracting high-level events that often require large numbers of playing fields and courts.

Field sharing

With many sports extending the lengths of pre-season and season fixtures, sports are no longer classifying themselves as strictly summer or winter sports, this has led to the sharing of field space becoming more difficult. While providers strive to maximise the use of community resources (and State Government espouses field sharing), the reality is that shared use of ancillary facilities (e.g. clubhouses, car parks) rather than fields will be more likely.

Field and court quality

Facility providers face an increasing trend to develop and re-develop sporting fields and courts to a higher standard in order to increase carrying capacity. Upgrades, such as lighting, field irrigation and turf varieties allow training and competition times to be extended and increases the ability of turf playing fields to cope with the resulting wear and tear. Further, to achieve ongoing field quality, fields need 'rest periods' (of up to four weeks) where necessary maintenance can be undertaken.

Emergence of Soccer/Football

The birth of the Stawell Pioneers SC and its subsequent growth over the last 4 years has been excellent for football in the Wimmera region. From 52 participants in its inaugural season in 2019, through 60 in 2020, to 71 in a Covid-19 dampened 2021 season, the club continues to solidify itself as a long-term interest in the area.

Field lighting

Councils across Australia are becoming increasingly aware that through the design and development of modern field lighting, the availability and use of many existing sporting venues can be greatly increased. This reduces the need to develop costly new facilities and to find the required land for such.

Move towards indoor sport and recreation

Anecdotally, there is an emerging trend toward sport participation indoors (e.g. basketball, netball and fitness). Potentially, this move may be a result of a preference for activities in a controlled climate and/or greater mid-week opportunities (compared with outdoor activities and traditional Saturday or Sunday fixtures).

Diversification of sport

Road cycling, mountain biking and eco-tourism activities are all growing as non-traditional physical activities, while modified sports such as T20 cricket and 7s rugby are burgeoning. Changes are placing additional pressure on councils with regard to playing field capacity, facility flexibility and the need to plan for additional demand.

From extreme to mainstream

There has been a recent rise in adventure, extreme and alternative sports that are proving particularly popular with younger generations. These sports typically involve complex and advanced skills and often have some element of inherent danger and thrill-seeking. Examples include freestyle BMX and rock-climbing. These sports are also characterised by a strong lifestyle element and participants often obtain cultural self-identity and self-expression through their involvement. International associations for adventure sports are working hard to obtain inclusion in Paralympic and Olympics events (with both skate boarding and rock climbing included as exhibition sports in the 2020 Olympic Games)

While participation rates in some mainstream and organised sports have held constant (or slightly) declined over the past decade, extreme and action sports have risen in both demand (participation) and supply (industry). These sports are gaining popularity among large segments of Generation Y who connect to a counter-culture of adventure and freedom of expression. At this point, solid longitudinal participation data in these sports and activities remains scant, however, with the landscapes of the region, the opportunities for these sports should be investigated for use and potential.

Busy lifestyles

Shift work, increases in part-time and casual employment and family commitments influence participation as:

- people do not have the time to commit as a regular participant or volunteer
- people seek facilities and participation opportunities with flexible hours.

EMERGING SPORTS TRENDS - LOCAL IMPACTS

- declining numbers of volunteers at many of our local sporting organisations and creates stress on longstanding sporting clubs. There needs to be creative and proactive action in partnership with peak bodies and SSO to review strategies for positive outcomes
- several of the sport reserves/facilities in Northern Grampians Shire are home to multiple sports. There is an opportunity to investigate alternative governance models for clubs, that reflect and take advantage of changes in technology, participation trends, contemporary facility management practices and programming
- energy efficiency initiative opportunities are evident at sporting reserves for upgraded sports lighting, solar energy provision and water supply which would contribute to club sustainability and energy efficiency outcomes.
- soccer/Football continues to grow in the Stawell area and will require ongoing reviews to monitor its direct impacts and impacts on other sports locally. Council has contributed substantially in the last 3 years to new infrastructure including multipurpose clubrooms, lighting and playing surfaces to support its growth.

FOOTBALL (SOCCER) TRENDS

The emergence and growing maturity of football (soccer) in Stawell is a case study into how Council supports the growth of clubs through multi-use infrastructure and programming.

Stawell Pioneers Soccer club was established in 2018 and what was initially a single senior team, has since grown to include junior teams competing across various age groups. Northern Grampians Shire Council supported the club through finding a suitable location in North Park Athletic Track to play, train and operate from. From that location, the club also had access to the entire Sporting Precinct including changerooms, storage and main oval. This was further enhanced through a lighting upgrade to allow for greater access and operating hours for the soccer pitch.

There recently has been a large influx of international workers within the LGA which has been supported through council's Multicultural Action Officer. This connection has enabled council to grow the sport through programming at the Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre in the form of a casual seven a side competition. Council has tailored the program to be accessible and informal to encourage those workers, as well as the broader community to engage with the sport.

Sport and active recreation achievements

Since the adoption of the Northern Grampians Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy in 2014, a commendable volume of work has been undertaken to improve sport and active recreation facilities. A concise summary of achievements is provided here to contribute to the strategic context for development of the next 10-year Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2024-34.

Key achievements since 2014 include:

- master planning of significant parks to guide development and provide the staged implementation of adopted master plans
- upgraded facilities at several sport parks across the Shire
- redevelopment of the Stawell skate park and planning underway for upgrade of the St Arnaud facility
- asset management planning for open space infrastructure.

The 2014 strategy recognised the broad range of sport, recreation, open space and leisure services available in the townships and villages across the Shire, and identified facilities, programs and services as future improvements and opportunities. In particular, the 2014 Strategy identified:

- walking tracks and trails including strategic links within and connecting towns and villages
- upgrades to swimming pools and leisure centre
- improved accessibility
- secure access to lakes and suitable amenities
- youth facilities
- upgrades to sport facilities
- a range of programs and services spanning participation, information and communication, facilities, grants and funding, youth, capacity building, partnership and relationship building, and planning.

The 2014 Strategy provided strategic direction for policy development, facility upgrades and recommended programs and services to meet the communities needs into the future. Council has made progress with many of the identified actions.

The Northern Grampians Shire Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2024-34 builds on the 2014 Strategy, with renewed focus on strategic goals and actions for individual sport and recreation reserves infrastructure and programming to position Northern Grampians Shire as a unique and regionally significant lifestyle location.







Community profile

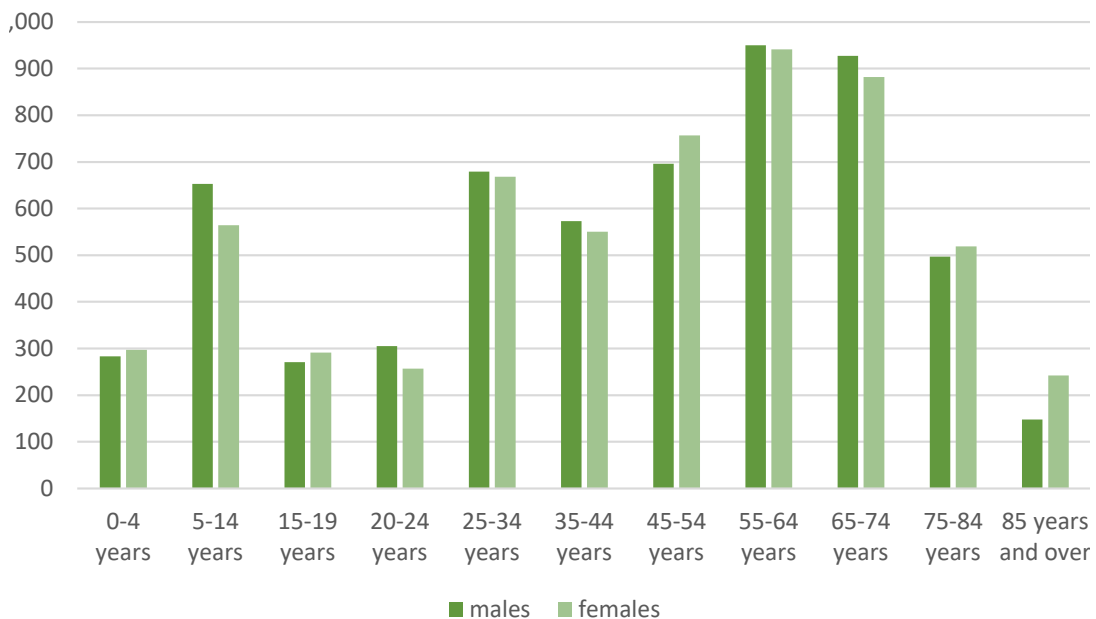
Understanding the shire's demographic profile including age, household composition and income and employment patterns provides an insight into potential sport and recreation needs for the people living across the Northern Grampians Shire. Key demographic information is provided here as an input to further analysis of participation in recreation and sport activities by individuals, as well as groups of people with similar demographic characteristics in the community.

Demographics

The following demographic information is provided as a snapshot in time and is aimed at providing context, and a reference point, as readers consider the overall context for this project.

The demographic profiles on the following pages were sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census 2021 data and REMPLAN population estimates.

Northern Grampians Shire population age groups



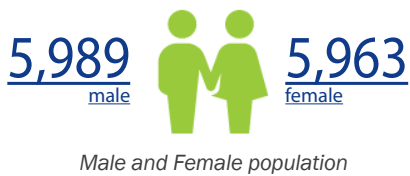
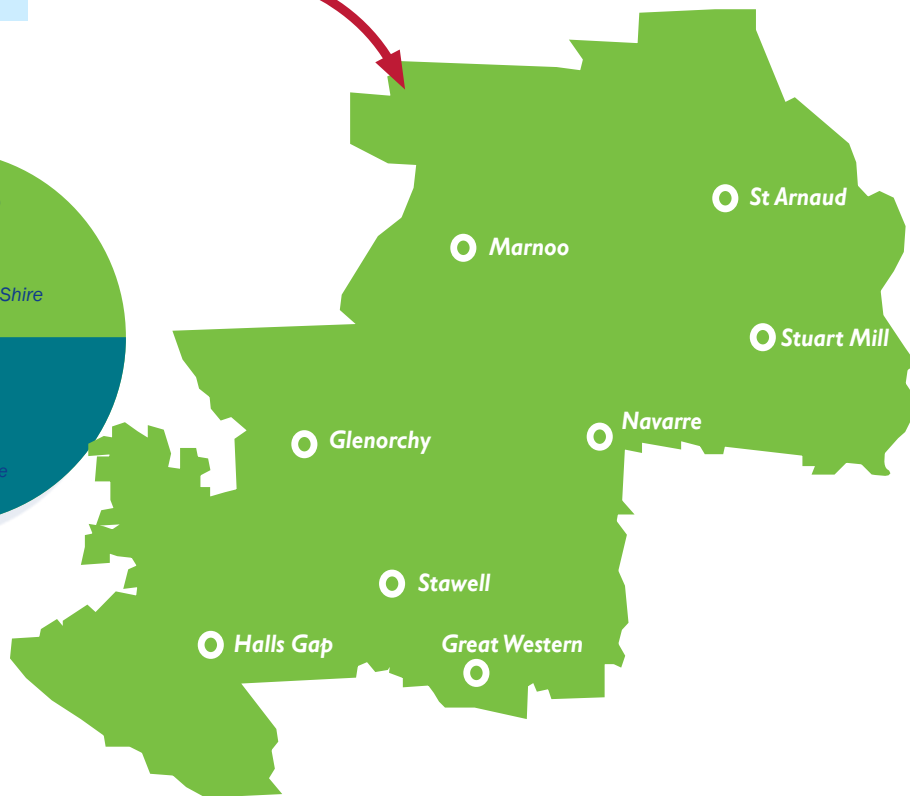
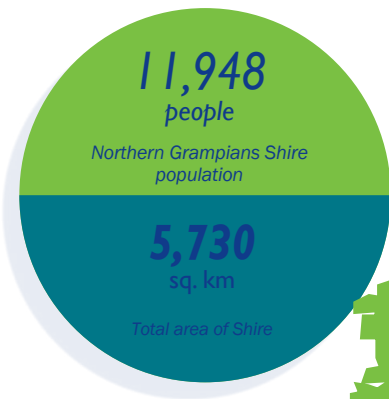


Fig. 01 Northern Grampians Shire Local Government Area and Villages

Stawell township

5,627	population
48	median age
2,853	(50.7%) female
2,774	(49.3%) male
2.1	average people per household
\$1,089	median weekly household income
118	Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander people
2,384	(88.9%) occupied private dwellings
294	(11%) unoccupied private dwellings



Glenorchy



131	population
53	median age
	(57.2%) male
	(42.8%) female
2.1	average people per household
\$1,020	median weekly household income
0	Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander people
53	(88.3%) occupied private dwellings
4	(6.7%) unoccupied private dwellings

Great Western



425	population
52	median age
218	(51.3%) male
207	(48.7%) female
2.2	average people per household
\$1,474	median weekly household income
6	Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander people
182	(88.8%) occupied private dwellings
25	(12.2%) unoccupied private dwellings

Halls Gap



495	population
44	median age
268	(54.1%) male
227	(45.9%) female
2	average people per household
\$1,196	median weekly household income
16	Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander people
184	(44.1%) occupied private dwellings
230	(55.2%) unoccupied private dwellings

St Arnaud township

2,318	population
52	median age
1,203	(51.9%) female
1,115	(49.3%) male
2	average people per household
\$920	median weekly household income
54	Aboriginal/ Torres Strait Islander people
1,042	(86.6%) occupied private dwellings



Marnoo



99	population
52	median age
53	(53.3%) male
46	(46.7%) female
2.1	average people per household
\$900	median weekly household income

Navarre



99	population
54	median age
45	(45.1%) male
54	(54.9%) female
2.2	average people per household
\$814	median weekly household income

Stuart Mill



78	population
57	median age
40	(51.2%) male
38	(48.8%) female
2.1	average people per household
\$1,042	median weekly household income



Consultation outcomes

A range of tools and techniques have been utilised to engage stakeholders (such as State Sporting Organisations, Northern Grampians sporting clubs/organisations and Council officers) including:

- emails introducing the project and seeking input
- on-site and telephone discussions with stakeholders regarding facility issues
- sporting club online survey (and relevant responses to the Open Space and Active Transport online survey)
- telephone interviews and MS Teams meetings.

Council feedback

Various meetings have been held with relevant Council personnel with the main outcomes summarised as follows:

- more emphasis needs to be placed on the ongoing maintenance costs of facilities
- increasing the community use of facilities could be achieved through initiatives such as lighting facilities once a week for the community to use
- recognition of the trend in the rising popularity of informal recreation
- the co-operative development of programs between council and clubs could increase general participation
- current projects were identified that included North Park, the Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre and Stawell skate park
- the frontage of Central Park to Main Steet is unsightly
- the ongoing viability of clubs is an issue
- an additional netball court at Central Park has been requested by the club
- advice is sought regarding a proposal received from the St Arnaud Bowling Club for a significant development involving large shade domes and two synthetic greens.

Sport and Recreation Victoria

- the aim should be a range of diverse facilities across the Shire
- if the Strategy identifies there is not a strong need for new facilities, the focus should be on a more sustainable approach such as activating existing facilities, increasing community use
- the development of gender neutral facilities is becoming increasingly important
- any proposed developments should incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles.

School workshops

Council engaged with students from schools in Stawell and St Arnaud to inform the development of both the Open Space and Active Recreation Strategy and the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy. The outcomes of the school workshops that provide direction for this Strategy include:

- on the whole, students like where they live and appreciate the lifestyle across towns and outlying communities
- popular destinations in St Arnaud include Lord Nelson Park, Queen Mary Gardens, skate park and the tennis club
- popular destinations in Stawell include Cato Park, netball courts and running track at North Park, and Taylors Gully Park
- young people generally feel safe walking and cycling around the towns and on trails, including the rail trail
- interestingly, some younger students felt unsafe at the skate park and Central Park due to the behaviour of other park users
- young people 'hang out' at each other's homes, as well as the popular parks identified above.

Further engagement with school students and young people will be necessary as specific projects identified in the Strategies undergo further detailed planning.

On-line survey

An on-line survey specifically designed to record the needs and wants of local sport and active recreation clubs/organisations was developed and distributed.

It is noted that the closing date for the completion of this survey was extended to ensure the most possible responses were received prior to the development of this draft Strategy. The full responses to all questions have been provided to council separately.

A summary of survey responses is provided following.

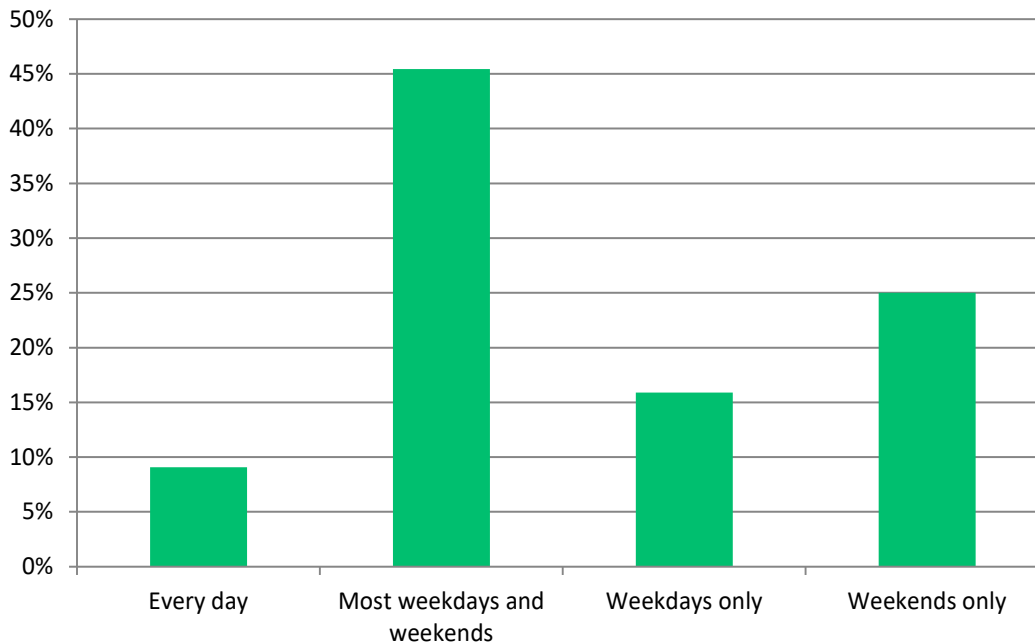
Sporting club survey summary

The on-line survey asked local clubs to identify facility and operational issues currently impacting their club. 45 responses were received from the following clubs/organisations (in order of receipt):

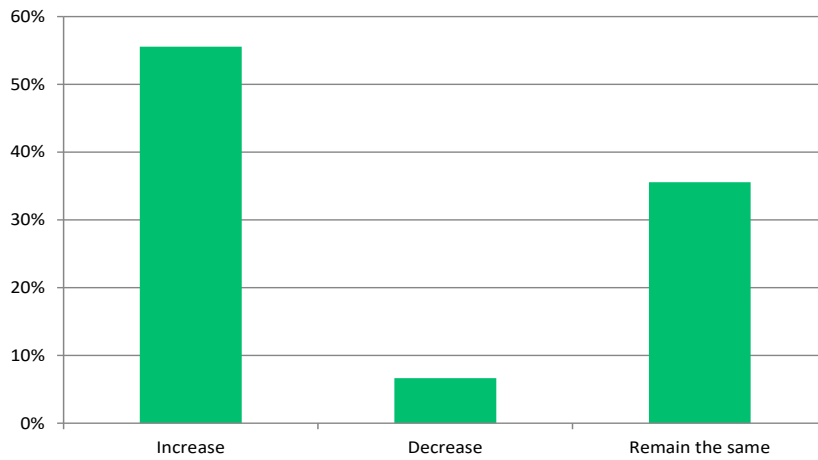
- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> St Arnaud and District Swimming Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Grampians Cricket Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Club Cricket Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> St Arnaud Bowling Club | <input type="checkbox"/> St Arnaud Hockey Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Callawadda/Stawell Clay Target Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Halls Gap Community Sports Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Grampians Bushwalking Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell Racing Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell Women's Day Basketball Club | <input type="checkbox"/> St Arnaud Netball Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Dance Capital |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grampians Field and Game Australia | <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell 13 and Under Football Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Grampians Riding Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell Football and Netball Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell Racquetball Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell Bowling Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell Golf Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell Interchurch Netball Association | <input type="checkbox"/> St Arnaud Harness Racing Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> St Arnaud Pony Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Grampians Petanque Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell Pony Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Western Football Netball Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Halls Gap Caravan Park and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Swifts Great Western Cricket Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marnoo Cricket Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell Wildcats Basketball Association | <input type="checkbox"/> St Arnaud Cricket Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell Little Athletics | <input type="checkbox"/> Swifts Football Netball Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell Amateur Athletic Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Navarre Football Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell Gymnastics Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell Rifle Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Western Racing Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Riding for Disabled | <input type="checkbox"/> Glenorchy Golf Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> St Arnaud and District Lawn Tennis Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Halls Gap Cricket Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell Fire Brigade |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> St Arnaud Swimming Club |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell Pioneers Soccer Club |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Stawell Tennis Club. |

An excerpt of responses received reflect some of the trends identified, are summarised following.

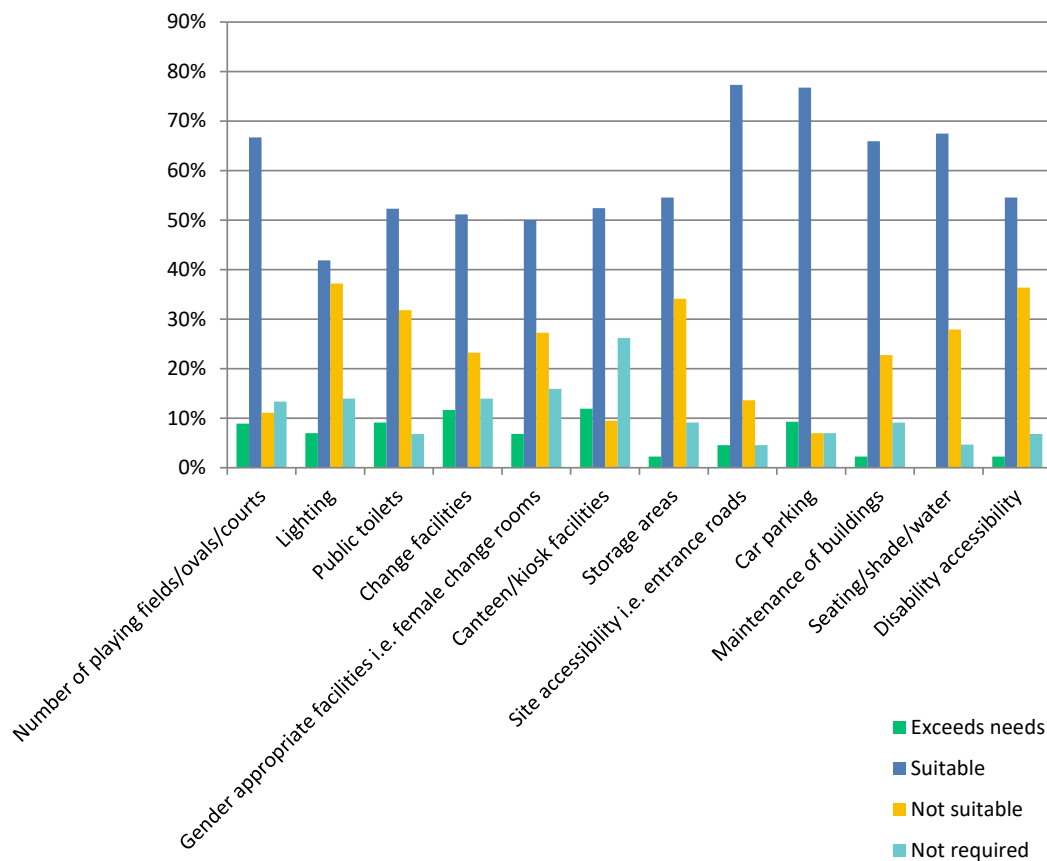
Q: How often do you use your home reservel/facility?



Q: In the next three years, do you expect your membership to:

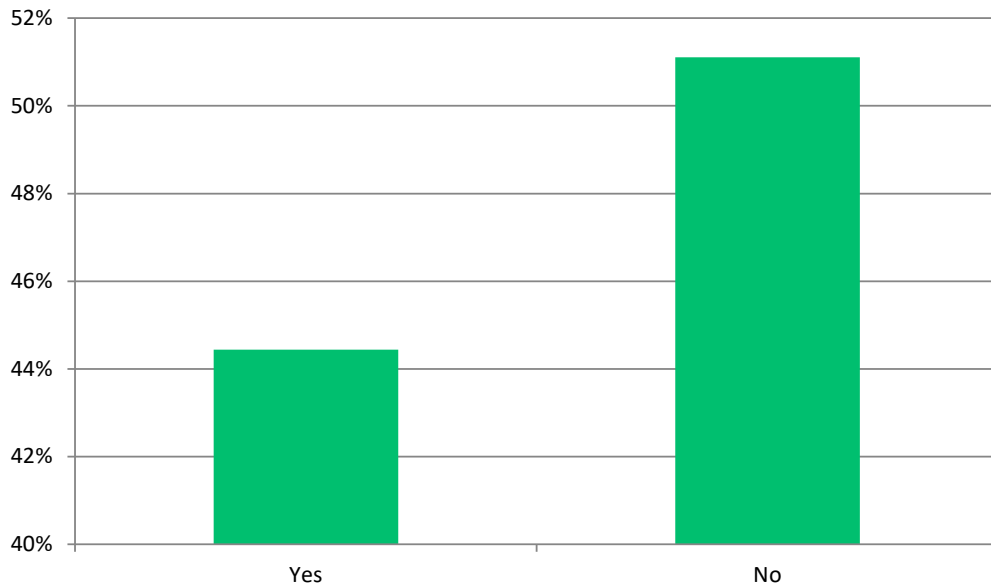


Q: Please indicate whether the facilities used by your organisation are suitable for your requirements:



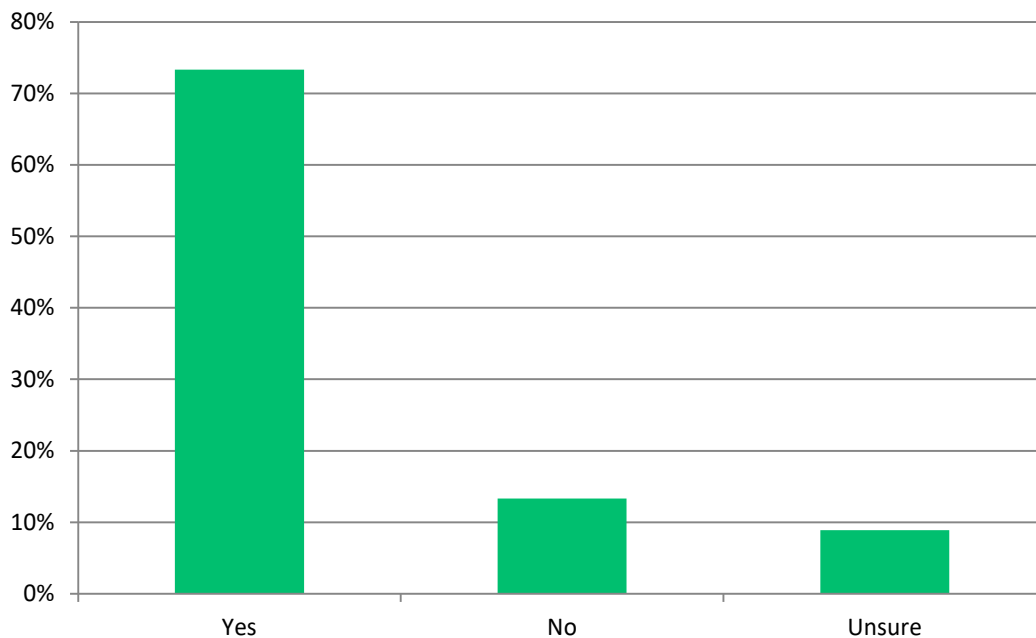
Further establishing that new facilities or major upgrades are not identified as a significant issue across the shire, respondents indicated overwhelmingly that existing facilities are suitable for their needs.

Q: Does your facility meet your needs (now and into the future), considering factors such as infrastructure needs, issues associated with sharing with another club/group, site constraints, etc?



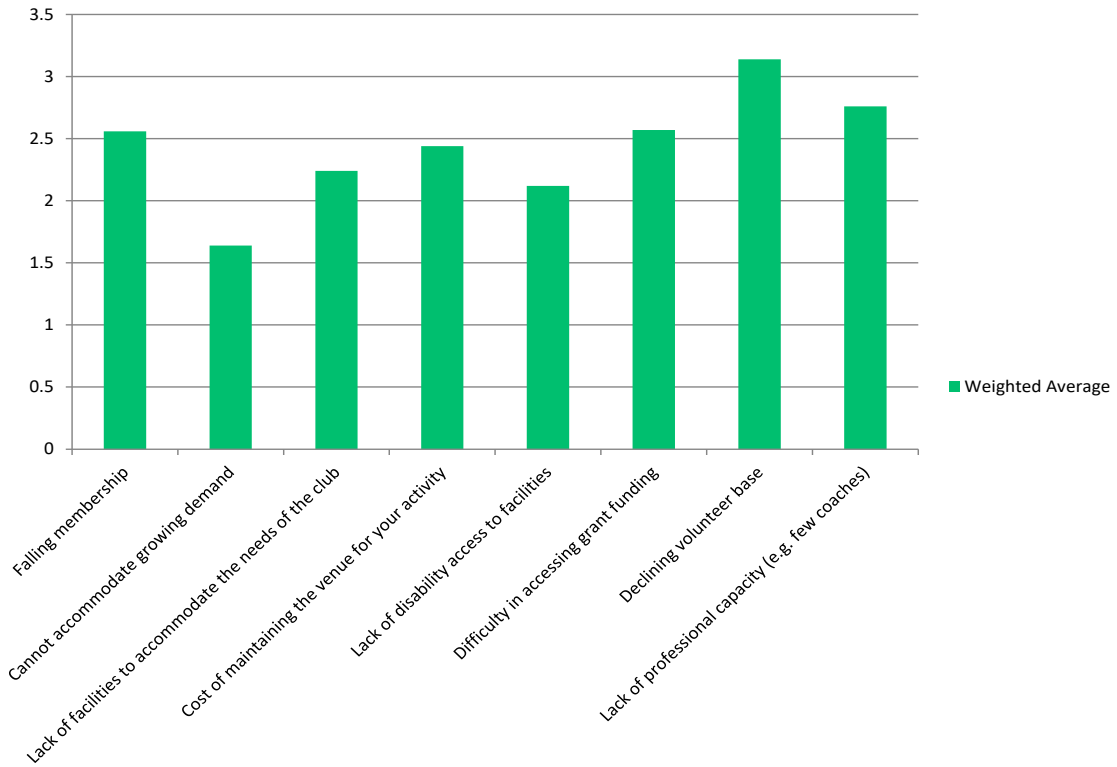
An interesting outcome, considering that few clubs identified specific significant improvements considered necessary for their ongoing viability. The issues identified were generally quite minor with the most common being ageing infrastructure and the lack of storage space.

Q: Do your facilities meet your sport's minimum requirements for competition?



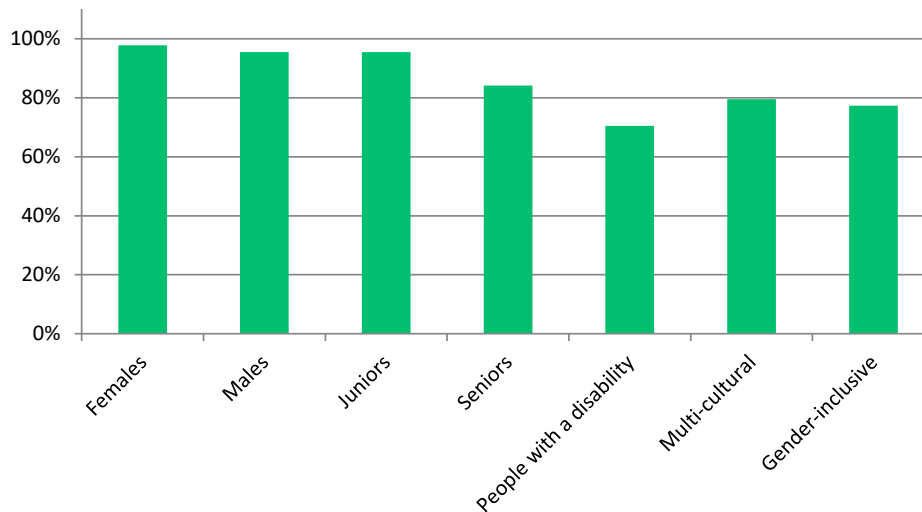
The responses to this question reinforced that the dissatisfaction indicated in the previous question were with minor issues and those that didn't impact greatly on their ability to provide their relevant activities.

Q: Please indicate the extent that your club/organisation is concerned about the following issues (4 being very concerned and 1 being not at all).



Reflecting the overall satisfaction with facilities, the main issues causing concern for clubs were operational, including declining numbers of volunteers, coaches and participants.

Q: Please tick the groups below that your club/organisation currently caters for.



A pleasing outcome, indicating that clubs and facilities across the shire are able (and willing) to cater for a wide range of user groups and participants.

Other identified issues

The majority of other 'general' issues raised by clubs were related to the shared use of facilities and lack of their own fields and ancillary facilities. These issues were quite specific and unfortunately, it is unrealistic to meet all expectations that individual clubs have regarding their own specific facility, both in capital costs and ongoing viability terms.

It should be noted that when asked about the most important facility improvements required, responses were highly varied across a range of minor improvements. The most common responses however, were:

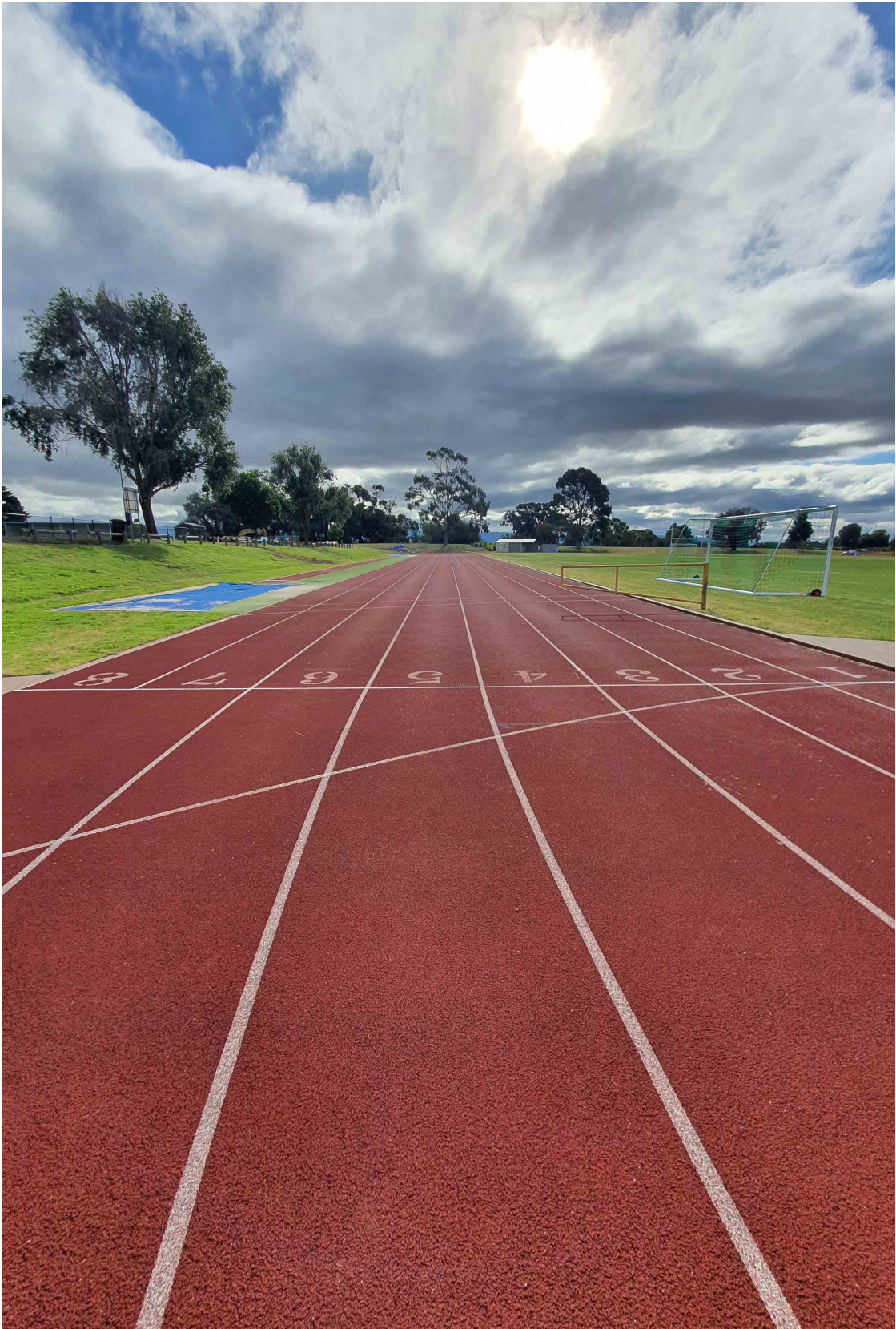
- lack of storage
- inadequate field/court lighting
- disabled access
- lack of gender neutral (female friendly) facilities.

The outcomes of the consultation undertaken has been considered in conjunction with facility inspections, the analysis of relevant trends in sport and active recreation provision and participation data to develop the actions required for this Strategy to guide the direction of sport and active recreation provision in the Shire for the next ten plus years.

IMPLICATIONS OF CONSULTATION

The outcomes of the consultation process reinforced that there was not a high demand for new facilities across the shire and that council's focus should be on assisting local clubs/organisations to activate facilities through improved operations and the facilitation of appropriate programs/activities:

- there is a general high level of satisfaction with facilities across the shire
- the most common identified issues of concern were operational, regarding the declining number of volunteers, professional coaches and participants
- the identified issues that required facility improvements were only minor.





Sport and active recreation provision

Sport facilities are a resource for formal sport training and competition and provide open spaces for active recreation such as informal/social sport, walking/jogging, unstructured play and many other activities that encourage physical activity.

The following section provides a summary of the sport and active recreation facilities located in the shire's Planning Areas listed below in alphabetical order (consistent with the draft Open Space and Active Transport Strategy).

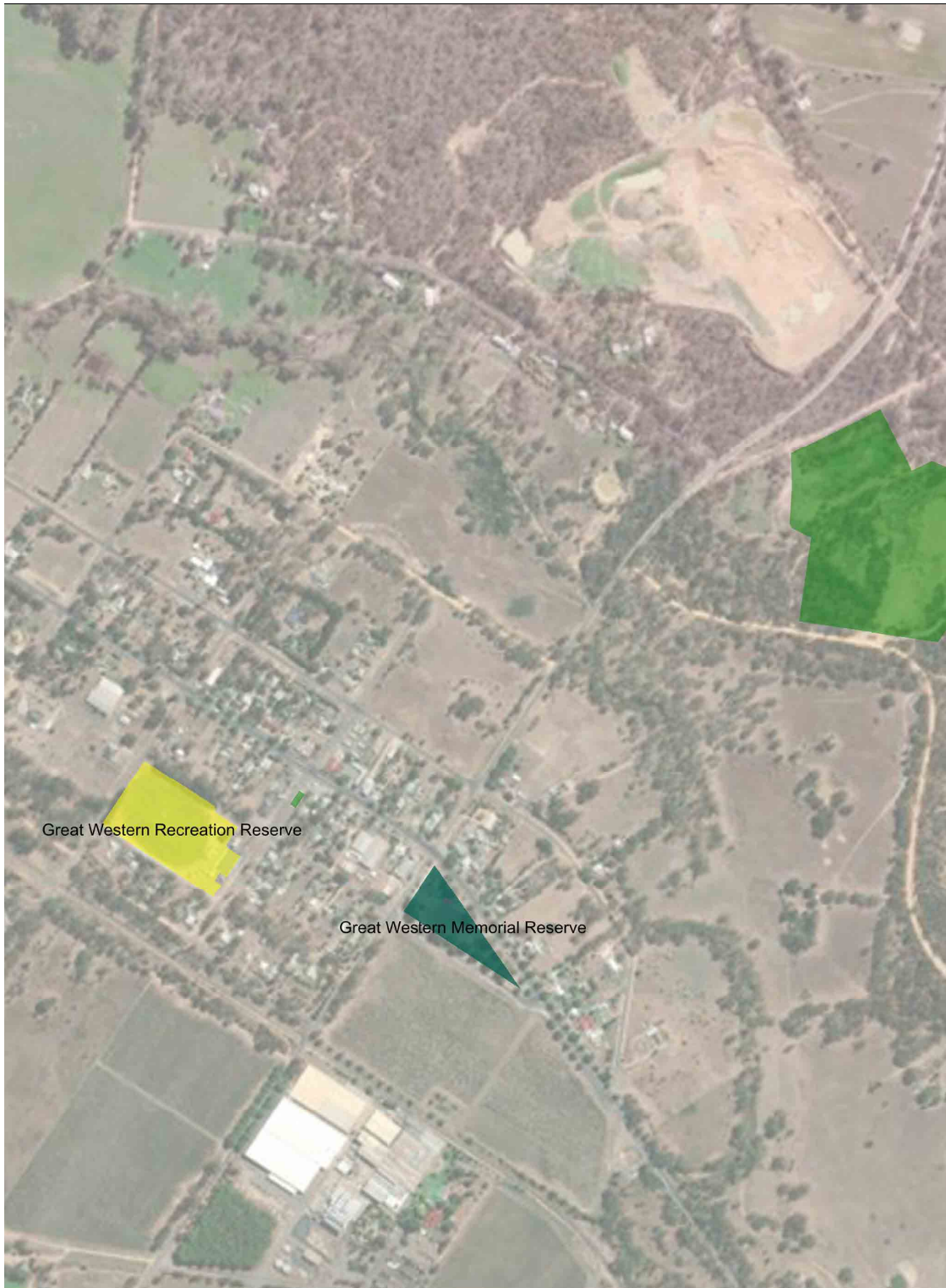
- Great Western
- Halls Gap
- Marnoo
- Navarre
- St Arnaud
- Stawell
- Stuart Mill.

It should be noted that in addition to sport parks provided by Council, most schools provide at least one sport field within their grounds for health and physical education classes, as well as physical activity by students during breaks. With consultation and approval by the school principal, these sport fields can provide additional open space accessible to surrounding residents for appropriate use, outside of school hours and on weekends.

It is important to note that this Strategy is primarily concerned with ensuring public sport and recreation facilities meet the broad sporting and active recreation needs of the community.

Additional recommendations for specific parks and reserves that provide a range of informal recreation opportunities (many of which will be active recreation) are also included in the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy.

It should also be noted that Glenorchy hasn't been included in this section due to Council having no responsibilities and limited influence over the Glenorchy Golf Course.



Great Western Recreation Reserve

Great Western Memorial Reserve

Great Western

The southern-most area within the Shire with a population of 425 people, Great Western currently provides ample sport and active recreation opportunities to residents.

These are provided mainly by:

- Great Western Memorial Reserve
- Great Western Recreation Reserve

To a lesser extent, the Great Western Racecourse and camping area also provides recreation opportunities.



Memorial Reserve

Predominantly a recreation park, the site contains three bitumen tennis courts in below average condition and small club rooms.



Recreation Reserve

The site's main features include a lit AFL/cricket oval, large and functional pavilion, new netball court (and existing older court) and associated netball amenities.



Racecourse and camping area



Great Western analysis

Great Western has adequate sport and active recreation facilities now and for future provision.

The playing field currently provides for AFL (although the club has identified the need to enlarge the playing surface to meet AFL standards) and has the ability to provide for cricket if a demand is demonstrated in the future.

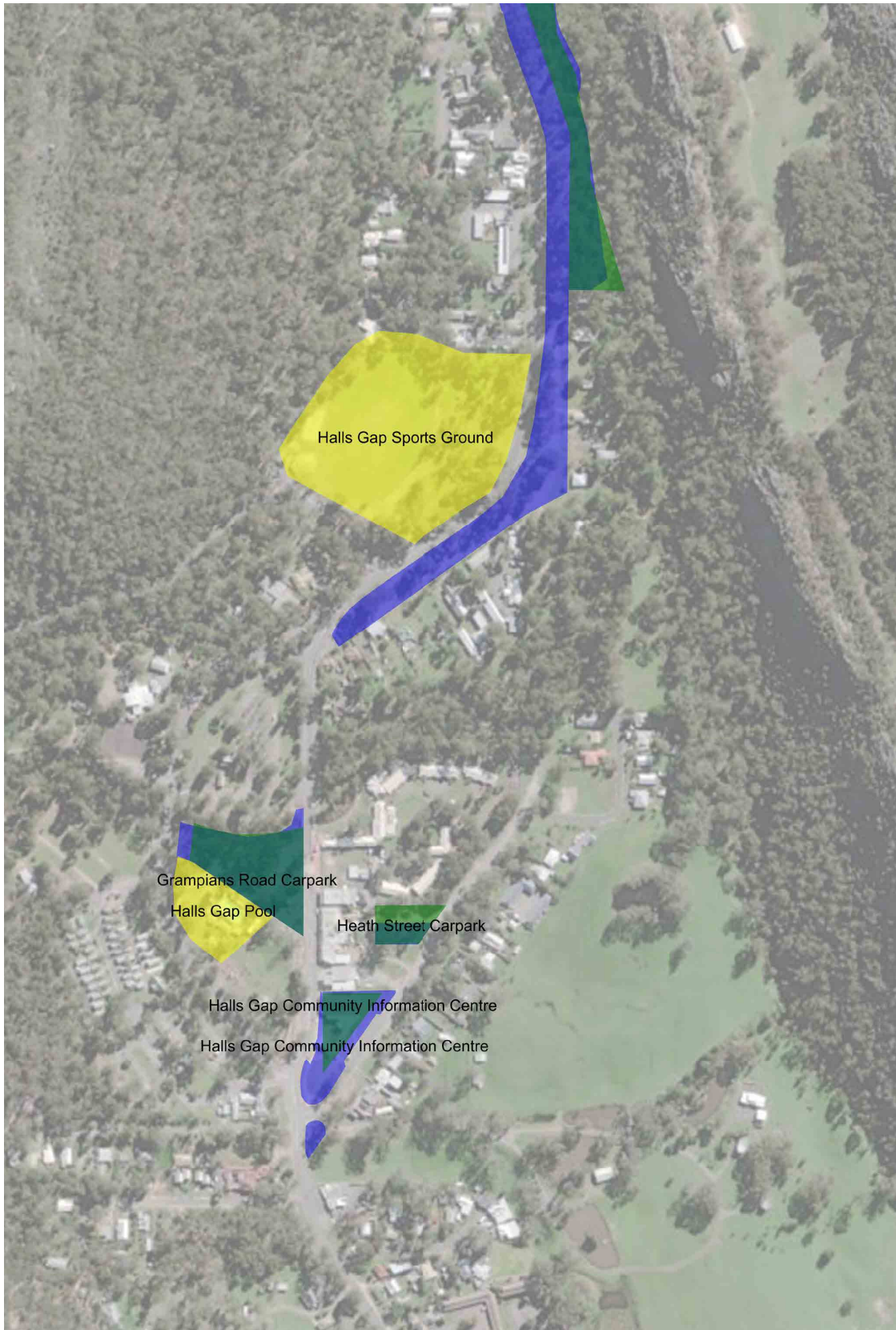
The new netball court and ancillary facilities will cater for the sport into the future and the second, older court could also be upgraded if warranted by future demand.

If other field sports emerge as popular in the area, the existing field could accommodate their use through removable goals/posts and line-marking. Further, the pavilion could also cater for various community activities if a demand for such was demonstrated.

The Recreation Reserve is well positioned to provide activities and programs but these would need to be coordinated by council, but only if staff resources allow.

The apparent low level of use and poor condition of the three tennis courts at the Memorial Reserve has resulted in council providing only a low level of maintenance to these courts. However, the level of community interest should be monitored to determine if this maintenance should be increased or if it would be more beneficial to repurpose at least one court to an open, hard surface area which people could utilise for informal active recreation such as roller blading, pickleball, scootering, or (with the installation of a hoop and backboard), basketball.

It is also noted that just outside of town, the Racetrack Reserve has the ability to provide recreation opportunities with the racetrack, camping and rodeo facilities. Due to the large nature of the site, other future activities could also be possible.



Halls Gap

Located in the western aspect of the shire, adjacent to the Grampians National Park, Halls Gap's population of 495 people is well serviced by both sport and active recreation facilities and the surrounding natural settings.

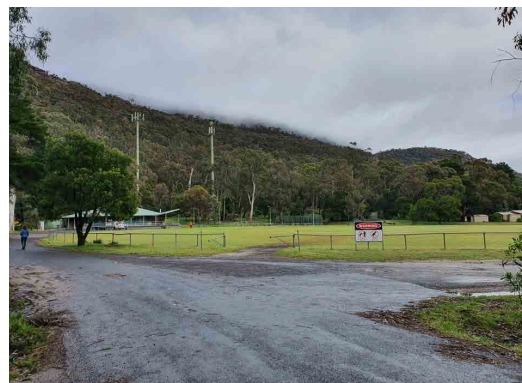
The main council facilities providing sport and active recreation opportunities include:

- Halls Gap Recreation Reserve
- Halls Gap Pool
- Tennis Courts

The Halls Gap Caravan (and Tourist) Park also provides recreation opportunities, including a playground, picnic/barbecue facilities, open grassed areas and internal pathways.

Recreation Reserve

- well maintained AFL/cricket oval (regularly covered in kangaroo pellets)
- two cricket practice nets in good condition
- well maintained petanque courts
- attractive, rustic pavilion servicing oval and petanque courts.



Tennis courts

Adjacent to the school and Botanic Gardens, the three courts are in below average condition, serviced by a small but attractive club room building.



Swimming pool

Closed at the time of inspection, the pool is located to the north of the playground

Featuring a 25m outdoor pool (with solar heating) and toddler pool and minor water play features, the facility is ageing and somewhat cluttered. Two shade sail structures cover the toddler pool and water play features with another shade structure on the opposite side.



Halls Gap analysis

Halls Gap is well provided for in relation to sport and active recreation facilities and opportunities. Minor repairs to the cricket practice nets were the only required site improvements identified by user groups.

The Recreation Reserve is a quality facility catering for AFL, cricket and petanque and has the ability to provide for other field sports into the future, including rectangular field sports with the use of movable posts/goals. Although netball is not provided on site, a court be established over one of the existing tennis courts to the south or with proper planning, a new court could be developed somewhere within the Reserve. This latter option should only be considered if a significant demand for netball is demonstrated in the future.

The petanque courts are in very good condition and well maintained, providing a non-traditional activity that also caters for the full range of age groups and those looking for less physical activity.

As in the case at Great Western, the Recreation Reserve and tennis courts are well positioned to provide activities and programs but these would need to be coordinated by Council, but again, only if staff resources allow.

The three tennis courts are in below average condition with the local Community Sports Club believing that if they were resurfaced (including additional line marking for other sports such as netball, basketball and modified soccer), they would be of much more benefit to the community and greater use would result. Given the relatively high number of visitors to the area, the development of pickleball courts could also be considered.

Although with a limited season, the pool is an attractive feature within the park and provides aquatic opportunities to residents in the west of the shire who may not travel to the Stawell or St Arnaud facilities. Given the age of the facility and in particular the main pool shell, council should work with the Committee of Management into the future to monitor its condition and functionality.

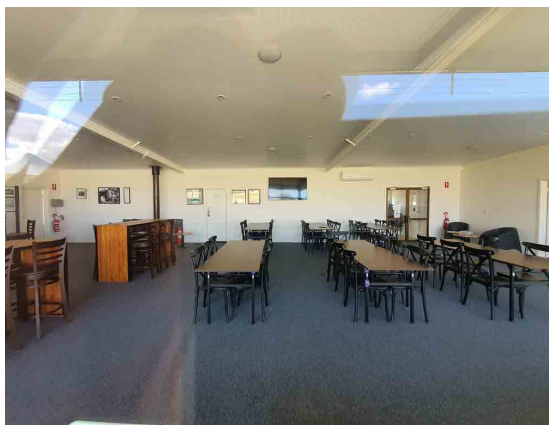


Marnoo

With a population of 99 people, Marnoo's sport and active recreation needs are fully met by the Marnoo Recreation Reserve. Although the site has no functional netball courts, there is available space to consider their inclusion if a future demand (although unlikely) is demonstrated.

The facility is of very high quality and immaculately maintained. The main features of the site include:

- high quality AFL/cricket oval (with white picket perimeter fence)
- attractive and functional pavilion (including commercial kitchen and large function room) with viewing area shaded by large parasols
- three hard court tennis courts in fair condition with shade structures.



Marnoo analysis

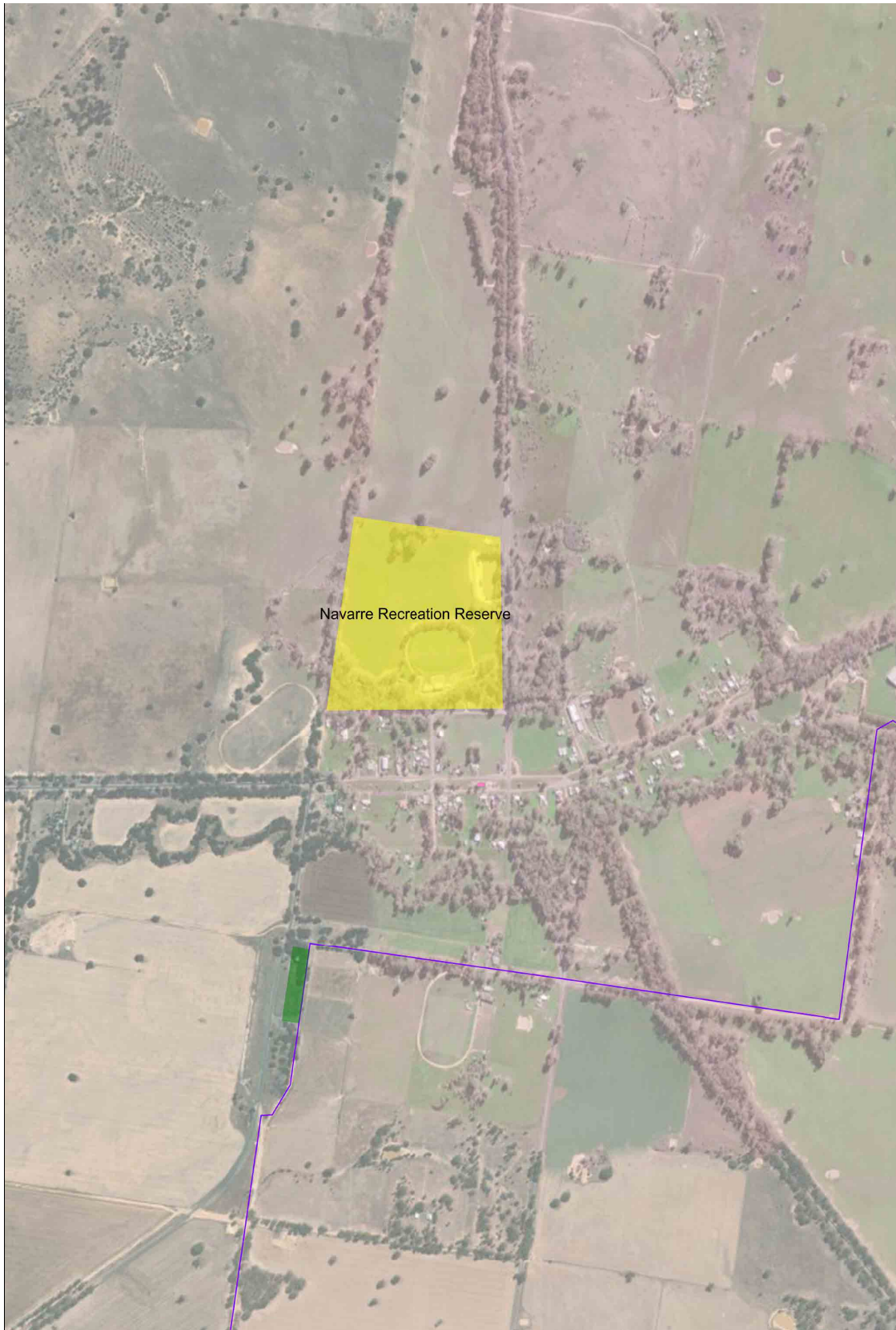
Although not council-managed, the Marnoo Recreation Reserve is a very high quality facility with an obvious high level of maintenance.

Offering AFL and cricket via the quality playing surface, the cricket club has identified the need for the installation of practice nets and a turf wicket block to enable the hosting of more representative games. Council could liaise with the Park Committee in relation to the practice nets but it is not clear if the committee has fully considered the ongoing maintenance burden of a turf wicket at the site. The benefits of this development would be unlikely to warrant such a burden.

The three, synthetic hard court tennis courts are in fair condition but seemingly don't receive the same level of maintenance as the playing field. It is unlikely that all three courts are heavily utilised, so the future repurposing of one court to a netball court could be considered in the future if a demand for netball is identified. Otherwise, there is available (and obvious) space for the development of a standalone court if considered more viable at the time.

Given the high quality of the facility, the Recreation Reserve is well placed to continue meeting the sport and active recreation needs of the community into the future. Additional activities could be catered for and if council increases its resources in relation to activating such sites, such staff could work closely with the Park Committee in this regard.

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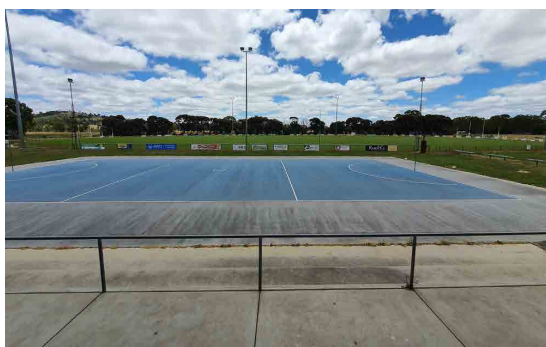
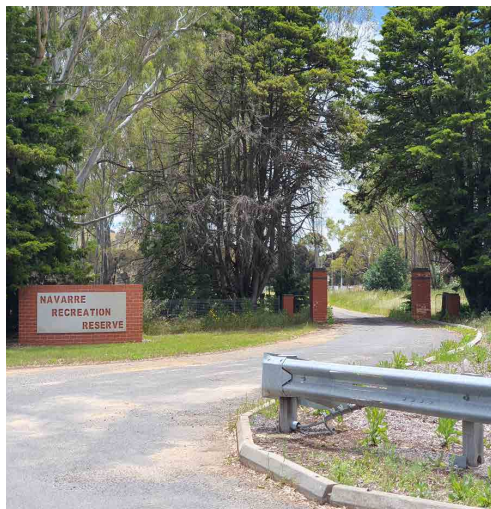
Navarre

Also with a population of 99 people, Navarre's sport and active recreation needs are fully met by the Navarre Recreation Reserve.

The high quality facility has a functional layout and significant open spaces throughout.

The main features of the site include:

- high quality AFL/cricket oval
- good quality, lit synthetic hard court netball court, immediately in front of large grandstand and with some additional bench seating
- two main buildings catering for football and netball with associated change, toilet and canteen facilities
- small, fenced playground
- two synthetic grass tennis courts in below average condition with uneven surrounds and old shade structure in poor condition.



Navarre analysis

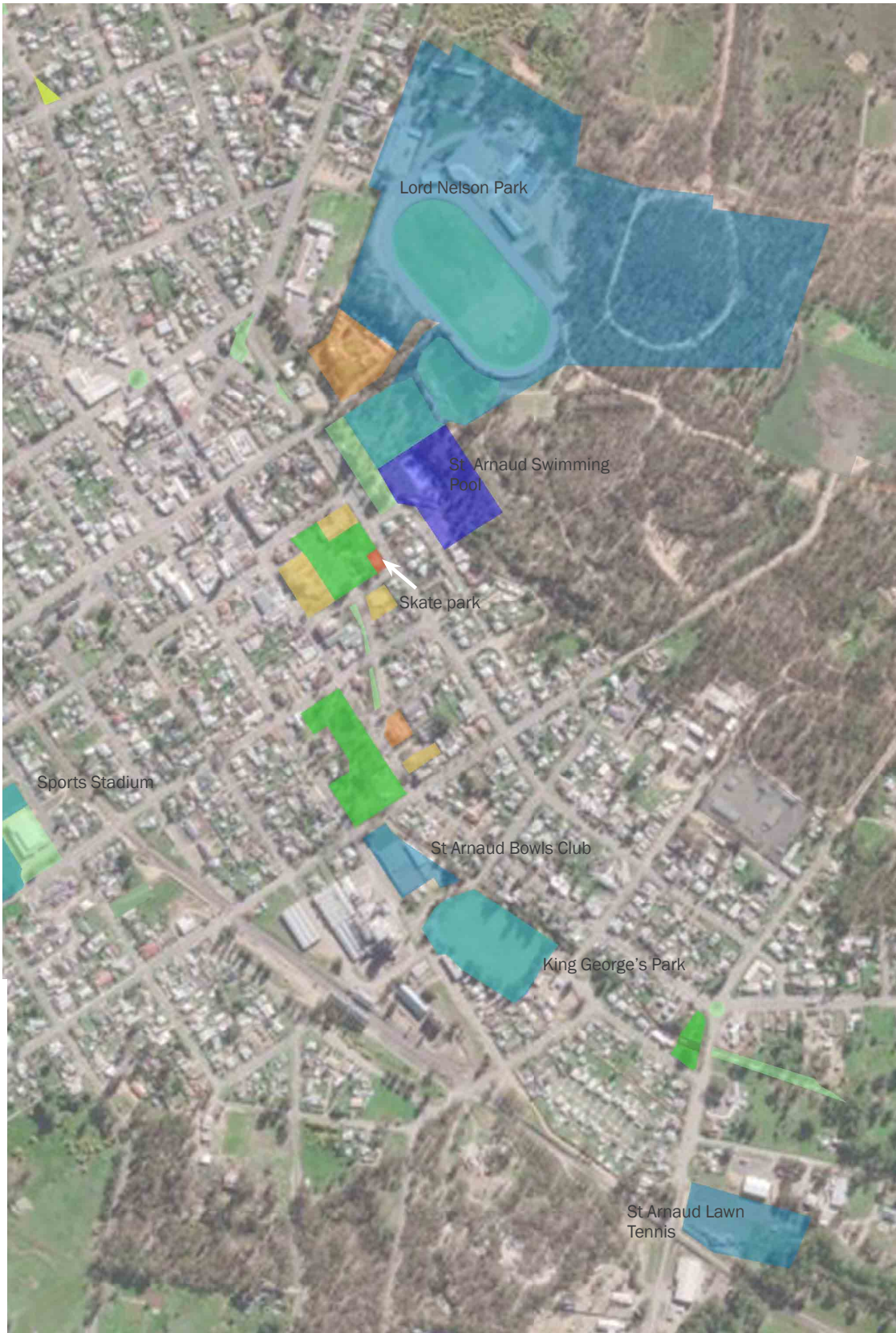
With maintenance fully the responsibility of the club (with assistance provided by council when necessary, at the club's cost), the Reserve and its facilities are generally in very good condition.

With the netball court immediately in front of the large grandstand, the layout of the Reserve differs from many across the shire. This provides a consolidated site, with flexible open spaces able to cater to a wide variety of activities in addition to the traditional sports.

In addition to utilising the existing oval, there is ample space across the site to provide other sports fields into the future if necessary. To ensure the site can better accommodate the existing sports (and possibly others in the future), upgrades to change and toilet facilities (including those appropriate for increased female participation) could be considered. This was also identified by the tenant football club, as was improvements to the main pavilion's kitchen and social space.

The two, synthetic grass tennis courts are in fair condition but the surrounds are unkempt and uneven. Given the playing surface of the courts, they are limited in their ability to provide activity opportunities other than tennis. If the second court is considered unnecessary in the future, consideration could be given to repurposing it as a multi-use hard court area, catering for a variety of uses such as basketball, pickleball, roller blading, scootering or modified soccer.

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St Arnaud

The second largest population centre of 2,318 people within the Shire, St Arnaud offers a range of sport and active recreation activities distributed across the area.

The main council facilities (in alphabetical order) are:

- King Georges Park
- Lord Nelson Park
- St Arnaud Bowls Club
- St Arnaud Lawn Tennis
- St Arnaud Sports Stadium and sports field/oval
- St Arnaud Swimming Pool.

King Georges Park

- well maintained, high quality playing field
- synthetic cricket pitch
- public toilets
- small storage shed
- small, informal gravel car park.



Lord Nelson Park

St Arnaud's premier sporting facility,, the site recently enjoyed major upgrades to pavilion and netball facilities. The main features of the site are:

- new modern pavilions and surrounds
- sporting club building
- old football club pavilion
- two new netball courts with lighting
- netball club room
- cricket practice nets
- small hockey pavilion/shed at south-eastern aspect within harness track, overlooking hockey pitch
- harness racing track around perimeter of sporting fields
- sports field lighting (with a planned upgrade)
- stables and storage sheds
- large open 'sheep' pavilion
- large, sealed car park.



St Arnaud Bowls Club

- total of three greens with evidence of main use being on the one synthetic and some use on a second natural grass green. Third green not currently used
- old, unattractive club building
- large informal parking areas
- very limited visibility of the site.



St Arnaud Lawn Tennis

- space available for up to 17 natural grass courts, but it appears only 6-8 in use at the current time
- two synthetic grass courts in the north-eastern aspect of the site in average condition
- two hard surface courts in the south-eastern aspect in disrepair with no evidence of current use
- new neat and tidy clubrooms and surrounds
- small, informal gravel car parking.



St Arnaud Sports Stadium

- indoor multi-purpose court currently offering basketball and netball, also with badminton and volleyball court markings
- squash/racquetball also offered
- interior inspection unable to be conducted
- seemingly unused sports field adjacent.



St Arnaud Skate Park

- located across Dundas Street from the pool at Market Square
- basic concrete with metal ramps catering for lower skill levels
- limited street elements.



St Arnaud Swimming Pool

- outdoor 50m pool (with two diving boards)
- toddlers pool
- old entry, change rooms, kiosk building
- large, well maintained grassed surrounds with various shade structures (some under repair at time of inspection).



St Arnaud analysis

King Georges Park

A relatively small and constrained site, it provides a quality playing surface catering for cricket with a synthetic grass pitch. The club has identified that the pitch surface needs replacing in the near future, or more desirable, be replaced with a turf pitch.

While the club shed is currently adequate for the site, consideration should be given to the trend of increasing female participation in the sport and the possible future development of gender neutral change facilities.

It should be noted that the site could cater for junior soccer demand into the future as the sport has flexible small-sided field configurations and utilises movable goals.

Lord Nelson Park

Although a large site, it is highly developed with existing infrastructure, including new major buildings.

Inside the harness racing track are playing fields catering for AFL, cricket and hockey, with two netball courts at the northern aspect of the site. All these facilities are of high quality, although the hockey club has identified minor desired improvements such as shaded areas and 'proper' toilet/change facilities adjacent to the field. Given the use of the harness track, further investigations are required for these improvements. The netball club has identified the need to appropriately complete the surrounds areas of the new courts (possibly with synthetic grass).

No major improvements are recommended for the site and other sites within St Arnaud are considered more suitable to cater for the future growth/needs of other sports and activities.

St Arnaud Bowls Club

Council is aware that the St Arnaud Bowls Club is engaging with a diverse range of demographics to grow participation and engagement. The current program includes tournaments for primary and secondary students and those with limited ability, in addition to 14-week Pennants for Men and Women.

Current membership numbers provided by the club are:

- Senior male: 35
- Senior female: 10 (and identified as declining)
- Juniors: nil.

However, when including participation from events across the year - the Club estimates over 2,500 people have come through the Club as players, support workers and spectators.

It is recommended that council continues to liaise with the club and support initiatives to grow participation and programming. This may take the form of the club investing into a Strategic Plan to a model of growth.

St Arnaud Lawn Tennis Club

Although showing signs of under-utilisation, this facility offers high quality lawn tennis courts, something of a rarity compared to the much more common synthetic grass and hard courts. However, the much higher level of maintenance required for such courts must be noted and this is usually balanced by higher levels of use and the resultant revenue generated.

With only 76 members in 2022, the large number of courts is not needed, even taking account casual court use by the public. Use would expect to increase if lighting was provided to at least two courts, making evening/night tennis available. This was identified as desirable by the club (that requested 2-4 courts being lit).

It is also noted that this is another facility where resources are being wasted maintaining unused features and consideration should be given to the ability of unused courts (especially the two hard courts) catering for other community activities that can utilise flat, hard outdoor surfaces or provide additional activity space for the resident playgroup.

St Arnaud Sports Centre

One of only two indoor sports stadiums in the shire, it will be important to maintain this facility so that a range of indoor activities can be offered in the shire.

While it is not recommended that council focus on working with the Stadium Association on major improvements to the venue, the creation of council positions aimed at delivering/facilitating activities and programs from council reserves and facilities could work closely with the Association to increase use of the venue, providing a wider range of physical activity opportunities for residents. These activities/programs could also make use of the adjacent reserve if required.

St Arnaud Skate Park

While a basic and 'old style' skate facility, the skate park still serves a purpose, especially catering for newer users without the desire for more challenging elements. It also serves the secondary purpose of such facilities, that of providing a gathering point for younger residents to 'hang out'.

Given the recent upgrade to the Stawell skate park, it is reasonable that council only considers upgrading the facility in the medium to long term. At that time, it is recommended to heavily consult the local youth in the design of any proposed improvements and that the existing features of the Stawell facility be considered, so that duplication is minimised.

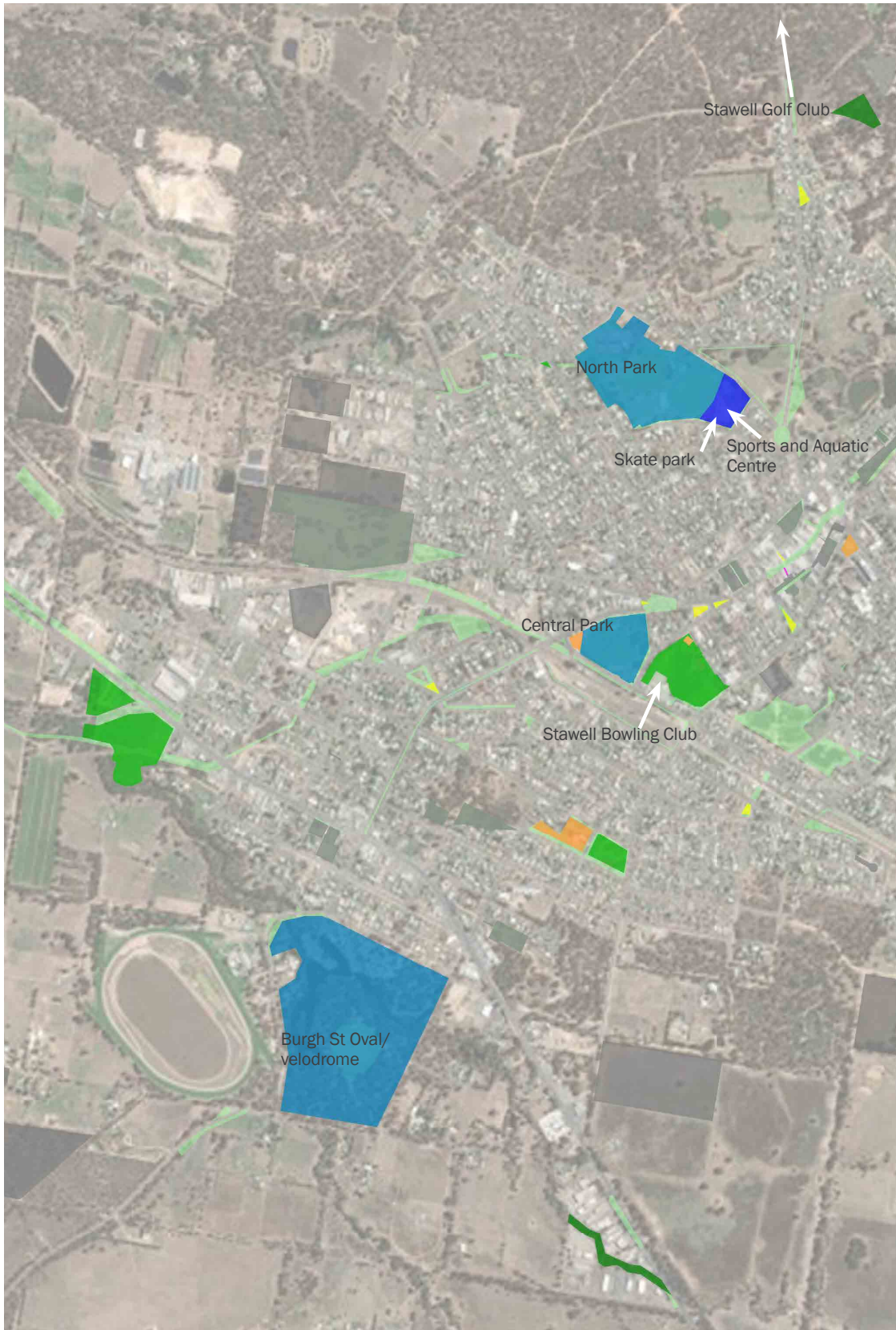
St Arnaud Swimming Pool

While an attractive and popular facility, the pool shell is nearing the end of its life with a recently completed integrity report revealing that the existing water leak is due mainly to the old piping of the filtration system.

No major facility improvements are recommended for the site until the necessary works are scheduled, and this work will be subject to quotations received for the required repairs.

It is likely the cost of such repairs will be significant and there will be a need to budget accordingly. During this process it will be important to consider the importance of this facility to the ongoing provision of aquatic opportunities to the community and the large numbers of participants the facility serves now and will into the future.

It is also recommended to review the free entry to the facility, especially considering the approximate \$120,000 annual operating costs and making it consistent with the Stawell pool. This review should include an incremental increase to assist in addressing expected community resistance.



Stawell

The population centre of the shire (5,627 people), Stawell is well provided for in relation to sport and active recreation facilities with a variety of opportunities being offered.

The main Council facilities offering these opportunities are:

- Burgh Street Oval/velodrome
- Central Park
- North Park
- Stawell Bowling Club
- Stawell Golf Club
- Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre (and skate park).

Burgh Street Oval/Velodrome

- bitumen velodrome/cycling track, reasonably well maintained
- playing field, but little evidence of sporting use
- ageing but seemingly functional pavilion, small and old terraced spectator seating.

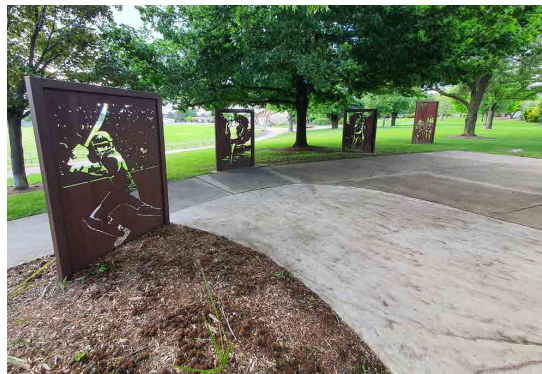


Central Park

The premier sporting facility within the shire and home to the Stawell Gift, Central Park has high quality sporting facilities and very well maintained and attractive surrounds. The site is completely fenced, restricting public access.

The main features of the site are:

- high quality AFL and cricket oval
- large heritage grandstand
- two, two-storey pavilions
- lit bitumen netball court with shaded player/spectator shelters and movable tired seating (x2)
- Stawell Gift Hall of Fame building
- manicured gardens.



North Park

Sporting facilities

- synthetic athletics track (6-lane, with 8-lane 100m straight) and associated throwing and jump areas
- rugby/soccer playing areas within athletics track
- older but functional athletics club rooms
- new, modern netball and football pavilion (with older pavilion still in place)
- three netball courts
- AFL/cricket oval (with synthetic pitch)
- two practice nets
- 12 synthetic grass tennis courts and large, functional tennis club rooms.



Stawell Bowling Club

Located in the south-western aspect of Cato Park across Victoria Street from Central Park, features include:

- two synthetic greens (that may need replacement in the near future)
- pavilion effectively in two parts with older brick building fronting Napier Street and newer component located between the two greens



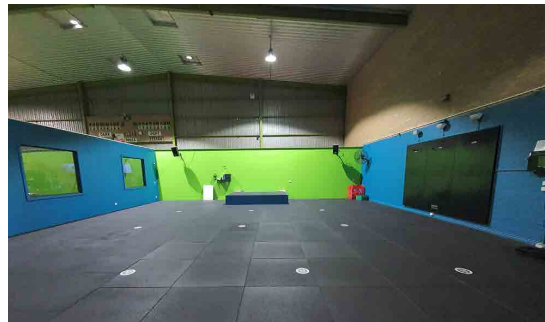
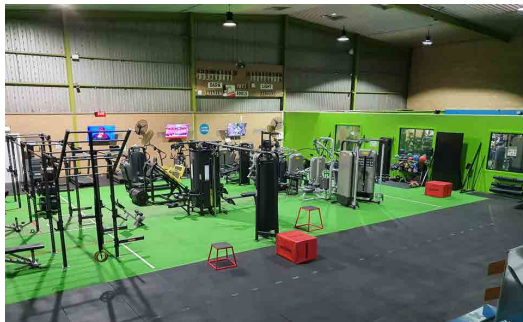
Stawell Golf Club

- 18 hole course
- small but functional club rooms with kitchen and hall
- lawn bowls green



Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre (SSAC)

- indoor heated 15m pool
- outdoor 25m pool and water slides
- toddlers pool
- shaded and grassed outdoor areas
- multi-purpose indoor sports courts
- squash racquetball courts
- gymnasium and exercise class area.



Skate park

Recently upgraded, the new modern facility caters for both new and experienced riders.



Stawell analysis

Burgh Street Oval/velodrome

Relatively hidden, the site shows signs of limited use, especially the large field in the centre of the velodrome/cycling track.

The pavilion provides the basic amenities required for activities at the site and the track is in fair condition. Although many such tracks across Australia are being removed due to low utilisation, it is believed that this facility should be retained as it provides alternative sport/active recreation opportunities from traditional field sports that are already well catered for in the shire. It also allows council to cater for the growing popularity of cycling in general, providing an off-road facility for cyclists, removing the barrier to participation of safety concerns.

The large field area within the track also provides council with options for the provision of future field sports and other activities into the future, should a demand arise.

Central Park

While Central Park should continue to be maintained/developed as the premier sporting facility within the shire, it is believed minor initiatives could be undertaken to make it an even more attractive and functional site.

While the sporting, ancillary and spectator facilities are of high quality, the development of gender neutral toilet/change facilities should be investigated. Initiatives involving other features of the site include:

- improving the frontage of the site bordered by the intersection of Main and Napier Streets. The informal gravel overflow/truck/van parking area serves a purpose that should continue for large events (and could be landscaped and bitumen applied), but the rear of the Hall of Fame and adjacent solid fencing could be made a consistent surface (and possibly softened through the use of appropriate mural art)
- while serving a purpose, the perimeter fencing could also be replaced with a more attractive style, at least that with a dark green or black powercoated/PVC coated version of the existing chain wire and barbed wire. This would greatly reduce its visible impact and be more consistent with the quality of facilities within
- included in the upgrade to the perimeter fencing, it would be highly desirable to increase the number of access gates around the site's perimeter to promote increased public access when not in use for formal activities/events. This will still allow ticketing for these events to occur, but promote community use of at least the non-sporting areas within such as the manicured 'formal' gardens and other outdoor spaces along the northern and eastern edges of the site.

It is also recommended that a long-term project of investigating improving the connection between Central and Cato Parks be considered. This could result in a regional attraction that takes advantage of two adjacent high quality sport and recreation sites. The project would need to undergo significant planning, as it is proposed to include investigations into changing the use of Victoria Street to either a one-way thoroughfare with traffic-calming and shared-use zone, or possibly even its closure to vehicles altogether, creating an appropriately landscaped vehicle-free avenue connecting both existing sites.

Further, Council has received requests from the tenant club for an additional netball court at Central Park which is currently not feasible without the removal of significant infrastructure or flora. It is therefore proposed that this project consider in its design the inclusion of an additional netball court adjacent to the existing court, including the relevant ancillary facilities and lighting required.

North Park

Another major sport and active recreation facility for the shire, North Park has recently undergone major improvements, guided by its 2022 Master Plan. The Strategy supports the continued implementation of the master plan, especially investigating increasing the synthetic athletics running track from a 6-lane to 8-lane facility, as supported by the tenant Little Athletics Club.

Another master plan recommendation of particular note to the Strategy is the proposed improvements to the field area within the athletics track and associated ancillary facilities. This will allow the site to cater for growth in the currently offered sport of rugby league (and rugby union if necessary) and the expected significant growth in soccer.

Improvements to other non-sporting areas of the park are discussed in the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy and include such as fit for purpose play spaces and safe pedestrian access that interacts with the active recreation activities.

Stawell Bowling Club

Although with effectively no role with the management or maintenance of the facility, ongoing liaison with the club should occur to ensure that opportunities for use of the facilities by the community are not missed.

The facilities are quite different from most of those managed by council and as such, could be used for future programs/activities that have different requirements. Further, if council staffing resources increase as suggested in the Strategy, these staff could play an advisory role in activating the facility, especially in regard to programs/activities for elderly or very young residents.

Stawell Golf Club

As in the case of the Bowling Club, council has no role in the ongoing management or maintenance of the golf course. However, due to the specific nature of golf courses, there is limited opportunities to increase their use through community programs/activities.

Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre (SSAC)

The premier aquatic and indoor sports centre in the shire, concept designs and schematics for the upgrade of the SSAC are currently being developed. Given the anticipated significant costs of proposed improvements, actual work is expected to occur in the medium-long term and will need to be budgeted for accordingly. It is also expected that external funding opportunities will need to be explored.

Given the specific nature of the work currently being undertaken, and the likely significant costs of any recommended facility improvements, the Strategy has not undertaken any detailed investigations regarding the future of this facility, except for identifying the above funding sources.

Stawell skate park

With completion of the new skate park occurring this year, no detailed investigations regarding the facility were undertaken.



Stuart Mill

Stuart Mill Oval has the capacity to serve the sport and active recreation needs of this community, with a population of 78 people, now and into the future.

The site also serves as a recreation park with a small playground and social gathering spaces and there is little evidence of current sporting use.

The main features of the site include:

- large oval, in apparent disuse at time of inspection
- small canteen building.



Stuart Mill analysis

Although the maintenance of the Reserve is technically the responsibility of the Stuart Mill Community Reserves Committee, council has historically done so (including the playground).

At the time of inspection, the Reserve was in poor condition with little evidence of sport or regular use.

Given this level of use and low population of the town, the Reserve should continue to be maintained at a low level, with the opportunity to increase the quality of the facility in the future if a demand is demonstrated. If other sports or activities emerge as popular, the Reserve has the ability and space to cater for a wide range of possibilities.

The Stuart Mill Racecourse Reserve is located approximately 4km north-east along the Stuart Mill Low Road. The racecourse is a specialised sport facility currently managed by the Stuart Mill Racecourse Reserve Riding Group and is another option to cater for future activities in the area if required.

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Demand assessment

This section provides a summary of the demand snapshots provided previously in the individual planning areas section.

The current and future demand for each sport and for this summary has been based on:

- national and state participation rates and trends
- club survey responses
- input from Council staff
- generally accepted provision rates for those sports where they are available
- feedback from State Sport Organisations
- facility inspections that helped determine:
 - current use
 - quality and functionality
 - future carrying capacity
- the distribution of facilities across the region.

Participation data

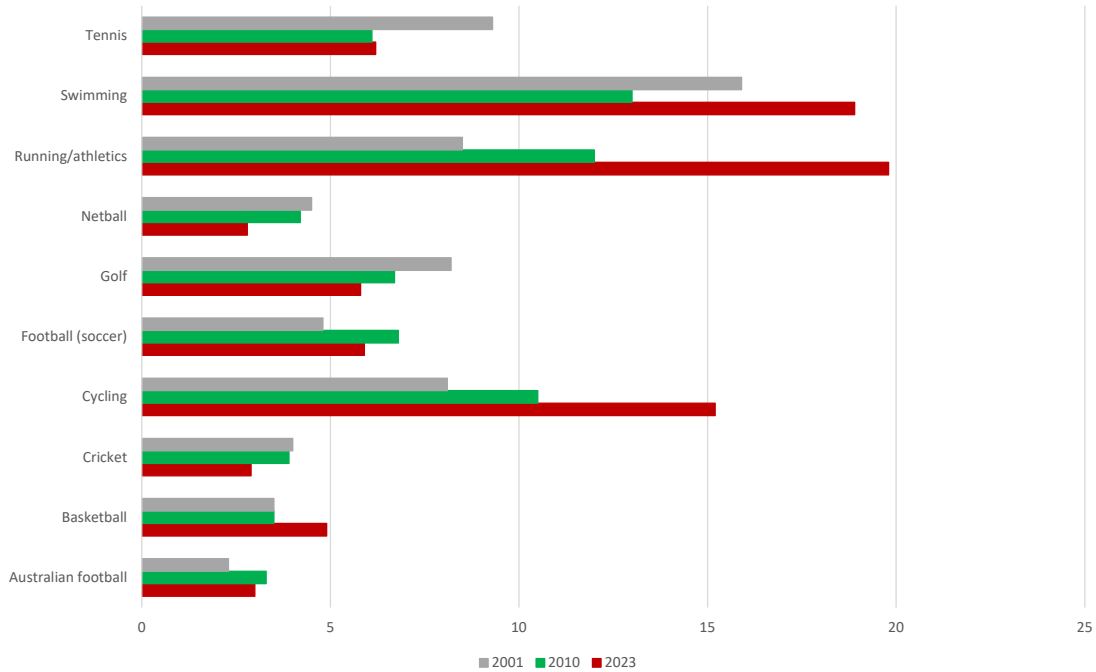
At a national level, the reduction in available leisure time has resulted in a trend for adults to move away from organised sport toward physical activity and non-organised (social) sport. The ABS conducted a nation-wide Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation Survey for adults over 15 years of age in 2005/06, 2009/10 and 2011/12. The survey showed that participation in organised sport reduced slightly while non-organised sport reported increases. This trend has continued to the present and is expected to continue into the future.

The data utilised to provide the following summaries was sourced from AusPlay, a large scale national population tracking survey funded and led by Sport Australia (<https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/research/ausplay/results>). This data was last updated in October 2023.



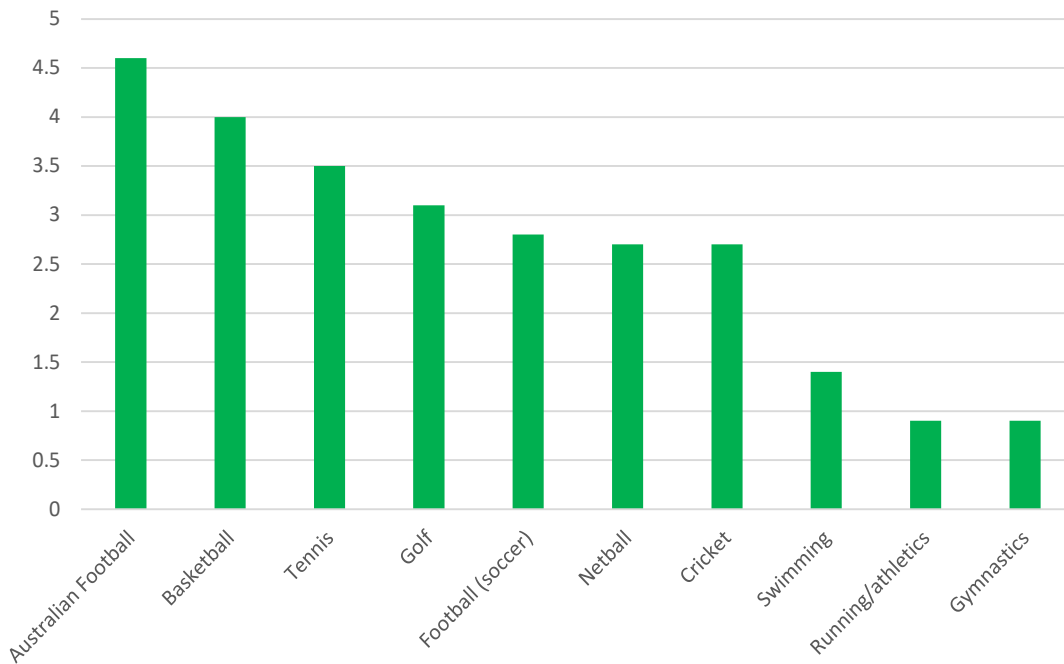
National participation

The graph below shows a summary of the national participation rate (% of National population) trends for the 10 most popular sports across Australia from 2001 to 2023.



Victorian participation

The following graphs represent the 2023 participation rates (% of State population) for the 10 most popular sports in Victoria.



Northern Grampians provides opportunities for all of the ten most popular sports identified by the Ausplay data. In metropolitan Councils, demand for facilities can be determined by comparing this participation data with the number of the relevant facilities for each sport provided, thus determining if deficits or surpluses exist for facilities.

As an example, for the sports where state participation rates in Victoria are available (only available for the ten most popular sports in each state), calculations can be undertaken to determine if the current provision of fields/courts is in surplus or deficit .

It should be noted that:

- given the lack of reliable local participation data, Victorian participation rates for the sports were used
- these participation rates have been applied to the current population for the Shire (11,948 people) to estimate the number of players for the relevant sports in the region
- this estimated number of players has then been applied to the generally accepted players per field/court to determine any current surpluses or deficiencies.

It should also be noted that while basketball does not have a preferred player/court ratio, the generally accepted court provision rate is 1 court for every 10,000 residents. Therefore, based on current supply, the sport is catered for now and into the future by the St Arnaud and Stawell indoor facilities.

Sport	Participation rate (%)	Field/court to player ratio*	Estimated current players	Required current fields/courts	Current fields/courts	Current surplus
AFL	2.9	1:210	348	2	8	6
Cricket	2.3	1:96^	276	3	8	5
Netball	2.6	1:154	312	2	9	7
Tennis	2.9	1:64	348	6	33	27
Soccer	2.8	1:150	335	2	2	-

NOTES:

* Preferred provision ratios were developed in consultation with SSOs and field capacity experts. The ratios reflect service delivery that will not result in facility over-use and meets demand for training and/or matches.

^ The cricket ratio reflects demand for matches only given these are far more difficult to cater for due to the duration of the game and low number of participants.

As mentioned, this type of analysis is effective in metropolitan council areas, but in the case of the Northern Grampians Shire, it does not take into account the needs of local towns with small populations that may not regularly access facilities in the larger towns. If this analysis was the sole method applied to determine demand, the numbers would suggest that the Northern Grampians Shire is significantly over-supplied in facilities and should rationalise many. It should be noted that the relatively lower provision of soccer facilities is addressed in the following summaries.

Meeting future demands

Given the nature of sport and active recreation provision across the shire, it is suggested that council focuses more on a needs approach to determine the future needs for sport and active recreation facilities.

The following is a summary of that analysis, based on the information provided previously in the Sport and Active Recreation Provision section of this report. For ease of reference, demand is summarised for each Planning Area (towns).

It should be noted that for the purposes of the Strategy, Glenorchy was not analysed as a specific planning area due to the sole identified facility being the Glenorchy Golf Club, which is not council managed. The club has a membership of only 18 senior males and 1 senior female and in its response to the on-line survey, identified new maintenance machinery as its only desired improvement.

Great Western

The Recreation Reserve provides sufficient sport and active recreation needs now and has the ability to continue to do so into the future.

- the playing field currently provides for AFL and has the ability to provide for cricket or other field sports if a demand is demonstrated in the future
- the new netball court and ancillary facilities will cater for the sport into the future and the second, older court could also be upgraded or re-purposed if warranted by future demand
- the Recreation Reserve is well positioned to provide activities and programs but these would need to be coordinated/facilitated by council, but only if staff resources allow.
- future use of the tennis courts at the Memorial Reserve should be monitored to determine if it would be more beneficial to repurpose at least one court to an open, hard surface area which people could utilise for informal active recreation such as roller blading, pickleball, scootering, or (with the installation of a hoop and backboard), basketball
- the Racetrack Reserve has the ability to provide recreation opportunities with the racetrack, camping and rodeo facilities. Due to the large nature of the site, other future activities could also be possible.

Halls Gap

Halls Gap is well provided for in relation to sport and active recreation facilities and opportunities.

- the Recreation Reserve is a quality facility catering for AFL, cricket and petanque and has the ability to provide for other field sports (in addition to AFL, cricket and petanque) into the future, including rectangular field sports with the use of movable posts/goals
- if warranted in the future, a netball court be established over one of the existing tennis courts to the south of the reserve or with proper planning, a new court could be developed somewhere within the reserve
- the Recreation Reserve and tennis courts are well positioned to provide activities and programs but these would need to be coordinated/facilitated by council, but again, only if staff resources allow
- Council should work with the swimming pool's Committee of Management into the future to monitor its condition, use and functionality.

Marnoo

Although not council-managed, the Marnoo Recreation Reserve is a very high-quality facility with an obvious high level of maintenance.

- in liaison with the Park Committee, the future repurposing of one tennis court to a netball court could be considered if a demand for netball is identified. Alternately, there is available space for the development of a standalone court if considered more viable at the time
- the Recreation Reserve is well placed to meet the sport and active recreation needs of the community into the future. Additional activities could be catered for if council increases its resources in relation to activating such sites, with staff working closely with the Park Committee in this regard.

Navarre

With maintenance fully the responsibility of the club (with assistance provided by council when necessary, at the club's cost), the Recreation Reserve and its facilities are generally in very good condition.

- the site has flexible open spaces able to cater to a wide variety of activities in the future in addition to the traditional sports
- to ensure the site can better accommodate the existing sports (and possibly others in the future), upgrades to change and toilet facilities (including those appropriate for increased female participation) could be discussed with the club
- if the second tennis court is considered unnecessary in the future, consideration could be given to repurposing it as a multi-use hard court area, catering for a variety of uses such as basketball, pickleball, roller blading, scootering or modified soccer.

St Arnaud

King Georges Park

- resurfacing the cricket pitch may be required in the near future.
- consideration should be given to the trend of increasing female participation in the sport and the possible future development of gender-neutral change facilities
- the site could cater for junior soccer demand into the future (small-sided field configurations and movable goals).

Lord Nelson Park

- any improvements to hockey ancillary facilities will need to consider the use of the harness track
- the netball club has identified the need to appropriately complete the surrounds areas of the new courts (possibly with synthetic grass)
- no major improvements are recommended for the site and other sites within St Arnaud are considered more suitable to cater for the future growth/needs of other sports and activities.

St Arnaud Bowls Club

There is an opportunity to work with the club to increase participation and programming through responsible development of the facility.

Current membership numbers provided by the club are:

- Senior male: 35
- Senior female: 10 (and identified as declining)
- Juniors: nil.

Further to this, it must be identified that lawn bowls has been suffering declining participation rates over the past ten years.

It is recommended that council works with the club to leverage the greatest opportunity to maintain and/or increase participation and programming through responsible development.

St Arnaud Lawn Tennis Club

- use would expect to increase if lighting was provided to at least two courts, making evening/night tennis available
- discussions with the club regarding the resources being wasted maintaining unused features could be held
- consideration should be given to the ability of unused courts (especially the two hard courts) catering for other community activities that can utilise flat, hard outdoor surfaces or provide additional activity space for the resident playgroup.

St Arnaud Skate Park

Council should only consider upgrading the facility in the medium to long term. At that time, it is recommended to heavily consult the local youth in the design of any proposed improvements and that the existing features of the Stawell facility be considered, so that duplication is minimised.

Stawell

Burgh St Oval/velodrome

- the velodrome/cycling track should be retained as it provides alternative sport/active recreation opportunities from traditional field sports, and caters for the growing popularity of cycling in general
- the large field area within the track provides council with options for the provision of future field sports and other activities into the future, should a demand arise.

Central Park

- the development of gender-neutral toilet/change facilities should be investigated
- improving the frontage of the site bordered by the intersection of Main and Napier Streets - the informal gravel parking area could be landscaped and bitumen applied
- the rear of the Hall of Fame and adjacent solid fencing made to be a consistent surface (and possibly softened through the use of appropriate mural art)
- site perimeter fencing could also be replaced with a more attractive style with an increased number of access gates around the site's perimeter to promote increased public access when not in use for formal activities/events
- a long-term project of investigating improving the connection between Central and Cato Parks be considered and should also consider in its design the inclusion of an additional netball court adjacent to the existing court, including the relevant ancillary facilities and lighting required.



Key directions/actions

The Strategy provides a key guiding vision for council and the community, with the overlaying issue being the capacity to fund it.

However, the focus is not on funding significant new infrastructure, but making improvements to existing facilities and identifying their ability to provide a wider range of sport and active recreation opportunities.

Integral to the increased activation of existing facilities across the shire will be the creation of additional staff resources to facilitate/coordinate activation initiatives. The facilitation of initiatives to increase participation across the shire needs to be actively promoted, with any initiatives being regularly reviewed to monitor their effectiveness. Although it is not suggested that council completely manages all such programs/initiatives, council staff will be required to drive the process through active liaison with clubs and organisations across the shire, empowering them to develop the appropriate outcomes for their respective communities. Council resources should also be utilised to promote any such initiatives.

Exact individual project timing will be dependent on the availability of necessary funding (be it from local clubs, council, State or Federal Governments).

The recommendations of the Strategy are grouped into three strategic areas. Priorities are assigned for each action. A high priority recommendation should be undertaken as soon as resources allow while medium (in the next 5 years) and low priorities (in the next 5-20 years) are not as urgent.

1. Management (policy and procedures)
2. Existing facilities and programs
3. New facilities, programs and initiatives.

1. Management directions focus on improved management of existing facilities to improve diversity and effectiveness of use.

Action No.	Actions for management	Priority
M1	Partner with local community sport and active recreation organisations to conduct regular health checks to better understand the current and emerging sport landscape, and to build their sustainability, capacity and programming (e.g. professional coaches, investigating the demand for emerging sports/activities such as mountain biking)	High
M2	Develop/continue relationships with Park Committees/Committees of Management to ensure facilities meet their potential in facility/program provision. Activation to provide identifiable data responding to ROI outcomes	High
M3	Continue to develop a community directory of recreation and sporting clubs on the website to ensure they all include the location (facility or reserve) where their activities are run	High
M4	Work with the State and Federal Governments, State Sporting Associations, and other peak agencies to ensure adequate policies (including relevant clauses in tenancy agreements) are in place for equitable access to facilities for females, people with a disability and other under-represented cohorts of the community	High
M5	Ensure future policies and procedures reflect the trend of increased participation in informal/active recreation activities	Medium
M6	Establish an equitable and sustainable budget for the maintenance of sport and active recreation facilities	Ongoing
M7	Develop new and continue existing partnerships with relevant service providers and government departments in the delivery of sport and recreation programs	Ongoing
M8	Consider reviewing the free entry at the St Arnaud Swimming Pool to gain consistency between it and the Stawell pool and allow partial recovery of operating expenses. This review could include a staged implementation to deal with expected community resistance	Ongoing

2. Existing facilities and programs directions focus on improvements that allow facilities to provide increased and more diverse use of existing facilities, thus ensuring they act as true ‘community’ facilities.

Action No.	Actions for existing facilities and programs	Priority
E1	Ensure the ongoing development of gender-neutral facilities when facility improvements are undertaken	High and ongoing
E2	Support emerging and innovative sporting and active recreation clubs (such as the St Arnaud Bowling Club) to leverage the greatest opportunity to maintain and/or increase participation and programming through strategic planning and responsible development	High
E3	Budget accordingly for the repairs/improvements identified by the current investigations for the Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre and the St Arnaud Swimming Pool. Budget considerations must include the significant use of and benefits provided by both facilities	High
E4	Develop a work plan to implement the minor improvements identified for specific sites across the Shire as identified in the Meeting Future Demands section of this Strategy	High
E5	Implement outstanding recommendations of Recreation Reserve Master Plans	Medium
E6	Develop consistent signage (both informative and directional) for Recreation Reserves	Medium
E7	Support the Halls Gap Recreation Reserve to identify opportunities to grow usage and participation (including through investment in improvements such as lighting and power)	Medium
E8	Consider the long-term possibility of making improved connection and land-use of Central and Cato Parks (including necessary alterations to Victoria Street)	Medium/ Low
E9	Monitor and respond to emerging sports and active recreation through engagement with sporting and community groups. Council to explore adapt/utilise existing multiuse infrastructure to facilitate these emerging sports	
E10	Where appropriate, investigate the removal of facility perimeter fencing to increase community access and awareness	Ongoing
E11	Lighting upgrades to sport fields/courts or active open spaces should only be considered if an evidence-based need is demonstrated	Ongoing

3. New facilities and programs directions focus on the development of new programs and initiatives at existing venues to provide a wider variety of sport and active recreation opportunities to the community and visitors. As mentioned previously, the Strategy has identified a higher need for improving existing facilities and developing new programs, not the creation of new facilities.

Action No.	Actions for new facilities and programs	Priority
N1	Investigate activating parks and other places/spaces with physical activity programs, offering free/low cost activities for seniors, adults and youth. The proposed new council positions (at least one in the Active Communities Section) should liaise/partner with sport and recreation providers to facilitate the activities. This may depend on funding availability from Sport and Recreation Victoria or other sources	High
N2	Ensure preparation is undertaken for appropriate submissions for the up-coming Commonwealth Games funding	High
N3	Explore opportunities to add or enhance water play/blue spaces across the Shire	Medium
N4	Investigate the inclusion of outdoor fitness stations at appropriate Recreation Reserves	Medium/ ongoing



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9.1.3. Open Space and Active Transport Strategy

Author/Position: David Hwang, Manager Strategic Planning and Prosperity

Purpose

To seek Council endorsement and adoption of the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy.

Summary

The Northern Grampians Shire Open Space and Active Transport Strategy provides a strategic framework that guides the provision, management, programming, and investment in public open space and active transport infrastructure.

Recommendation

That Council endorses the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy.

RESOLUTION

That Council endorses the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy.

Moved: Cr Eddy Ostarcevic

Seconded: Cr Kevin Erwin

Carried

Background/Rationale

As Council's Sport and Open Space Strategy 2014 is set to expire, Council engaged ROSS Planning to develop a new 10 year strategy for both Sport and Active Recreation and Open Space and Active Transport.

Following extensive research, audit and engagement process – the strategy is ready to be considered for endorsement by Council.

Legislation, Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

Local Government Act 2020

Council Plan 2021-25 – Enhance Lifestyles and Community

Options

Option 1

That Council endorses and adopts the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy. **[recommended]**

Option 2

That Council does not endorse the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy. **[not recommended]**

Implications

Any identified sustainability issues (economic, social, environmental or climate change) or heritage/cultural, amenity, human rights/gender equality, privacy, risk management, budgetary and asset management implications have been addressed in this report.

Procurement

No procurement requirements apply for the subject of this report.

Community Engagement

A community survey was open for four weeks for initial consultation. The survey was promoted through the Northern Grampians Shire social media and website, posters in well used areas in the shire such as playgrounds and notice boards in smaller towns and through two open sessions, one in St Arnaud and one in Stawell. This survey had over 250 responses from a wide variety of the shire population and many towns within the shire. A second survey was created with the draft version of the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy where there were 12 responses from the community regarding the draft.

The draft was sent to all of the first survey respondents if they provided an email address for us to contact them on.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The subject matter of this report does not raise any implications regarding innovation or improvements.

Collaboration

Sport and Recreation Victoria was heavily involved in the design and development of this strategy as a key government partner. Various state sporting associations were also engaged to inform and provide their perspective.

Officer's Declaration of Interest

All officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

David Hwang, Manager Strategic Planning and Prosperity

In providing this advice as the author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Attachments

1. NGSC Final Open Space and Active Transport Strategy [9.1.3.1 - 111 pages]



Northern Grampians Shire Council

open space and active transport strategy | 2024-2034

This report has been prepared for:



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Northern Grampians Shire Council acknowledges the Barengji Gadjin (the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk peoples), the Dja Dja Wurrung peoples and the Eastern Maar peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands throughout the Northern Grampians Shire and pays our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

This report has been prepared by:



recreation
open space
and sport
specialists



zwart
transport
planning

Document Control:

Version	Date	Document Issue	Author	Recipient
1	13.10.23	Draft OSAT Strategy	HC	DH
2	17.10.23	Revised Draft OSAT Strategy	HC	DH
3	10.11.23	Revised Draft OSAT Strategy	HC	DH
4	29.02.24	Packaged InDesign file sent to Council	HC	DH
5	11.03.24	Revised Draft OSAT Strategy	HC	DH
6	16.04.24	Final OSAT Strategy	HC	DH



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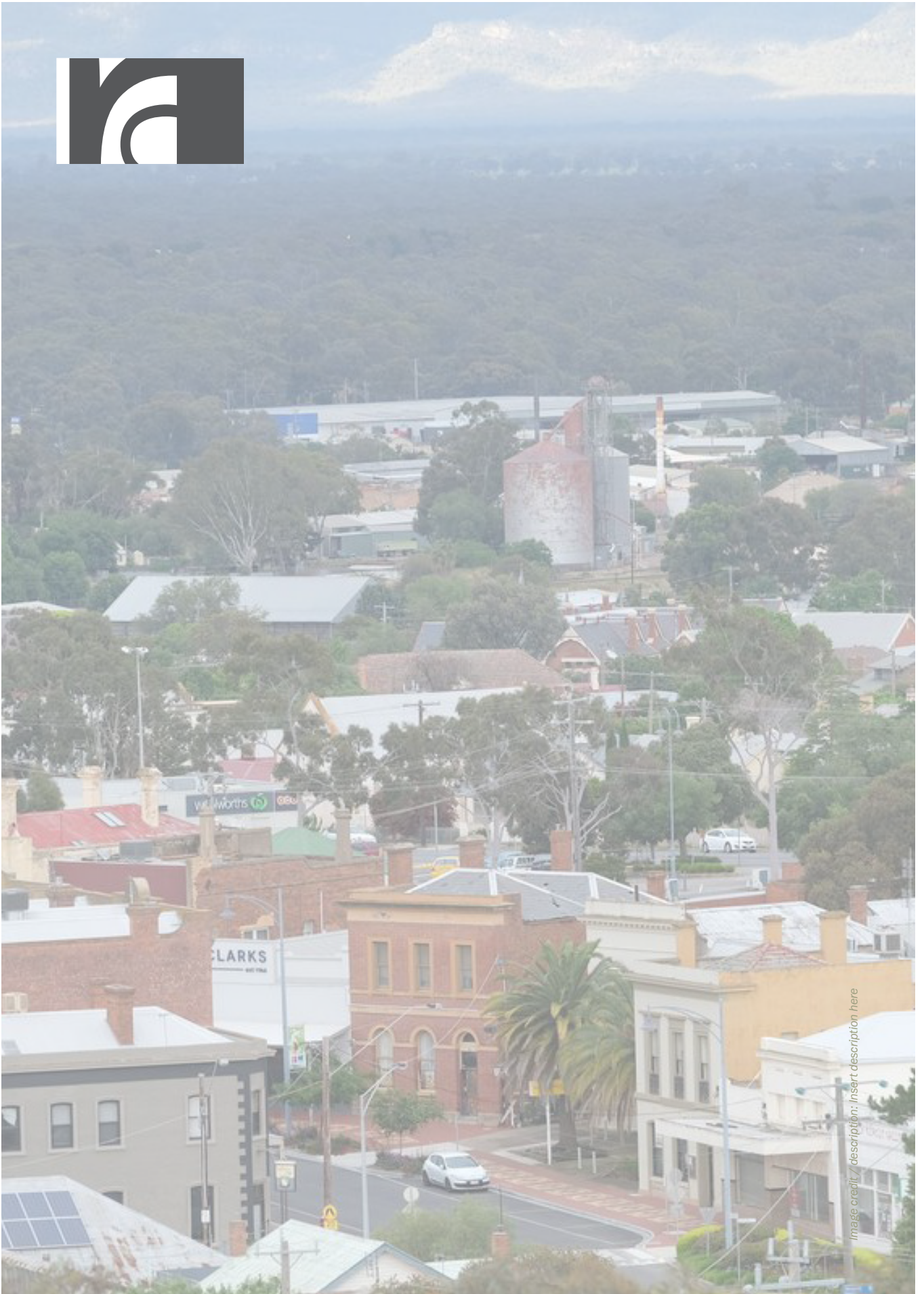


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Executive summary

The Northern Grampians Shire Council is committed to working collaboratively with businesses, government agencies, community members and visitors to preserve and enhance the lifestyle on offer in the townships and communities within its Council area.

The Northern Grampians Open Space and Active Transport Strategy is one of two¹ complementary planning documents aimed at contributing to Council's goal of supporting the liveability of its townships and communities over the next 10 years.

"Liveability is an assessment of what it is like to live in a place."²

The attributes that make somewhere a good place to live - or liveable - can be broadly categorised as:

- feeling safe
- affordable and decent housing
- high quality health services
- access to the natural environment
- reliable and efficient public transport.

The Strategy aims to contribute to the liveability of the Council area by guiding the provision of, and standards for, public open space and active transport infrastructure to meet the needs of the community.

The vision of the Strategy is:

...to create a vibrant and connected community in the Northern Grampians Shire Council area, where residents and visitors can enjoy a sustainable, accessible, and integrated network of public open spaces and active transport options. We envision a future where our natural landscapes are preserved, and our towns and villages are seamlessly linked, promoting health, wellbeing, and a strong sense of belonging for all.

Development of the Strategy involved researching Council's existing planning and policy framework, relevant legislation and research, current open space, recreation and sport trends, analysing data gathered through an audit of open space across the Shire, and extensive community

¹ The other is the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy
² Australian Curriculum

consultation.

People living in townships and communities across the Shire area have access to natural areas, recreation parks, and sport parks providing them with opportunities to participate in a diverse range of leisure, recreation and sport activities.

Consultation outcomes revealed the importance of public open space with almost 95% rating open space as important or very important. The popularity of walking on local footpaths, shared paths, and bushwalking tracks was revealed as the highest activity participated in, making a strong case for increased focus on active transport infrastructure over the next decade. The community highly values natural areas and gave Council a positive scorecard overall for provision and maintenance of parks.

The Strategy includes walking and cycling (active transport) network plans for each township and community within the Shire. A matrix for decision-making details the function of proposed infrastructure, design considerations, and preferred facility types.

The Strategy applies a standards-based approach to assess the provision of public open space in the main population centres of Stawell and St Arnaud. Additional parks in Stawell and facility enhancement at existing parks will support healthy development of young children and teenagers, as well as ensuring equitable distribution across the urban footprint.

Smaller communities scattered across the Shire were subject to a needs-based approach confirming that residents have sufficient access to recreation and sport parks.

The Open Space and Active Transport Strategy should be read in conjunction with the Northern Grampians Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2023. This is particularly important for actions relating to individual park development and embellishment.



Glossary

TERM	EXPLANATION
Active recreation	Active recreation refers to activities undertaken during leisure time that requires physical exertion. It includes organised forms of passive (non-sport) recreation activities such as Parkrun, yoga and pilates, gym workout and group fitness, for example.
Active transport	Active transport is physical activity undertaken as a means of transport. It includes travel by foot, bicycle, and other non-motorised vehicles. Use of public transport is also included in the definition as it often involves some walking and cycling to pick-up and drop-off points.
Core open space	Core open space is active (sport) and passive (non-sport) open space that meets Council's requirements specified by its Desired Standards of Service (DSS). This is particularly important to ensure equitable distribution and quality open space across planning areas, as well as ensuring development contributions are calculated and captured accurately.
Encumbered open space	Encumbered open spaces are areas of land unsuitable for urban development that may be integrated into the open space network. They include areas that have the primary function of drainage, flood protection and mitigation, wetland protection, water management, coastal buffers and contaminated land.
Levels of Service	Levels of Service (LOS) is an asset management term and for this Strategy refers to the type and amount of service the system (public open space / active transport) provides to its customers relative to the assets provided.
Micromobility	Micromobility is a term used to describe transportation using lightweight vehicles such as bicycles or scooters, especially electric ones that may be borrowed as part of a self-service scheme in which people hire vehicles for short-term use within a town or city.
Non-core open space	Non-core open space includes active open space areas that are privately owned or operated and that are not freely available for public use, and passive open space areas where appropriate recreation use is typically a secondary use of the land. The primary use of non-core passive open space can be for a range of uses including conservation, stormwater management, utility reserves and amenity.
Open space	Open space is land that provides recreation and leisure benefits, although that may not be its primary purpose. It can include beaches, parks, natural areas, utility and drainage corridors, and conservation areas.
Passive recreation	A range of unstructured activities and social interactions undertaken for enjoyment, relaxation, physical and mental health. Passive recreation can be undertaken in all forms of open space (parks and natural areas) and may include walking, cycling, children's play, picnicking, fishing, kayaking and relaxing in nature.
Play elements	'Play elements' include man-made items such as play equipment, as well as natural items such as boulders and logs, sand, planting, earth forming, and sculptures., which typically have other purposes and sources, but have been brought into a play space to support and enhance children's play. In this context they become play elements
Play space	'Play space' has been generally applied to any purpose built settings for children's play. Play spaces frequently include play equipment and their accompanying areas of soft fall (impact absorbing surfacing), but they may also include, (or solely consist of) play elements such as trees, boulders and logs, sand, planting, earth-forming, sculpture, musical items or other natural or man-made elements provided for the purpose of play. The play space can also include open areas of lawn, a small forest, hard or soft surfaces for ball games, ping pong tables, and mounds or walls if these are provided in the context of a park or children's play setting.
Private open space	Private open space refers to all open space areas that are exclusively for use by occupants of a dwelling, or all private land, distinguished from areas that are common space or public land.
Public open space	Public open space is land that is set aside for public recreation or as parkland, or for similar purposes. Public open space incorporates active and passive open space. The terms park and/or reserve are also used interchangeably with public open space.
Recreation park	Settings for passive recreation and social activities. Parks provide a range of embellishments such as play equipment, kick-about areas, picnic facilities, formalised walks, gardens, landscaped areas, access to water bodies and car parking
Sport	A range of structured activities capable of achieving a result requiring physical exertion and skill, that is competitive or training for competition
Sport Park/Facilities	Designed to primarily support a range of active recreation activities for training and competition. These sports parks are designed to accommodate the playing surface and infrastructure requirements of specific sports. Sports facilities are further broken down into a number of categories

Road types and responsibility

ROAD TYPE	COORDINATING ROAD AUTHORITY	RESPONSIBLE ROAD AUTHORITY
Freeway (except privately operated)	VicRoads	VicRoads
Freeway (privately operated)	Varies	Melbourne CityLink Transurban Eastlink ConnectEast Peninsula Link Southern Way
Arterial (urban)	VicRoads	VicRoads (through traffic) Council (service roads, pathways, roadside) (1)
Arterial (non-urban)	VicRoads	VicRoads Council (service roads, pathways) (1)
Municipal	Council	Council
Non-arterial State	e.g. DELWP, Parks Victoria (VicRoads for small number of these roads)	e.g. DELWP, Parks Victoria (VicRoads for small number of these roads)

For additional information refer to the *Code of Practice for Operational Responsibilities for Public Roads*.



Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The Northern Grampians Shire *Open Space and Active Transport Strategy 2023-2033* provides a strategic framework that guides the provision, management, programming, and investment in public open space and active transport infrastructure.

1.2 Vision

The vision for open space and active transport in the Northern Grampian Shire Council for the next 20 years is:

Our vision is to create a vibrant and connected community in the Northern Grampians Shire Council area, where residents and visitors can enjoy a sustainable, accessible, and integrated network of public open spaces and active transport options. We envision a future where our natural landscapes are preserved, and our towns and villages are seamlessly linked, promoting health, wellbeing, and a strong sense of belonging for all.

The vision underpins Council's commitment to deliver quality public open space and active transport facilities that positively contribute to the quality of life of residents, workers and visitors to the Northern Grampians Shire.

The vision recognises the contribution that quality community infrastructure makes to the character of the Northern Grampians Shire and the positive experiences and memories people make as they live their lives. Current residents have a custodian role to fulfil to ensure places and facilities are managed and maintained to ensure they are retained for future generations.

1.3 Methodology

Development of the Strategy involved several steps, detailed in Figure 01.



Fig. 01 Open Space & Active Transport Strategy methodology

1.4 Strategic objectives

Through the Strategy, Council seeks to progress toward the following strategic objectives:



Increase participation opportunities through the provision and activation of open space and active transport infrastructure

- identify opportunities for programming and activation in public open space to encourage community use and ownership
- ensure the provision of equitable access to nature, sport and recreation opportunities
- understand the current catchment, hierarchy and provision of the Shire's open space and active transport infrastructure
- create a continuous open space network by identifying potential connections or linear open space for walking and cycling.



Improve participation of under-represented groups and improve physical and mental health and wellbeing in communities

- understand community needs and expectations around open space and active transport
- support gender equality and inclusive participation of women and girls in public open space by investing in well-designed and high quality space and facilities
- support accessibility initiatives that provide improved opportunities for people living with a disability.



Support strategic planning to ensure infrastructure investment is sustainable and identified early

- identify potential future open space in areas where the land is unlikely to be subject to structure planning, to ensure that piecemeal subdivisions do not result in a fragmented public open space network
- identify where future recreational spaces may be required and provide justification for a contribution rate to be applied, to ensure adequate open space is supplied
- identify minimum land size and development requirements relative to a hierarchy of open space to ensure functions identified in planning are fulfilled



Ensure efficient and sustainable infrastructure is planned and delivered

- consider shared use/co-location of open space, and facilities and develop appropriate procedures and management requirements
- consider asset costs, maintenance requirements, and whole of life costs.



Consider shared outcomes with five key themes of the NGSC Municipal Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- improving mental health and wellbeing
- increasing access to health services
- reducing family violence
- increasing healthy eating and active living
- act on climate change.

USE OF THIS STRATEGY

The Strategy is to be used as a mechanism to prioritise future investment and development of the Shire's public open space network and active transport infrastructure and to identify the relative merits of the use of space by various user groups and the population. The Strategy should be applied as part of the Shire's Community planning and policy framework that includes the 20-year Community Vision, 10-year Economic Strategy, Strategic Plan, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, Community Access Plan, Youth Strategy, Housing Strategy, Capital Works Plan, Operational Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan.



Planning framework

2.1 Northern Grampians Shire character

The Northern Grampians Shire area is characterised by its diverse and rugged landscapes. The area is dominated by the Grampians mountain range, which boasts towering peaks and scenic valleys that are covered with native bushland and dotted with waterfalls. The Grampians are a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts, offering opportunities for hiking, rock climbing, camping, and wildlife viewing. The area is home to a range of native flora and fauna, including rare and endangered species, and is considered to be of significant cultural and spiritual importance to Indigenous Australians.

The Traditional Owners of Country and recognised Registered Aboriginal Parties for the area known as the Northern Grampians Shire are the Barendji Gadjin (the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk peoples), the Dja Dja Wurrung peoples and the Eastern Maar peoples. Strong connections to Country founded on history and culture exist for these Peoples.

The Shire is also characterised by its rolling hills, farmlands, and scenic rivers. The Wimmera River, which runs through the region, provides water for agricultural activities and is a popular spot for fishing and water sports. The fertile farmlands of the area are primarily used for grazing livestock and growing crops, including wheat, barley, and canola. The region's rural character is emphasised by its small towns, which offer a peaceful and relaxed way of life, and by its many charming country roads and scenic drives.

The Council directly manages a diverse range of parks, reserves, civic spaces and streetscapes that contribute to the lifestyle and amenity of the towns, villages and communities across the local government area (LGA). Over the past decade, Council has focussed on enhancing public open spaces, sport facilities and streetscapes through upgrading facilities and planting additional street trees. Increasing the network of walking and cycling paths has also been a priority.

2.2 Planning areas

The Shire includes the larger towns of Stawell and St Arnaud, and several villages and outlying communities. For the purpose of this Strategy, the Shire has been divided into planning areas. The planning area boundaries are determined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for data collection purposes. In effect, the entire population of Northern Grampians Shire will be considered for the Strategy. The planning areas are detailed in the table below.

Table 01: Northern Grampians Shire planning areas.

Townships	Villages / Outlying communities	
Stawell	Glenorchy	Marnoo
St Arnaud	Great Western	Navarre
	Halls Gap	Stuart Mill

2.3 Value of open space and active transport

The provision of land and infrastructure to create fit-for-purpose public open space and active transport networks is an essential element of contemporary settlement planning and community life. The provision of public open space and walk and cycle infrastructure supports a broad spectrum of activities and interactions between people and nature and sustains critical environmental functions for the health of communities. Open space land and connected active transport routes are significant public assets that contribute to the development of liveable and sustainable communities. Planning for the provision of public open space and active transport needs to occur concurrently with strategic planning, urban planning and design, and an understanding of local recreation and participation trends.

To meet its intended purpose, public open space and active transport planning and design needs to respond to the distinctive characteristics of the rural and rural-residential settlement pattern that has evolved across the Northern Grampians Shire. The quantity, distribution and type of public open space and walk and cycle infrastructure that is required in towns and outlying communities is influenced by the following factors:

- population growth or decline
- demographic profile
- housing densities including access to private open space
- access to essential infrastructure including public transport
- employment or commercial and activity hubs
- access to natural assets or physical landmarks such as National Parks and waterways.

An assessment of open space and recreation opportunities available in the Northern Grampians Shire has been undertaken to inform development and application of the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy.

2.3.1 Health

Parks are the most frequently visited type of open space - with quality well-maintained parks more likely to be used by the community. Over two thirds of local residents surveyed report visiting parks and sport facilities at least weekly and 94% stated open space is very important or important to them. They also act as connection points that provide increased opportunities to walk and cycle as the preferred means of transport. Health research confirms that access to opportunities for physical activity and to open space, alongside providing adequate and appropriate facilities, is important to prevent chronic disease, promote social inclusion, and improve mental health and wellbeing.

2.3.2 Economic

Public open space also provides opportunities for economic diversity. The use of parks and reserves for temporary commercial activities such as markets and mobile food vendors supports both existing and emerging businesses within the community. The activation of parks through weekend activity, including both locals and visitors, also increases trade across the Shire. The hosting of events at larger parks also increases activity and generates business particularly within the Stawell and St Arnaud town centres. Attractive parks in villages across the Shire encourage travellers to break their trip and purchase local goods and services, while experiencing the hospitality of locals.

2.3.3 Environmental

The open space network requires sensitive management to ensure it is protected for future generations. There is an increasing focus on improving access, landscape amenity and protecting biodiversity across the Shire. Actions that mitigate and support adaptation to the impacts of the changing climate require careful planning and consistent implementation. Replanting of local plant and tree species within open spaces improves and protects fauna habitat areas. The incorporation of water sensitive urban design and effective water use practices within open spaces ensures the efficient management of water supplies. Expansion and improvement of the active transport network reduced reliance on vehicles and contributes to emission reductions. Broad tree canopy cover within open spaces assists in addressing the adverse impacts of the 'heat-island' effect and provides comfortable places for social connections to be formed.

2.3.4 Social

Well located, designed, and developed open spaces that can be accessed by walking, cycling, scooting or skating, provide opportunities for the local community to socialise and improve connections across diverse groups. Parks and reserves bring people together for a variety of sporting, cultural and social activities that benefit the personal development of individuals and enhance community spirit. The provision of high-quality green spaces provides a mechanism to manage chronic illnesses including cardiovascular disease and obesity, increase social connections and improve community safety through natural surveillance. Importantly, these green spaces help shape the identity of Northern Grampians Shire by providing unique character and delivering a sense of place for the local community.

2.4 What is open space?

2.4.1 Public open space

Public open space is land that is set aside for public recreation or as parkland, or for similar purposes. Public open space incorporates active and passive open space. The terms park and/or reserve are also used interchangeably with public open space.

2.4.2 Passive open space

Passive open space is land that is set aside for parks, gardens, linear corridors, conservation, nature reserves, civic spaces and community gardens that are made available for passive recreation, play and unstructured physical activity.

2.4.3 Active open space

Active open space is land set aside for the primary purpose of formal outdoor sports by the community.

2.4.4 Core open space

Core open space is active and passive open space that meets Council's requirements specified by its Desired Standards of Service (DSS) and Levels of Service (LOS). This is particularly important to ensure equitable distribution and quality open space across planning areas, as well as ensuring development contributions are calculated and captured accurately.

2.4.5 Non-core open space

Non-core open space includes:

- active open space areas that are privately owned or operated and that are not freely available for public use
- passive open space areas where appropriate recreation use is typically a secondary use of the land.

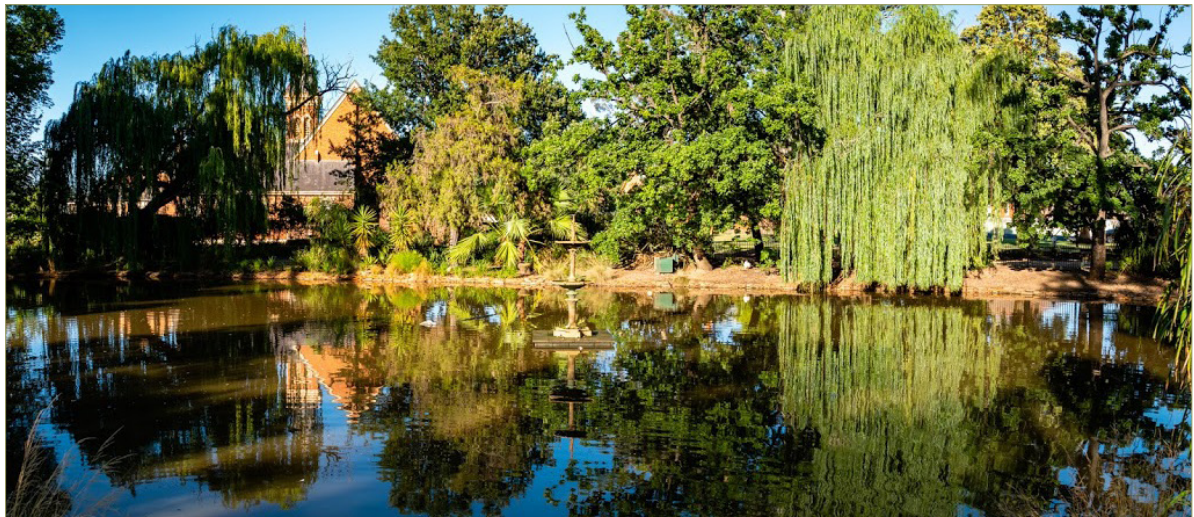
The primary purpose of non-core passive open space can be for a range of uses including conservation, stormwater management, utility reserves and amenity.

2.4.6 Access to experiences

In addition to the network of recreation and sport parks available to residents and visitors, there are also significant waterbodies, national and state parks and forests providing a range of outdoor recreation opportunities. Together, Council-managed, and other natural assets across the Shire, provide an extensive network of recreation, nature-based and ecotourism opportunities for residents and visitors.

The range of activities and experiences considered as key elements in the Shire's open space network include:

- walking and cycling
- access to nature
- escape, break out and recreation areas
- comfort/safety
- dog-friendly areas
- indoor recreation/community meetings
- sport
- non-sport physical activity
- nature-based recreation
- water-based recreation
- picnics
- playgrounds
- cultural/community events.



Queen Mary Gardens, St Arnaud; Image credit: Ardash Muradian

2.5 What is active transport?

Active transport includes both walking and riding as a means of travel for commuting, recreation and utility purposes, as well as for health, fitness and fun. Walking includes people running, jogging and using mobility aids such as walking frames and wheelchairs (including electric wheelchairs/ motorised scooters). Riding includes using pedal bikes, wheeled recreational devices (such as foot scooters and skateboards), as well as micro-mobility devices (such as e-bikes, e-scooters and other personal mobility devices).

2.5.1 Active transport infrastructure considerations

Active Transport networks establish transport routes that when combined form a wider network providing an environment where people feel confident, safe and encouraged to participate in active transport activities. The network comprises of a variety of infrastructure components responding to the varied needs of the community including:

- primary purpose of routes
- enhancing accessibility to key community assets
- recognising the physical and social connection benefits.

2.5.2 Footpath

A path which is off-road, generally in the road verge, which is provided for people walking. In Victoria, children aged 12 years or younger can ride on footpaths. People older than this may ride on a footpath if they are riding with a child aged 12 or younger.

2.5.3 Shared path

A shared path is off-road and is shared space with pedestrians and cyclists. The minimum width for a shared path is 2.5m.

2.5.4 Off-road bicycle facility

A bicycle facility is said to be off-road when it is located in the verge (i.e. road related area parallel to the road carriageway); through parks or reserves; or within a public transport corridor or other public or private land not open to motor vehicle traffic.

2.5.5 On-road bicycle facility

A bicycle facility is said to be on-road when it forms part of the road carriageway such as a bicycle lane or a shoulder shared with parked vehicles.

2.5.6 Bicycle lane

an exclusive space for cyclists on the road carriageway. Defined with a white painted bicycle symbol and regulatory signage. Bicycle lanes can be defined by painted white lines on either side or physically-separated with a kerb or other separation device.

2.5.7 Trail network

A combination of sealed and unsealed tracks and paths providing access through and between townships. Trail networks including shared pathways that follow natural or other features such as creeks, stormwater drains, utility corridors, and stock routes, for example, but are not located in road reservations. Trails can be sealed or unsealed depending on local conditions, including expected usage, local character or engineering requirements. Trails are typically sealed in urban areas and unsealed outside of urban areas, provide access to, and alternative connections within, the urban network.



Grampians Rail Trail at Codd's Flat Road

2.6 Open space provision

There are currently two primary approaches to open space planning for local government - a standards-based approach and a needs-based approach.

2.6.1 Standards-based approach

Desired Standards of Service (DSS)

It is important to develop parks that meet the needs of the community and the standards-based approach aims to meet a range of criteria:

- quantity of land for open space
- size of open space park types
- accessibility of the open space to the community
- level of embellishment of the open space
- condition of the park and embellishments.

Land for parks

The quantity standard identifies the recommended minimum standards for the provision of land for core open space. Standards are generally presented as hectares/1,000 population. Typically, councils similar to Northern Grampians Shire provide between 4 and 5 hectares/1,000 people of combined recreation and sport parks.

Park size

The size standard identifies the minimum area for different park hierarchies to ensure parks can be developed to provide the intended service.

Park access

The access standard evaluates the distribution of parkland and whether residents can easily access it. Research indicates that most residents are willing to walk up to 10 minutes to access a destination, including park and recreation facilities. While many residents will drive to facilities, others (including children) will walk or cycle.

Park embellishment

Embellishments are the facilities and services provided at parks to meet various recreation needs. The types of embellishments available in parks can be deliberately chosen to allow the park to function for its intended purpose. For example, competition sport facilities can also be embellished for recreation park use by either children, older youth or for picnicking, walking and nature appreciation.

Park condition

The condition of a park and its embellishments can impact the recreation experience of residents who visit it. The condition standard measures if the park and embellishments are in good, fair or poor condition. Regardless of the quantity and variety of embellishments available, community members may be less likely to visit parks that are in poor condition.

2.6.2 Needs-based approach

The standards-based approach to open space planning is most effectively used in greenfield situations where significant population growth is projected. However, this approach is not the only approach for consideration. Alternative approaches are appropriate when:

- infill development (rather than greenfield development) is planned
- limited population growth is expected
- planning areas consist of towns and smaller outlying communities or villages.

Northern Grampians is typified by:

- manageable population growth over the next decade(s)
- towns and smaller outlying communities or villages are distributed across the local government area
- generally larger residential block sizes.

Weight is given to the planning area needs including the social, demographic and environmental characteristics of an area and the type of embellishment required in an open space. Given these characteristics of the Shire, both the needs-based and standards-based approaches are proposed for open space planning, provision and development.

The access and quantity standards are traditionally the two primary measures used to assess and plan for core open space parkland demands.

Recreation needs have also been taken into consideration for this Strategy. Therefore, park embellishment and condition have also been assessed.

Both the Standards- and Needs-based approach have been applied to develop the Strategy.

2.6.3 Tiered hierarchy approach to access and distribution

A standards-based approach including a tiered hierarchy of public open spaces in the larger population centres of Stawell and St Arnaud has been proposed, in order to appropriately plan for the public open space, sport and recreation needs of people living in these townships. The tiers provide detail on the level of facilities and embellishments that the community can expect, as well as indicative travel distances (catchments) for the community to access different facilities.

The tiered approach reflects population catchments. Town, neighbourhood and local parks will be found in Stawell and St Arnaud townships due to the population catchments. Town sport parks may be found in Stawell and St Arnaud.

By contrast, a needs-based approach has been proposed for villages to ensure communities with smaller population sizes have access to a minimum standard of facilities for recreation and sport.

It is important to note that people's access to experiences and activities will vary depending on their residence and ability to travel to other destinations.

Specialised sport parks (such as shooting and skiing for example) may be found in or near either towns or villages and have a larger geographic and population catchment. These are often destination parks drawing visitors from a broader regional catchment.

The sustainability of open space and sports facilities must be considered in the provision of future open space, with an important component being Council's ability to fund, operate and maintain the network and assets.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

Good quality public open space and active transport networks are integral to the liveability of the Northern Grampians Shire.

Appropriate planning and design is essential to ensure land, embellishments, and support infrastructure delivers the level of service required to meet the physical activity, health and wellbeing, and active transport needs of the community.

A desired standard of service (DSS) has been applied to the larger population centres of Stawell and St Arnaud. A tiered hierarchy and classification provides structure to public open space planning and provision.

A needs-based approach has been applied to outlying communities of less than 500 people. This ensure a minimum standard of provision of public open space.

Different forms of active transport infrastructure aim to meet different transport and recreation needs of the community.



Sports parks include sports courts across the Shire



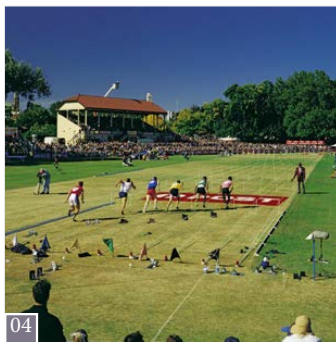
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- 01_ Thought extinct, tiger quolls have been seen in the Grampians National Park (Gariwerd)
- 02_ Northern Grampians Shire is part of the Wimmera Regional Catchment
- 03_ Over 200 rock art sites are recorded in the Grampians National Park (Gariwerd)
- 04_ The Stawell Gift annual event is held in Central Park, Stawell

2.7 Relevant legislation, planning and policies

The following provides a list of relevant legislation, strategic planning, policies and design guidelines that are relevant to open space and active transport planning and delivery.

National legislation and planning context

A range of Commonwealth legislation and strategies influence public open space and active transport, as well as structured (sport) and unstructured recreation pursuits during leisure time. Those that have relevant to development of the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy are listed below.

- National Reserve System
- National Landcare Program
- Healthy Active by Design
- National Cycling Strategy 2011-2016.

Victorian legislation and planning context

The provision and development of public open space is guided by State Government legislation, policy, and strategy. Those referenced when developing this Strategy, are listed below.

- Planning and Environment Act 1987 (and planning provisions and instruments including Ministerial Directions and guidance relating to development of Contributions Policy)
- Subdivision Act 1988
- Victorian Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
- Gender Equality Act 2020 (and related legislation)
- Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria
- Design for Everyone Guide
- Safer Design Guidelines Victoria
- Victoria's Cycling Strategy 2018-2028
- Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030.

Regional strategic planning context

Regional strategic planning is a process of developing long-term plans for the growth and development of the various regions within Victoria. This planning process involves collaboration between local government authorities, state government agencies, and other stakeholders, and is aimed at ensuring that the growth and development of each region is well-coordinated, sustainable, and in line with the overall goals and priorities of the state. Regional strategic planning in Victoria is an important tool for managing the balance between economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity, and helps to ensure that the state's regions continue to be attractive places to live, work, and visit.

The following regional plans were reviewed to inform the Open Space and Active Recreation Strategy.

- Regional Growth Plan
- Activate Plan 2020-2030
- Western Region Sustainable Water Strategy
- Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Strategy
- Wimmera Regional Catchment Strategy
- Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan 2021.

NATIONAL, STATE AND REGIONAL PLANNING

An expansive framework of legislation, planning and policy is available to reference when investigating and planning for our local communities. Aligning Council's planning and policy provides a strong basis for material support and success.

2.7.1 Council strategic planning context

Northern Grampians Shire Council has undertaken comprehensive strategic planning for a range of key issues to provide a clear direction and framework for decision-making and to ensure that the resources and efforts of the Council are aligned with its goals and priorities.

Quality strategic planning includes engaging with the community, gathering data and information, analysing trends, and developing a vision for the future. The resultant plan is then used as a roadmap to guide decision-making and allocate resources to achieve the desired outcomes. Through its strategic planning processes and activities, Council aims to create vibrant, sustainable, and liveable communities across the Shire.

A selection of Council's strategic planning is summarised below to provide context for the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy.

Northern Grampians Planning Scheme

The Northern Grampians Planning Scheme controls land use and development and includes maps and ordinance to guide and support appropriate development.

Council Plan 2021-2025 (Revised 2023)

The four-year Council Plan sets out how Council will deliver outcomes identified in key Council strategic planning documents such as:

- Asset Plan
- Financial Plan
- Economic Development Strategy
- Shire Vision 2041.

Shire Community Vision 2041

The Northern Grampians Shire Community Vision 2041 sets the community's priorities for the next 20 years and aims to inform the strategic planning and decision-making processes for the future of the Shire.

Two key themes are of particular relevance to development of the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy:

Wellness and Welfare

- Develop the facilities and capabilities to deliver a range of recreational activities and events for all ages

Improving Connectivity

- Identify improved transport connections that help people get where they want to be

These strategic directions will guide planning to develop the Northern Grampians Open Space and Active Transport Strategy.

Economic Development Strategy Action Plan 2021-31

Council recognises that targets within the

plan are ambitious goals to reach by 2031, however the aspiration is to "Uplift our communities economic wellbeing and quality of life."

The Strategy identifies how Council and the community aim to:

- grow the population, and lower the median age
- grow the economy
- grow the economic capacity and engagement of residents.

Of relevance to this new work under development, a key strategy (1a ii) is to 'ensure diverse and enriching places and experiences that offer an attractive lifestyle alternative'.

Financial Plan 2021-2031

Council's Financial Plan projects expenditure over the next 10 years to deliver services, maintain and renew existing assets and build new infrastructure.

Council currently spends over \$28 million to deliver an estimated 40 services and functions, and manages over \$500 million worth of community assets consisting of roads, drains, footpaths, buildings, sporting facilities, recreation reserves and streetscapes. Council can only fund \$6 million of asset replacement annually, instead of the required \$10 million, due to income and revenue constraints.

The Open Space and Active Transport Strategy will allow Council to develop an Infrastructure Contributions Policy if required due to project population growth, to ensure appropriate land and/or monetary contributions are sufficient to support its strategies and Council's financial position in the future.

Asset Plan 2022-2032

Council developed an Asset Plan in 2022 to ensure assets relating to roads, bridges and culverts, footpaths, buildings, kerb and channel, stormwater drainage, and open space are strategically managed to meet current and future needs of the community. Footpaths and open space assets are the most relevant for the Strategies being developed.

Community engagement undertaken to inform development of the Asset Plan revealed the following positive feedback from respondents in relation to open space and footpaths:

- 67% believe open space is meeting current community needs
- 69% believe open space assets are well utilised
- 90% believe the size of open spaces meet community requirements
- 70% believe the quality of open space meets community expectations
- all prefer multi-use facilities rather than single use
- 31% are willing to pay more to keep footpaths serviceable
- 54% believe a footpath should be on every street
- 40% believe a footpath should be on both sides of the street
- 56% believe gravel footpaths are acceptable
- all prioritise renewal and fit-for-purpose upgrades over new assets.

According to the Asset Plan, Council manages 115km of footpath assets valued at \$20 million and 134 hectares of open space assets valued at \$7 million.

The Plan recognises that future demands for new and altered services provided by assets will result from a range of factors that are to be proactively managed to maximise efficiency and value for money for the community. Integration with Council's long-term financial plan is integral to appropriate management of assets.

The Strategies will contribute to Council's Asset Plan by providing additional rigour around data gathered through open space and facility inspections, and by making recommendations relating to asset renewal, upgrade or replacement, as well as rationalisation where appropriate.

The Strategies may also contribute to Level of Service planning for parks and reserves, although this will be high-level input rather than detailed analysis.

NGSC Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025

Council collaborated with state government agencies, non-government and community organisations to develop a plan to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes for residents.

The Vision of the Plan is:

Northern Grampians where communities are thriving, healthy and welcoming.

The goals of the Plan are:

- improving mental health and wellbeing
- increasing access to health services
- reducing family violence
- increasing healthy eating and active living
- act on climate change.

The goals of the Health and Wellbeing Plan have been incorporated into the Strategy to ensure alignment.

St Arnaud Structure Plan - emerging themes

Council is in the process of working with the community to develop a Structure Plan for St Arnaud to:

- establish the township boundary and protect its rural surrounds for agricultural uses
- support and expand existing industries, and enhance the town's role as a regional centre
- provide a range of housing for the changing community and to attract new residents and tourists
- enhance the lifestyle, character and heritage features that make the town special
- create a network of pedestrian and cycling paths, and enhance road network capacity for industry expansion.

In relation to open space, active transport and recreation, opportunities have been identified to:

- create opportunities to extend the network of high quality public spaces to suit different recreational needs of the existing and future community

- enhance the town's unique landscape setting by establishing links between the areas of St Arnaud State Forest and Regional Park and protecting native vegetation from urban growth
- create pedestrian and cycling links to reduce car dependency and encourage healthier lifestyles
- develop a walkable town core to accommodate the town's changing community.

As development of the Structure Plan continues, the outcomes will inform the Open Space and Active Transport and Sport and Active Recreation Strategies.

Stawell Parks Precinct Plan 2019

The Precinct Plan includes Central Park, Cato Park and the Swans Project water storage and treatment ponds bordering Maude Street. Key directions included:

- paths and access
- fit-for-purpose sport facilities
- presentation and interface
- lakes and wildlife
- inclusive play facilities
- vegetation.

Implementation of the directions will be reviewed as part of the Open Space and Active Transport and Sport and Active Recreation Strategies, to either support or offer amendments, based on current community needs.

Stawell Structure Plan 2021

The Structure Plan provides a long-term plan to guide Council decisions about future development to contribute to Council's goal to make Stawell a better place to live, work, invest and visit.

The Plan identifies the need to indicate preferred locations for open space to enhance the existing open space network and create connections across the landscape, including through a primary pedestrian network.

The identified issues, strategies and actions contained in the Structure Plan will inform the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy, and in turn the Strategy will contribute to confident decision making and informed policy to achieve objectives.

Halls Gap Village Masterplan

The Halls Gap Village Masterplan is a comprehensive plan that guides the future development of the Halls Gap village in the Grampians region of Victoria, Australia. The masterplan outlines a vision for the future of the village and sets out a range of strategies and initiatives to help achieve this vision. The Plan takes into consideration the unique character and natural assets of the village, as well as the needs and aspirations of the local community. The Halls Gap Village Masterplan addresses a range of issues including land use, transportation, housing, economic development, and the protection and enhancement of the natural environment. It provides a framework for decision-making, helping to ensure that future development in the village is well-coordinated and in line with the community's goals and priorities. The Halls Gap Village Masterplan is an important tool for shaping the future of the village, and for ensuring that it remains a vibrant and attractive place for residents and visitors alike.

The Halls Gap Village Centre Action Plan supports implementation of the masterplan including amenity, pedestrian access, intensification of commercial land, and the identification of Grampians Peaks Trail Head location.

The Master Plan supports enhancement of existing open spaces and active transport infrastructure and is generally supported for the purposes of the proposed Open Space and Active Transport Strategy.

Great Western Future Plan 2014-2024

The Great Western Future Plan (GWFP) presents a range of development and growth initiatives for the township. Relevant initiatives of the GWFP have been considered when developing the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy, particularly walking and cycling trails to key destinations in and around the village. Relevant elements have also been considered in the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.

2021 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey - Northern Grampians Shire Council

The annual Community Satisfaction Survey (CCS) surveys local residents to provide feedback to Council regarding services and facilities, and provides a benchmark and comparison allowing Council's to adjust focus to meet the needs and expectations of its community.

The overall performance of Council has improved since 2019, with waste management and decisions made in the interests of the community underpinning positive ratings by residents. The survey has not sought feedback relating specifically to open space, active transport, sport or active recreation, however it may in the future.

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy 2014

In 2014, Council developed an Open Space, Sport, and Recreation Strategy to identify priority projects to respond to the changing needs of the community and increase participation in sport and recreation activities by all members of the community. Priority projects, programs and services were identified to meet Council's strategic objectives over a 10-year timeframe.

Council has progressed several of the recommended actions from the 2014 Strategy, and these are summarised further in this report.

KEY THEMES FROM COUNCIL PLANNING

When considered together, the review of Council's previous planning highlights a number of key considerations:

- Northern Grampians Shire offers an enviable lifestyle with community wellbeing as a cornerstone
- Council engages the community to identify needs and aspirations, and plans accordingly
- Council acknowledges the importance of walk and cycle infrastructure as key contributors to positive health and equity outcomes
- Council acknowledges the importance of public open space, recreation and sport facilities for the community
- Council recognises the unique attributes of individual communities across the Shire and aims to reflect characteristics in future planning
- Council is aware of the need to preserve the lifestyle available in the Shire for current and future generations.

2.8 Major trends in open space and recreation

Participation patterns in recreation and sport are changing at a community level. Factors such as a move toward non-organised or social sport, increased outdoor nature-based recreation and increased use of technology have all had a significant impact on how people recreate and use public open space. Understanding these trends (and their impacts) is important as Council looks to develop strategies, programs and facilities to encourage people to engage in activities in public open spaces.

COVID-19

At the time of undertaking this work, the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic was in its fourth year and was continuing to impact many aspects of traditional society. While in many parts of Australia semblances of 'normal' life has returned, longer term impacts are currently the subject of further study and investigation.

After Australia's initial lockdown period in the first half of 2020, a number of new, staged public protective measures commenced with State and Federal Governments enforcing restrictions to maintain good hygiene and stop the spread of the virus. The government recommendations included:

- social distancing of a minimum 1.5m from any other person
- limited numbers of people for indoor and outdoor gatherings
- limited number of patrons for restaurants
- restrictions on team sports including change rooms, number of supporters and physical distancing.

Toward the end of 2022 and early 2023, with distribution and take-up of vaccines occurring worldwide, it is likely that the impact of the pandemic will have lasting effects on design aspects and use of the public realm.

Some investigations are occurring into the potential effect of COVID-19 on where people want to live, and the influence of technological connectivity allowing some workers to choose a place to live that is not constrained by proximity to work. During the peak of the pandemic, house prices (particularly in major capital cities in Australia) continued to increase, providing another consideration for people's home location choices. The impacts of these factors on population projections in regional locations such as the Northern Grampians is not yet known, however provides an opportunity to promote the lifestyle benefits on offer across the Shire.

In response to social distancing, an association named NACTO (or National Association of City Transportation Officials, which is comprised of 81 major North American cities and transit agencies) released a widely shared guide, in May 2020, entitled *Streets for Pandemic Response and Recovery*.

NACTO city transportation officials around the world quickly developed this new street design and management tool "to keep essential workers and goods moving, provide safe access to grocery stores and other essential businesses, and ensure that people have safe space for social/physical distancing while getting outside". These evolving practices will influence urban development in our towns and cities as we

respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Streets for Pandemic Response and Recovery is a compilation of emerging practices around the world and provides a set of implementation resources for all population centres. These regularly updated resources provide advice on how authorities and government can manage their public spaces in response to the rapidly changing nature of the pandemic.

There are currently seven different strategic guides available that address changing conditions and provide the best possible information on each design practice. Detailed implementation guides can be downloaded for the following street strategies:

- urban street design guide
- designing streets for kids
- designing for all ages and abilities
- urban bikeway design guide
- don't give up at the intersection.

Council's future planning and design of public parks and places will benefit from referring to guides such as *Streets for Pandemic Response and Recovery* to ensure the optimum in public health standards are maintained in public spaces including parks.

Technology

In just one generation, there has been a dramatic shift in childhood activity from outdoors to indoors. This has been driven in part by increased use of technology. Technology remains one of the main contributors towards decreased physical activity and increased sedentary behaviour. However, active gaming is becoming a contemporary approach to exercise. In some technology-based games, participants are engaged in physical movement by using their bodies as the controllers (thus increasing their heart rate).

Increasing use of smart phones and apps allows people to obtain information, communicate with each other very quickly, and provide feedback on their recreation experience at any time of the day or night. Many people using parks, playgrounds, paths and trails make the decision on where to recreate based on the information available via the internet, blogs, forums and social media.

A number of mobile phone apps are aiding the community in tracking, recording and mapping their activities including walking, running and mountain bike riding. The apps allow participants to compete against themselves, as well as other app users. It can also be a useful tool for managing authorities in determining where the community is currently participating in activities (whether authorised or not).

There are also increasing community expectations of access to technology in recreation areas including WiFi access in key parks, and use of digital tools for information and marketing on tracks and signage.

Increasing 'screen time' during leisure time

Time spent looking at a screen is somewhat unavoidable in many workplaces and schools. More of our leisure time is also being spent looking at screens, at the cost of active leisure activities including socialising, reading, writing, arts and crafts, sports, exercise and recreation¹.

¹ Krause and Sawhill. *How free time became screen time*.

A study conducted using data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics found a clear trend of adult Americans participating in increased screen time (for leisure) and decreasing active leisure over a 13-year period ending in 2015. It is believed that a similar trend applies to adults in Australia. Excessive screen time has been associated with negative health outcomes as people have less time available to participate in physical activity.

Social media

The rise of social media over the past 15 years has provided new ways for people to engage with parks and public places and share their experiences on platforms such as TikTok, Instagram and Facebook. In some cases, this process of sharing and promoting locations has increased visitation. A recent study conducted in the United States identified that millennials are seeking 'brag-worthy' experiences to share on social media².

Participation trends

Since 2015, Sport Australia has conducted a national sport and physical activity participation survey, Ausplay. The most recent results of the survey were released in April 2020. In 2011-12 and 2013-14, a similar survey, the Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation Survey was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Between 2001-2010, the Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) was conducted by the Committee of Australia Sport and Recreation Officials (CASRO).

Overall, participation in sport and physical activity has increased in the last two decades. More adults participate more frequently compared to 2001. Female participation (at least once each year) has remained on par with male participation throughout. However, more women have constantly participated, more often.

Participation in sport-related activities has not increased, while non-sport physical activities have increased significantly (by more than 20 percent from 2001 to 2019). Participation in non-sport recreation activities such as walking and fitness/gym have increased the most.

More children participate in organised (out-of-school) sport than adults. The top activities children participate in changes as children age, with a focus on the life skill of swimming for infants and toddlers and running, fitness/gym, football and walking being the dominant activities by the time children reach the ages between 15 and 24 years old.

National participation rates in organised sport have been declining for a number of years as participants move toward more social (drop-in drop-out) sport and informal recreation. It will be important for Council to monitor participation trends into the future to ensure resources are allocated appropriately to support a broad range of both recreation and sport activities.

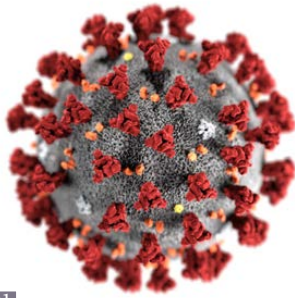
How Australians' participation in sport and physical activity is adapting to COVID-normal

In July 2022, AusPlay data was reported showing further evidence of how participation in sport and recreation is changing for Australians. In summary:

²⁰¹⁶

² Ways to Make Your Parks Millennial Friendly, US NRPA. 2015





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- 01_ COVID-19 has impacted the use of the public realm
- 02_ Technology changes impact recreation participation
- 03_ Social media provides new ways for people to engage with parks
- 04_ Walking remains the activity with the highest participation rate

- compared with 2019, the average mix of activities per person is increasing, with fewer people relying solely on sporting clubs or organised venues for exercise
- physically-distanced (COVID-safe) or home-based activities are increasingly popular, including walking, bush walking, tennis, pilates, mountain biking, and canoeing/kayaking
- “exergaming” is now one of the top 20 activities for Australians aged 15+
- social and mental health benefits of exercise are increasingly important for Australians aged 15+
- participation by children in sport is lower than 2019, however there are indications that children are returning to regular (1+ per week) participation.

Walking

Walking continues to be the most popular physical activity across age groups in Australia. Further refinement and implementation of Council’s strategic planning for infrastructure that supports walking and cycling for transport and recreation will continue to increase in importance in future years.

Walking the dog

Australia has one of the highest rates of dog ownership in the world with 36% of households owning a dog.³ People walk their dogs for several reasons, the most obvious being to maintain the health and wellbeing of the dog, and contributing to their own in the process. Responsible dog ownership includes regularly walking the dog to provide exercise and stimulation as they explore the sights and smells and interact with their owners and other people, as well as socialising with other dogs. Regular walks prevent dogs from becoming bored or destructive.

For people, walking with a dog is recognised as having positive benefits to our physical and psychological wellbeing. Research indicates that dog owners enjoy many health and social benefits including improved cardiovascular fitness, lower blood pressure, stronger muscles and bones and decreased stress. Walking with a dog can promote social interaction as well, with the dog providing a neutral and generally positive talking point.

Walking the dog can be done with the dog on a leash or off-leash. Exercising dogs safely off the leash while keeping them under effective control can be difficult in an urban setting. Ideally, councils should provide several suitably located unfenced off-leash areas and some fenced dog parks. These areas can become effective community centres for people, as much as dogs.

Dog parks are purpose-designed spaces for dogs and their owners, often separated into small and large dog parks, adjacent to each other. Successful dog parks are carefully designed with key considerations including:

- locations are accessible by walking or driving, and avoid conflicts with significant flora and fauna
- separate large and small dog sections
- parking provision
- entry/exit design to minimise the likelihood of a dog escaping while others arrive/ depart
- long, linear park shapes with regular seating and shelter/shade
- fences, water, waste management, signs.

Mechanisms to support dog walking will be investigated further to inform the Northern Grampians Shire Open Space and Active Transport Strategy.

On Your Bike

In Australia in 2005, 13% of the population (or 2.1 million people) cycled regularly or occasionally. By 2019 this figure reached 19% (or 3.7 million people)⁴. Cycling has been reported as one of the top five sport and physical activities from results of the AusPlay survey released in 2020. Over 90% of participation in cycling is non-organised, with only 8% of cyclists participating in organised competitions.

Mountain bike riding includes a number of off-road biking styles, including cross-country, downhill, observed trials, cross-country marathon and cyclocross. In November 2020,

³ <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/news/news62461.html>
⁴ Roy Morgan Single Source (Australia), April 2014–March

2015 (n=15,913)

Mountain Bike Australia, BMX Australia and Cycling Australia amalgamated to form AusCycling. AusCycling has over 54,000 members and 400 affiliated clubs nationwide across different forms of cycling. There are many mountain bikers who are not registered with AusCycling. It is estimated that over half of mountain bike riders are not club or group members.

The past decade has seen a steady increase in registered BMX club members with over 17,000 active members (excluding volunteers) nationwide in 2018. BMX bikes are also popular for non-competition recreation and skate parks are popular locations for BMX bikes, as well as other wheeled recreation devices, such as scooters.

Pump tracks are also becoming one of the more popular recreation facilities for all ages. A pump track is a 2-6m wide track for mountain bike, BMX, pedal-less balance bikes, scooters and skateboard riders. The track consists of rollers and banked turns (berms). While there is no set dimensions or design template, layouts consist of continuous loops with different combinations of rollers and berms. The 'pump' part is the pushing-down and pulling-up action performed by riders as the key source of momentum. A well-designed pump track will allow advanced riders to jump from roller to roller and across berms to different parts of the track, rather than just pumping and riding over a prescribed route. In Australia, larger pump tracks tend to be made of asphalt or dirt, with smaller plywood composite and pre-cast concrete tracks also popular.

The various forms of cycling and the growing popularity of all types of bike riding supports evidence of a shift away from structured sport to unstructured recreation. Cycling is also growing in popularity as an active transport method.

Micromobility

Micromobility is the term used to describe transportation using lightweight vehicles such as bicycles or scooters, including electric scooters available through borrow or self-service schemes in cities. An estimated 250,000 electric scooters and personal mobility devices have been sold and are being used across Australia⁵.

Rental scooters have been legalised in all States except New South Wales, where a trial is currently underway. Privately-owned electric scooters are not yet legal in Victoria, however the outcomes of a trial of commercial e-scooters will potentially influence changes in legislation that accommodate private e-scooter use. Interestingly, the regional town of Ballarat is currently trialling commercial e-scooter hire.

Indicators show that it is likely e-scooters and e-bikes will become increasingly popular forms of transportation in the future. E-bikes and e-scooters may prove popular in Stawell where the topography may act as a barrier to active transport.

Declining number of volunteers

The rate of volunteering in sport and recreation clubs has been declining for many years. Often, the responsibility for running clubs falls to a small group of key personnel. To address this issue, there is a move toward amalgamations, with multi-sport clubs becoming more common. In other cases, organisations may become aligned to larger licensed clubs, that take over some or all of the volunteers' roles, as

⁵ <https://micromobilityreport.com.au/infrastructure/bike-scooter-share/2022-a-year-of-change/>

well as asset management responsibilities.

Several of the sport facilities in Northern Grampians Shire are home to multiple sports. There is an opportunity to investigate alternative governance models for clubs, that reflect and take advantage of changes in technology, participation trends and contemporary facility management practices.

Play space planning

Planning for the needs of specific age groups can be difficult because investment in parks infrastructure needs to have a shelf life of many years, during which time children grow up and their interests change. Information about age groups is therefore used with caution and while larger numbers of children may indicate the need for more play provision, a lack of children in other areas should not be used to justify the disposal of public open space. Although communities may be planned with a particular demographic group in mind, times will change and there will always be blended families with multiple age groups, visitors and exceptions to the main predicted demographic group, whose needs still must be met.

Communities dominated by older adults and retirees still need a good framework of parks and play spaces. Grandparents have taken on an increasing role as child care providers, and play spaces which are accessible and inclusive are increasingly useful for this group, as well as for the general social and recreation activities of multi-age families and groups.

For these reasons, a basic framework of public open space, parks and play spaces will always be required. They should be ready to be adapted if necessary, in small ways as waves of children move in, grow up and move on. Some details can be changed, and the specifics of play elements can be adjusted over time if required, but the parks and open space framework must remain in place.

Adventure and imagination play

New terms are increasingly being used to describe different forms of play that contribute to healthy child-development outcomes. These terms are used to broaden the concept of play beyond the primary-coloured, plastic, off-the-shelf play equipment used in many playgrounds historically.

In response to a growing body of research, play opportunities are being designed and created that encourage children to use their imaginations, learn social skills, build their self-confidence and test their physical skills through adventure and exploration.

Council's Municipal Early Years Plan 2012-2016 includes strategies and actions aimed at enhancing playgrounds, bike paths, and public open space to support positive early childhood development.

Challenge parks are another emerging type of park. They generally feature multiple play nodes to cater for different ages, gardens, water play areas and lagoons, large open grassy spaces, shady picnic spots with quality facilities, ponds and water features, areas of natural woodland and vegetation and kilometres of shared paths and boardwalks to explore. High tree house structures, sky walks and natural elements are introducing risk back into play, enabling children to develop an awareness of limits and boundaries.

Children and youth living in the Northern Grampians Shire have opportunities for nature-play and challenge as they have access to a range of outdoor recreation opportunities. Some formalisation of challenging play could be considered in the long term future.

There is an opportunity for Northern Grampians Shire to plan and design play and recreation opportunities for children and youth that contributes to personal development, socialisation and community connection.

Placemaking

Placemaking by definition refers to a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces. Placemaking is a collaborative process aimed at inspiring people to collectively re-imagine and reinvent public spaces they share as the heart of the community. Placemaking pays particular attention to the physical, cultural and social identities that define a place and support its ongoing development.

Key principles of placemaking

The Project for Public Places (PPS) identified eleven key elements required to create or transform public spaces into vibrant community places. The principles are:

- the community is the expert
- create a place, not a design
- look for partners
- you can see a lot by just observing
- have a vision
- start with the petunias: lighter, quicker, cheaper
- triangulate
- they always say "It can't be done"
- form supports function
- money is not the issue
- you are never finished.

The PPS website is a trove of information and resources relating to placemaking including case studies that can inspire action. Through community-based participation, effective place making processes leverage local community assets, inspiration and potential to create quality public open spaces that contribute to people's health, happiness and wellbeing.

Increasing health and environmental awareness

People are becoming increasingly concerned about their health, with conditions such as obesity and stress-related illness on the rise. Surveys conducted in Melbourne and Sydney indicated that residents with easy access to the natural environment reported a higher quality of life (regardless of public or private housing⁶). It is acknowledged that these areas are cities, unlike the townships and villages in the Northern Grampians Shire.

These city-based surveys showed steady increases in people's preference for large, managed and accessible natural areas. This, combined with a growing awareness of the environment and its challenges (global warming, pollution and urbanisation), has led to a growth in visitation to natural

areas. A term referred to as 'returning to nature' has emerged where people feel the desire to become reconnected to their natural environment.

Ageing population

Australia's population is ageing due to declining fertility rates and increasing life expectancy. Sixteen percent of Australians (4.2 million) were aged 65 and over in 2020. This cohort is projected to grow to 22% of the total population by 2066.

In 2020, AusPlay data revealed that less than half (44%) of older Australians aged 65+ participated in physical activity five times per week.

The change in age structure for people living in Northern Grampians Shire between 2011, 2016, and 2021, indicates increases (+575) in people aged 70+ living in the Shire. Overall, this group represents over 5% of the population, and approximately 2,269 individuals.

Ensuring access to a range of recreation opportunities for older residents in the Northern Grampians will require conscious planning and design, including elements to ensure inclusion and access. Recent research shows that older adults who maintain a higher level of physical capacity may actually slow their ageing process, contributing to improved personal health outcomes including managing cardiovascular disease or diabetes, for example⁷.

IMPLICATIONS OF MAJOR TRENDS

Trends are significant changes occurring over the long term that are tracked with data-based evidence. The implications for Northern Grampians include:

- Major interruptions from external and uncontrolled sources to 'normal' daily life can occur and may occur again in the future
- Technological advances will continue to influence how we interact with the physical environment
- Participation in unstructured physical activity is increasing, compared with declining participation in sport. Sport remains important particularly for children and young adults (ages 5-35 years)
- Walking remains the most participated in physical activity and safe and comfortable walking and cycling options are key to creating liveable communities
- Imagination and nature-based play provide extended play opportunities compared with traditional equipment 'playgrounds'
- People are reclaiming the public realm, particularly from car dominant uses, and creating spaces where people create a sense of belonging
- People are increasingly aware of living well into older age.

6 SKM. Recreation Implication from Residential Densification. 2006

7 Richards, R & May, C. Mature-aged sport and physical activity. 2019

2.9 Research highlights

2.9.1 Physical activity and sedentary behaviour guidelines

In 2012, the Australian government undertook a systematic review of scientific research and evidence relating to the Australian physical activity guidelines for children, adolescents and adults. The available evidence related to the relationship between:

- physical activity and health outcome indicators
- sedentary behaviour and health outcome indicators.

Underpinning the growth in research interest in sitting time, is an increased awareness of the biological plausibility that there could be health risks from too much sitting, which are independent of the risks associated with not meeting guidelines for physical activity. Current thinking is, that these deleterious metabolic effects, which are now being demonstrated in controlled trials of the effects of sitting and standing/walking on metabolic markers, are distinct from (although similar in nature to) the detrimental effects of not meeting physical activity guidelines. In other words, people may meet the physical activity guidelines and yet sit for many hours each day, with adverse metabolic effects over time resulting in the development of diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Whether or not these effects can be countered by increasing levels of physical activity at any intensity is currently unclear. Children should experience several hours of light activities with at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity per day.

2.9.2 ParkWatch Report⁸

Given the introduction of Victoria's Gender Equality Act 2020 and the requirement for Local Government to undertake Gender Impact Assessments, recent research relating to use of parks and public places that was released by UK based Make Space for Girls, is relevant and worth considering.

During May 2023, Make Space for Girls asked people count the number of teenagers using local park facilities, and their gender, to collect data for a citizen science project.

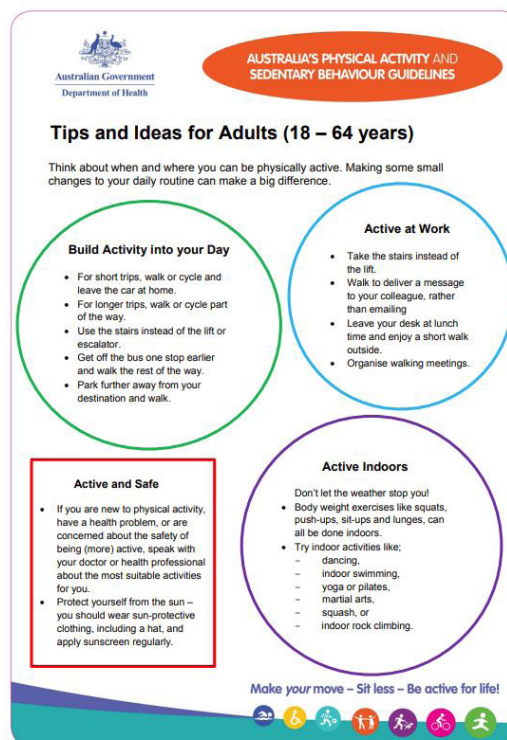
Youth parks or facilities designed for teenagers often include skateparks, BMX tracks or multi-use games areas (MUGAs) such as basketball half-courts or similar modified sport facilities. These types of facilities are anecdotally known to be primarily used by boys, however this project sought to collect data. The results are enlightening:

"Our research reveals that overall 88% of the teenagers using these facilities were boys, and for MUGAs, the most common facilities, this was 92%"

Some additional findings:

- Where different types of facilities were provided, including shelters, swings, tennis courts and play areas designed for older children, girls were more than three times more likely to use them
- Facilities dominated by boys, can also be the dominant facility provided, effectively 'designing girls out' of public parks and places
- The impact on girls is that they don't feel that parks are for them, potentially causing them to miss out on the mental and physical health benefits of park use.

⁸ <https://www.makespaceforgirls.co.uk/resources-library>



Recommendations from the report include:

- When new facilities for teenagers are being provided, councils and developers should consider a far wider range of facilities than skate parks, BMX tracks and MUGAs
- Councils should evaluate what they currently provide for teenagers and whether it meets the needs of girls
- Councils and other bodies should also examine all their policies to ensure that these do not result in the same limited provision
- Every piece of current and future provision should be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment using data or observation
- Most importantly of all, we need better engagement. Teenage girls need to be at the centre of the decision making process, in order to create parks and other spaces which really meet their needs.

The full report, including the methodology provides insights into relatively simple processes that Council may be able to apply to gather data specific to park and facility use across the Northern Grampians to support development of gender impact assessments.



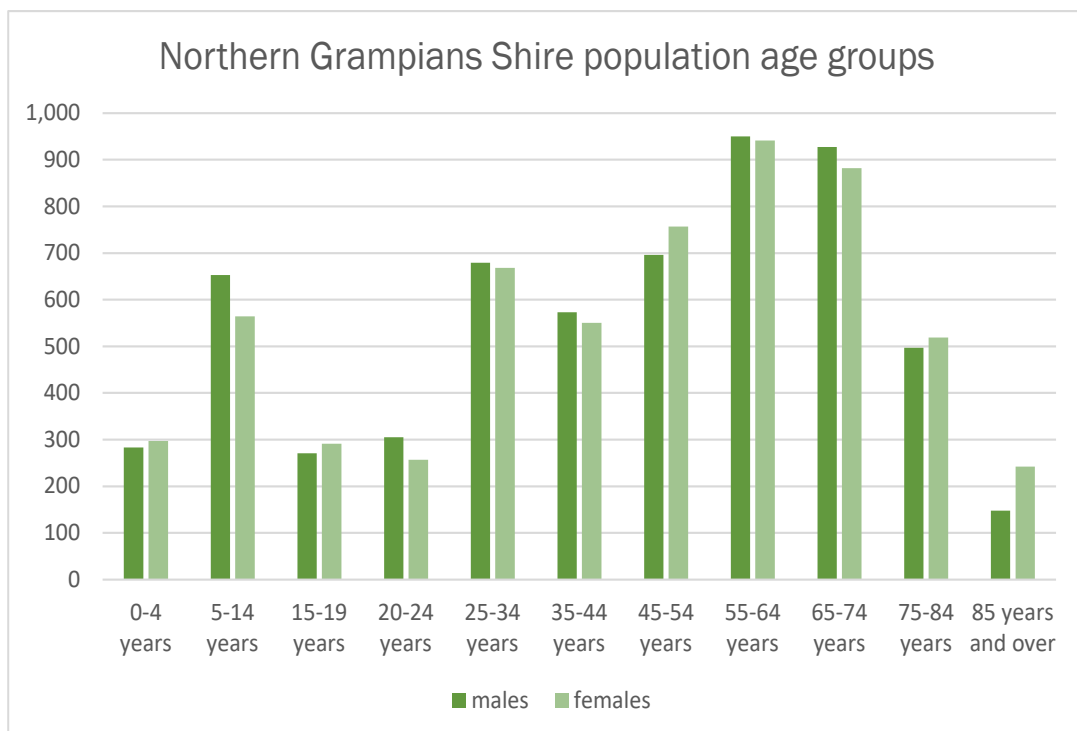
Community profile

3.1 Community profile

Understanding the Shire's demographic profile including age, household composition and income and employment patterns provides an insight into potential leisure and recreation needs for the people living across the Northern Grampians Shire. Key demographic information is provided here as an input to further analysis of participation in recreation, sport and active transport activities by individuals, as well as groups of people with similar demographic characteristics in the community.

The following graph provides an overview of the Shire's population relative to gender and age. As with many communities across Australia, the population in the Northern Grampians is ageing, however the attractive lifestyle on offer and work culture changes such as remote working may be contributing to people aged 25-54 making the Shire their home. The difference in the population of 15-24 year olds compared with 55-74 year olds is striking. The age profile of a Shire is important to understand when planning for public open space and active transport, particularly in relation to the support facilities and settings created.

Additional demographic information is provide on the following pages, and highlights are also in Section 6 Planning Area Directions.



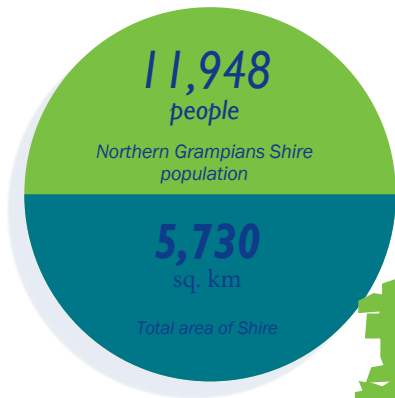


Fig. 03 Northern Grampians Shire demographic overview

Stawell township

5,627	population
48	median age
2,853	(50.7%) female
2,774	(49.3%) male
2.1	average people per household
\$1,089	median weekly household income
118	Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander people
2,384	(88.9%) occupied private dwellings
294	(11%) unoccupied private dwellings



Glenorchy



131	population
53	median age
	(57.2%) male
	(42.8%) female
2.1	average people per household
\$1,020	median weekly household income
0	Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander people
53	(88.3%) occupied private dwellings
4	(6.7%) unoccupied private dwellings

Great Western



425	population
52	median age
218	(51.3%) male
207	(48.7%) female
2.2	average people per household
\$1,474	median weekly household income
6	Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander people
182	(88.8%) occupied private dwellings
25	(12.2%) unoccupied private dwellings

Halls Gap



495	population
44	median age
268	(54.1%) male
227	(45.9%) female
2	average people per household
\$1,196	median weekly household income
16	Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander people
184	(44.1%) occupied private dwellings
230	(55.2%) unoccupied private dwellings

St Arnaud township

2,318	population
52	median age
1,203	(51.9%) female
1,115	(49.3%) male
2	average people per household
\$920	median weekly household income
54	Aboriginal/ Torres Strait Islander people
1,042	(86.6%) occupied private dwellings
160	(13.3%) unoccupied private dwellings



Marnoo



99	population
52	median age
53	(53.3%) male
46	(46.7%) female
2.1	average people per household
\$900	median weekly household income

Navarre



99	population
54	median age
45	(45.1%) male
54	(54.9%) female
2.2	average people per household
\$814	median weekly household income

Stuart Mill



78	population
57	median age
40	(51.2%) male
38	(48.8%) female
2.1	average people per household
\$1,042	median weekly household income

3.2 Community consultation outcomes

To inform development of the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy, community views were sought through various methods, including a community survey, a sport club survey, and individual or small group interviews. A summary of the consultation feedback is provided below.

3.2.1 Community survey

A link to the online survey was distributed via Northern Grampians Shire Council's website and social media. Survey responses were received from a cross-section of residents living in:

- Stawell
- St Arnaud
- Glenorchy
- Great Western
- Halls Gap
- Marnoo
- Navarre
- Stuart Mill

3.2.2 Profile of respondents

The survey was voluntarily answered by approximately 250 Shire residents, just over 60% of respondents were female and 31% were male. The remainder either preferred not to say, or were indeterminate. The higher proportion of female respondents is not unusual, with research indicating that females are more likely to respond to surveys, than males. The age distribution of respondents is provided in the graph below:

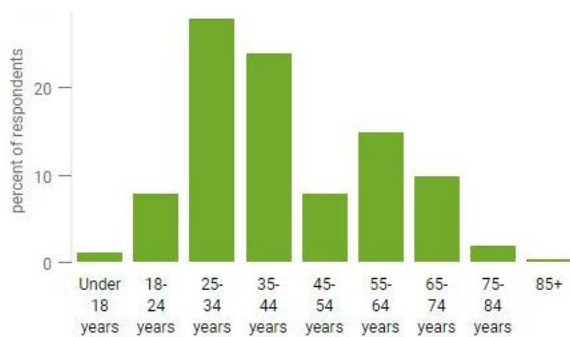


Fig. 06 Age of community survey respondents

3.2.3 Participation in recreation activities (not organised sport)

Figure 06 shows the top ten most popular recreation activities (not organised sport) selected by survey respondents.

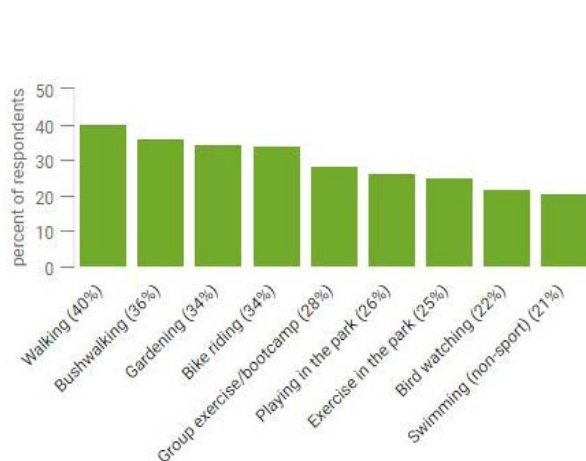


Fig. 03 Top ten most popular activities

Other activities selected by respondents included:

- running (16%)
- horse riding (15%)
- scooter riding (14%)
- golf (12%)
- canoe/kayaking (11%)
- fishing (11%)
- lawn bowls (11%)
- road cycling (10%)
- BMX (9%)
- skateboarding (8%)
- mountain bike riding (all forms) (8%).

Other activities identified in the comments section included:

- yoga
- exercise/weights at gym/leisure centre
- indoor bowls
- rock climbing
- walking/exercising the dog(s)
- archery
- water skiing.

3.2.4 Popular open spaces and recreation facilities

When asked about the open space and facilities where they liked to recreate, survey respondents identified the following:

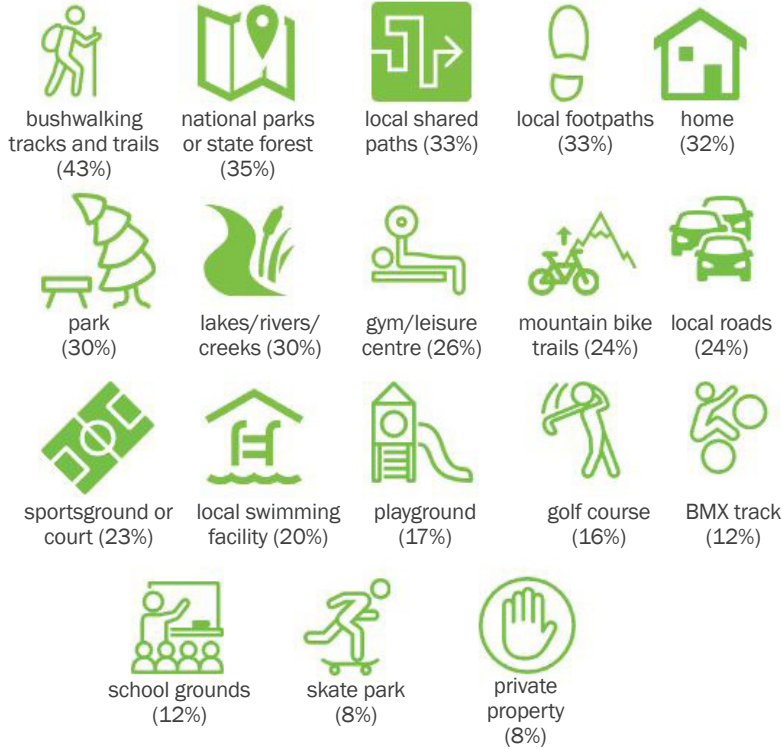


Fig. 04 Popular open spaces and recreation facilities where residents recreate

Importance of open space (playgrounds, sporting fields/courts, skateparks, picnic facilities etc.)

Survey respondents were asked to rate the importance of open space to them and their families. Overwhelmingly, survey respondents rated open space as very important or important to them and their families.

94.4%

79.85% Very important, plus
14.55% Important

1.86%

1.49% Not very important, plus
0.37% Not important

What priority should open space be for Council?

When asked what priority open space, recreation and sport should be for Council, respondents' responses were, overall, quite similar to the importance for them personally. Respondents were asked to use the same rating scale.

95.15%

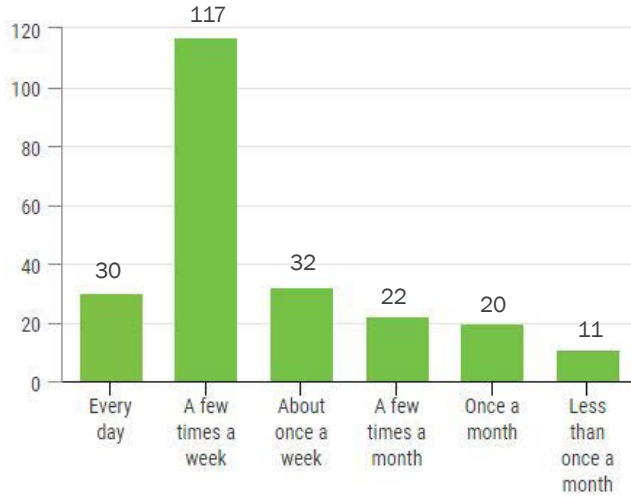
65.67% Very important, plus
29.48% Important

0.37%

0.37% Not very important

3.2.5 Regularity of visits to parks and sport facilities

When asked about the regularity of visits to parks and sport facilities, 115 of the survey respondents reported the following (column representing number of respondents):



76% of respondents visit a park or sports facility at least weekly.

Fig.05 Regularity of visits to parks and sport facilities

3.2.6 Top ten open space values

A comprehensive list of open space values were provided and respondents were asked to select all that applied to them. The results are provided in figure 10 below and reflect broad trends from research across Australia, particularly appreciation of nature and the opportunity to connect with other people, that use of public open space can provide. The top ten responses are provided in the graph below:

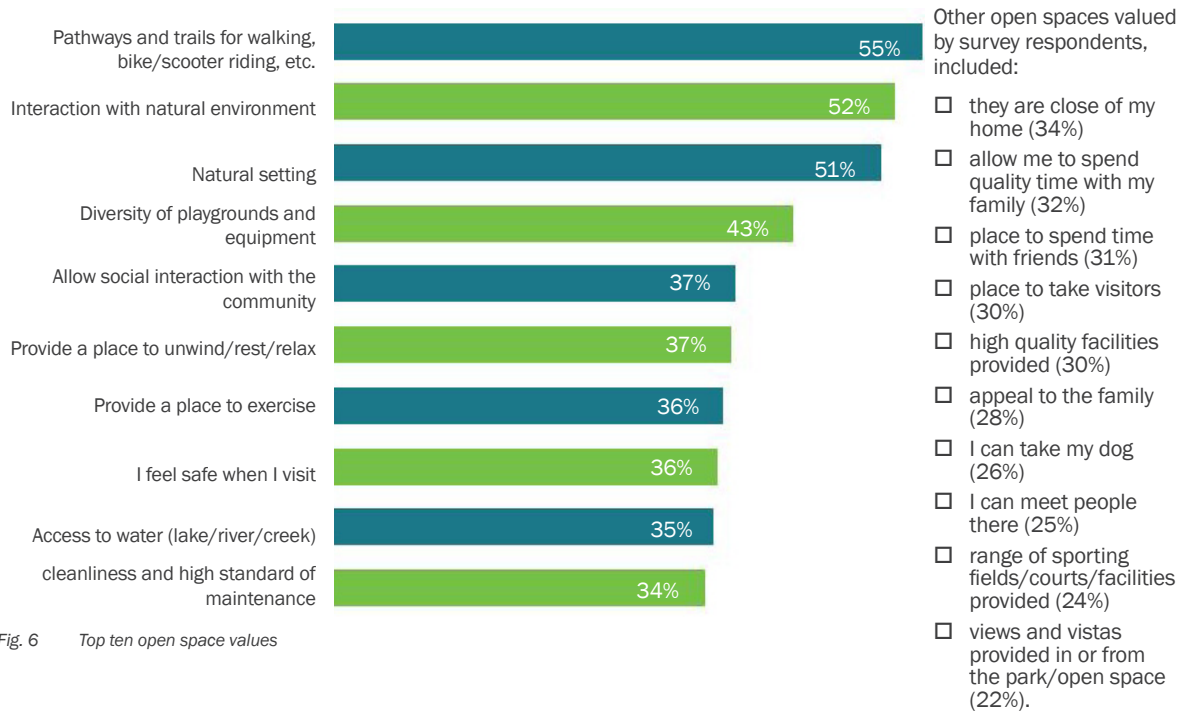


Fig. 6 Top ten open space values

3.2.7 Favourite open space/park within the area

Survey respondents were asked to record their favourite open space/park, including the reasons why. It is acknowledged that Council does not manage all the parks or reserves identified. The following table lists the responses in descending order.

NO.	PLACE	REASONS GIVEN
51	Cato Park, Stawell	lake, landscaping, accessible pathways
8	Central Park, Stawell	sports field, landscaping, history
7	Grampians National Park	biodiversity, views
5	Halls Gap Recreation Reserve	-
4	Maude Street Ponds, Stawell	-
4	Old Lake Velodrome, Stawell	dog off-leash
4	Queen Mary Gardens, St Arnaud	-
4	Market Square, St Arnaud	-
4	King Georges Park, St Arnaud	-
4	North Park, Stawell	-
3	The Ironbarks (Deep Lead Nature Conservation Reserve)	trails and picnic area
3	Lord Nelson Park, St Arnaud	-
3	Pioneer Park, St Arnaud	-
2	Kara Kara National Park	-
2	Federation Park, Stawell	-

Several parks or places were identified by individual survey respondents, including:

- Skate Park
- Gladstone Park, Stawell
- Stawell - Halls Gap Rail Trail
- Marnoo Hub
- St Arnaud Regional Park
- Bicentennial Park, St Arnaud
- Rifle Range Reserve
- Lake Lonsdale.

3.2.8 Top three open space priorities

Survey respondents were asked to nominate the top three open space priorities that they would fund, if they were in charge of Northern Grampians Shire Council. The responses are summarised below and provide an insight into the values of the community.



Improved walking/bike riding/scooter path connections between key destinations

49% of respondents



Improved bushland maintenance/management/conservation

28% of respondents



Provision of places/facilities for young people

28% of respondents

A small sample of comments received as part of the survey have been provided below. These comments provide a glimpse into how residents currently use open spaces and the value they place on those spaces and facilities.

“Playground at North Park.”

“Love to catch up with friends at Cato and grab coffee while walking. It’s so peaceful and has a great atmosphere. We exercise at North Park running track and occasionally Central.”

“Definitely need to look at developing a network of walking/cycling trails to connect parks for locals and tourists so that they can travel off road.”

“I think these different parks all have their own different characteristics, and they are perfectly mixed together.”

“Blythwood SP is close to home and is where I walk my dogs and ride my horse. I sometimes ride my mountain bike and my horse in the Ironbarks. I enjoy hiking in the Grampians because of its beauty.”

“Parks and Gardens team do a great job around town.”

“Improve the rail trail out to Hall’s Gap. Could be a major interest for people.”

“My children love to be outdoors, exploring, running off their adhd energy.”

“Stawell North Park facilities are excellent and such an asset to the town. Love walking the dog around there.”

3.2.9 Barriers to using parks and sport facilities

Two questions were posed relating to potential barriers to using parks and sport facilities within the Northern Grampians LGA, aimed at identifying barriers related to facilities and personal/psychological and social factors ('psycho-social'). Survey respondents reported a range of barriers. The top ten barriers identified for facilities and psycho-social factors are provided in the graphs below.

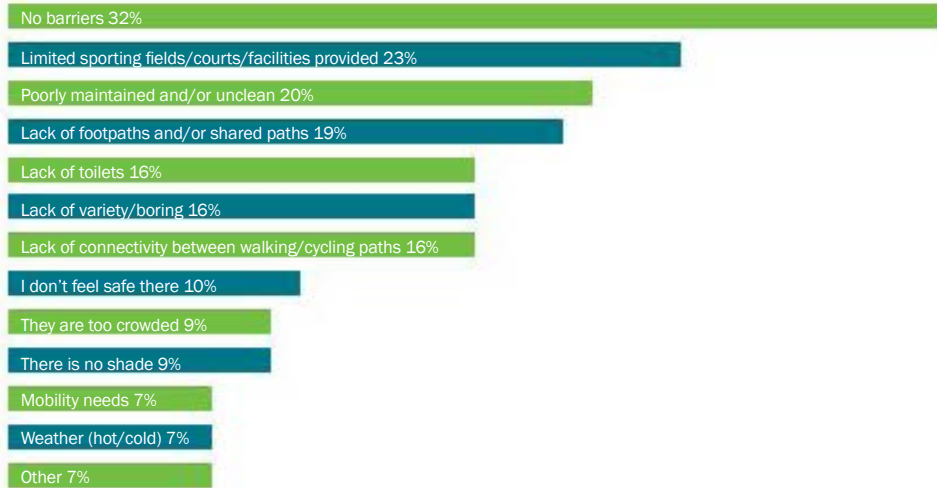


Fig. 7 Top ten barriers to use of parks and sport facilities identified by survey respondents

The top ten barriers identified for social or personal (psychological) factors are provided in the graphs below.

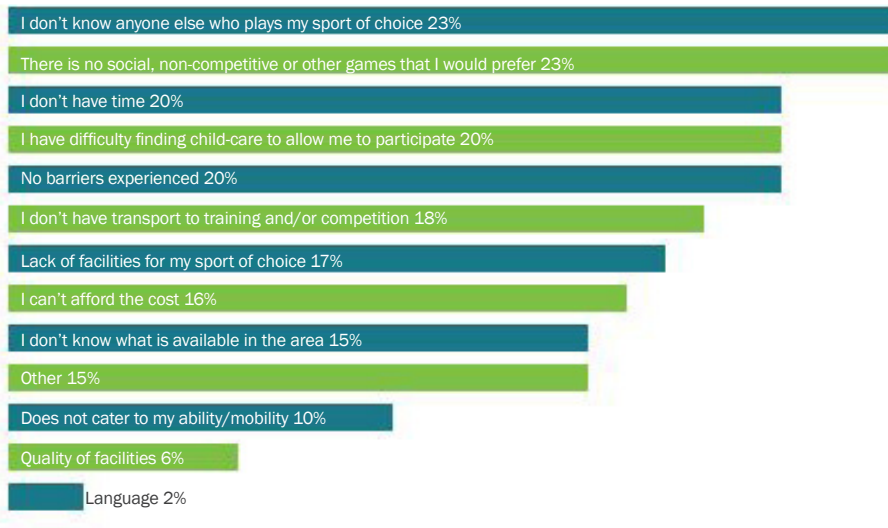
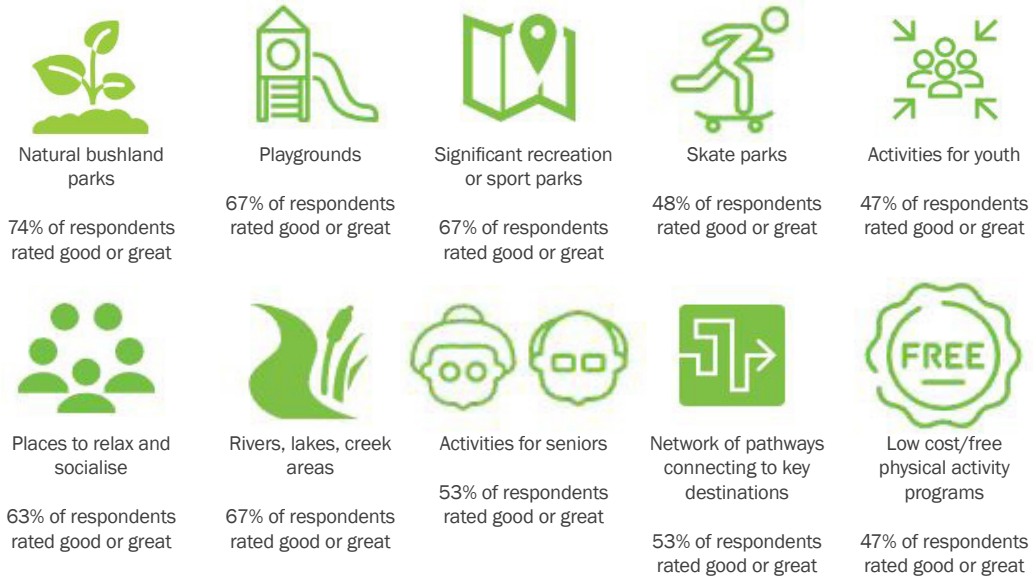


Fig. 8 Top ten barriers to use of parks and sport facilities due to social or personal/psychological factors identified by survey respondents

3.2.10 Overall quality of recreation and sporting opportunities

When asked to rate the overall quality of recreation and sporting opportunities in the area, using a scale out of 5, 1 being poor and 5 being great, survey respondents revealed their opinions. These following are listed in descending order based on overall rating, that may not correspond with the percentage provided.



3.2.11 Open space that may be unnecessary

Survey respondents were asked if there are any open spaces/parks that they believe are unnecessary due to low usage, safety concerns, a better park close by, poor location, etc.

Not surprisingly, the vast majority of respondents stated that there were no open spaces or parks that are unnecessary. Some respondents took the time to communicate the importance of all open spaces, for native flora and fauna, if not people. This is not disputed.

However, several survey respondents identified open space that Council could investigate further for enhancement for environmental or nature preservation purposes.

Median strip, central reservation and roadway medians

Wide road reserves are typical across the Shire, and many roads have median strips or central reservations that are of sufficient width to accommodate trees, grass and, in some cases, shelters, picnic facilities, and playgrounds.

Several survey respondent highlighted 'lawn reserves' - grassed and mown areas adjacent to roads or at intersections - that do not appear to serve any purpose and are void of any park facilities. Revegetation of these areas was suggested to contribute to habitat and canopy cover across towns, reducing maintenance, the urban heat sink, and to increase aesthetic appeal.

Repurposing or sale

No land was identified by survey respondents for either repurposing to meet other community needs, or for potential sale.

In the case of selling land, it is recommended that proceeds are reserved for identified upgrades to other parks across the public open space network.



3.2.12 Sport club survey

Sport clubs and associations that provide sport training and competition for residents living in the Northern Grampians Shire, were asked to complete a specific survey to gather data regarding facilities and registered members. Sport groups that have responded to the survey, to date are listed below:

- Stawell Little Athletics
- Navarre Football Club
- Great Western Racing Club
- St Arnaud and District Lawn Tennis
- Grampians Cricket Association
- St Arnaud Hockey Association
- Grampians Bushwalking Club
- St Arnaud Netball Club
- Stawell 13 and Under Football Association
- Stawell Racquetball Association
- Stawell Interchurch Netball Association
- Grampians Petanque Club
- Halls Gap Caravan Park and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
- Stawell Wildcats Basketball Association
- Swifts Football Netball Club
- Stawell Gymnastics Club
- Riding for the Disabled
- Halls Gap Cricket
- Youth Club Cricket Club
- Callawadda/Stawell Target Club
- Stawell Racing Club
- Dance Capital
- Grampians Riding Club
- Stawell Bowling Club
- St Arnaud Harness Racing Club
- Stawell Pony Club
- Swifts Great Western Cricket Club
- St Arnaud Cricket Club
- Stawell Amateur Athletic Club
- Stawell Rifle Club
- Glenorchy Golf Club
- Stawell Fire Brigade
- St Arnaud Swimming Club
- Stawell Pioneers Soccer Club
- Stawell Tennis Club.

Information provided by sport clubs has primarily been used to inform the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.

In relation to the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy, information has been used to guide recommendations for planning areas, particularly where these clubs undertake their activities.

Organisations that have not yet responded to the sport club survey are encouraged to provide feedback during public exhibition of the Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, and information gained during this stage of the project will be reflected in the directions provided for specific sport parks.

3.2.13 Key stakeholder interviews

Interviews with additional key stakeholder community organisations is summarised below.

School workshops

Council engaged with students from schools in Stawell and St Arnaud to inform the development of both the Open Space and Active Recreation Strategy and the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy. The outcomes of the school workshops that provide direction for this Strategy includes:

- on the whole, students like where they live and appreciate the lifestyle across towns and outlying communities
- popular destinations in St Arnaud include Lord Nelson Park, Queen Mary Gardens, skate park and the tennis club
- popular destinations in Stawell include Cato Park, netball courts and running track at North Park, and Taylors Gully Park
- young people generally feel safe walking and cycling around the towns and on trails, including the rail trail
- interestingly, some younger students felt unsafe at the skate park and Central Park due to the behaviour of other park users
- young people 'hang out' at each other's homes, as well as the popular parks identified above.

Further engagement with school students and young people will be necessary as specific projects identified in these Strategies undergo further detailed planning.

Village and community groups

Interviews were conducted with committee members of various groups representing the needs of some of the villages and outlying communities across the Shire. As the outcomes of these discussions relate to specific communities, they have been included in the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.

Disability Service and Support Organisations

Representatives of several disability services and support organisations were consulted, and raised several important considerations for future planning and design of public open space and active transport infrastructure to ensure equitable access. These considerations are summarised below:

- consult key services and agencies at every stage of individual project's design and construction life-cycle to ensure important access provisions are included early and continue to be considered as inevitable project changes occur during detailed design and construction
- connectivity and improved physical access:
 - lack of continuous connected pathways and appropriately designed and located kerb ramps, pedestrian refuges and zebra crossings, prevents safe and independent travel for people living with mobility impairments
 - selection and installation of park furniture and embellishments need to consider the needs of people living with a disability, including access to drinking water, back and arm rests on seating, accessible furniture and access to public toilets
 - provision of appropriate car parking and the ability to travel safely from the car park into parks are key considerations for park accessibility, particularly parks that are key attractors for community events

- provision of shelter and shade is an important feature for people living with a disability, to support them to regulate their temperature, including over play spaces
- information regarding accessible places and features needs to be clearly communicated to assist destination decision-making and planning.

Council has previously had a dedicated Community Access Committee in the past that included community stakeholders, Council staff and elected representatives. Currently, Council Officers consult directly with services and key individuals. While this is reportedly satisfactory, it is recommended that Council consider re-establishing a formal Committee to ensure access and equity issues are considered in a consistent and systematic manner, by a group of people that represent the spectrum of the community's needs and draws on collective knowledge and experience. The Committee could aim to remove social and physical barriers that prevent access and full participation in community life, and to oversee implementation of any relevant adopted Community Access Plan.

Sport and Recreation Victoria

Sport and Recreation Victoria is the Victorian State Government's agency tasked with supporting sport and physical activity. The agency works collaboratively with the not-for-profit, private and government sectors to:

- improve the health and wellbeing of Victorians
- build stronger and more connected communities
- deliver economic growth and jobs
- enhance liveability.

When consulted regarding the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy, key objectives for the Strategy were identified by SRV Officers, including:

- contributing to the liveability of the Shire
- increasing participation - "more people, more active"
- recognising and embracing principles of diversity and inclusiveness, including gender-neutral
- environmentally sustainable design principles
- having a pipeline of projects for funding programs.

Council officers

A diverse range of Council officers with specific expertise were consulted to identify existing issues and identified needs, as well as ideas relating to open space provision and management. The Council functions examined include infrastructure, park operations, strategic and development planning, grant funding, financial services, youth and community development. Identified areas for further planning and examination when developing the Draft Open Space and Active Transport Strategy are summarised below:

- increasing importance of walk and cycle infrastructure provision
- ensuring footpaths and shared paths near aged care facilities are sufficiently wide enough to cater for mobility scooters and wheelchairs
- need for wayfinding and improved signage throughout towns to support people independently navigating to where they want to go
- current developments including North Park, Central Park, SSAC, skate park
- unauthorised golf practice in parks
- lack of funding for community education and proactive and targeted campaigns that respond to issues quickly and effectively
- inadequate path lighting
- need for entry statements and signage
- adequate operational resourcing (staff and budget) to meet the level of service expected by Councillors and the community
- need to cater for dogs on- and off-leash in suitable areas
- potential of Grampians Rail Trail
- Street Tree Strategy and tree species list required to expand scope and revise suitable species for climatic conditions
- some contaminated land that has potential to help form the open space network - constraints
- enhancement of liveability elements, particularly additional trees for amenity and shade
- need for wayfinding and interpretive signage for residents and visitors to navigate
- identification of additional tourism product relating to parks and open spaces.

Discussion were held with Council Officers to investigate specific issues and gain understanding of factors relevant to the Strategy development.

3.3 Issues and opportunities

As part of the process to develop this Strategy, an audit of all open spaces in Northern Grampians Shire was undertaken to assess characteristics including accessibility, amenities, appearance, maintenance, safety and security. The community consultation undertaken with residents of the Shire gathered data relating to recreation and sport participation, park and facility preferences, real or perceived barriers to using open space, regularity of use, as well as needs and desires for future opportunities. The following table provides a summary of key issues and opportunities (in no particular order) resulting from the open space audit and community consultation, and provides context for the strategic framework and focus areas applied to development of the Strategy.

ISSUE / OPPORTUNITY	OBSERVATION / ASSESSMENT
Planning instruments	Incorporation of the Desired Standards of Service (DSS) for core open space into appropriate planning instruments (e.g. Planning Scheme, Policy, Developer Guides) is essential so that future core open space land contributions meet DSS criteria including size, shape, access to surrounding residents, road frontage, flood immunity and embellishment levels. Important corridor mapping can be included in appropriate planning mechanisms to achieve strategic outcomes for environmental conservation, stormwater management, and recreation parkland.
Infrastructure design guidelines	Appropriate infrastructure design guidelines and standard drawings are essential to deliver appropriate facilities for active transport infrastructure. Currently Council typically defaults to Austroads which nominates the absolute minimum standard.
Open space provision	Currently, the provision of open space in Northern Grampians Shire is higher than other similar local government authorities (as a ratio per 1,000 population). The current provision rate has been retained.
Contaminated land	Contaminated land, particularly in Stawell, has potential to provide strategic open space connections and further investigations to allow planned and controlled access are warranted.
Universal design	Meeting the needs of a diverse community including older aged and people requiring assistance requires deliberate planning and design to ensure inclusion, rather than exclusion. "Universal design allows everyone, to the greatest extent possible, and regardless of age or disability, to use buildings, transport, products and services without the need for specialised or adapted features."
Signage and wayfinding	Observations across the open space network confirm that the lack of consistent signage likely contributes to residents and visitors not being informed of the opportunities available for recreation within towns and communities and across the Shire.
Avoiding ad hoc and precedence	Residents living in outlying communities/villages and outlying communities need recreation parks to provide opportunities for play, recreation and physical activity. However, asset management, particularly whole-of-life assets costs, require careful consideration when responding to community demands. The capital cost of construction will almost always pale into insignificance when compared with the ongoing operational and maintenance costs (over the life of the asset).
Active transport	Walking and cycling are popular activities in the Northern Grampians Shire across the full spectrum of the community. Council is progressively implementing active transport infrastructure and this needs to be a continued focus to ensure people can walk and cycle to key destinations within the community easily and safely. People walk for different reasons (commuting vs recreation) and this is important when determining the location, design, surface treatment and setting of the path.
Play spaces	There are several playgrounds across Northern Grampians Shire that consist of off-the-shelf play equipment and soft fall. Future trends in play space creation require the integration of select pieces of play equipment with natural elements and landscaping to encourage imagination play and inquisitive investigation of the environment.
Recreation as a secondary use of National and State Parks and Forests	There are numerous bushland reserves and natural areas across the local government area and results of the community survey indicate that a large proportion of the community utilise these areas for walking, trail running, and mountain biking. These activities are secondary to the primary purpose of the land and require monitoring to ensure negative impacts do not occur as a result.
Resourcing constraints	Council's large land area and relatively small rate base result in its resources being applied to achieve the best outcome with limited funds.
Asset Management	Audits revealed that most public open space assets are in fair to good condition. It will be important in future years, when assets reach the end of their useful lives and are considered for renewal or replacement, that Council and the community undertake planning to ensure the current and future needs of residents are met, rather than simply replacing infrastructure 'like-for-like'. While this may result in the level of park embellishments changing significantly, in most case the land should be retained for future needs and generations.

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Strategic framework

4.1 Planning principles

Planning principles are outlined below that describe Council's intentions through the provision and management of public open space and active transport infrastructure.

Effective planning

Council will encourage and support maximum utilisation of public open space facilities and walk and cycle infrastructure.

High quality

Council will ensure that all recreation, sport and active transport opportunities are designed and maintained to a high quality, commensurate with the setting and primary use of the land and facilities.

Access and equity

Council will ensure that residents enjoy access to the public open space and active transport networks.

Community involvement

Council will provide and support a range of ways for the community to be an integral part of planning and providing recreation, sport and active transport opportunities.

Resourcing

Council will identify and allocate resources for the provision of public open space and active transport in an efficient, effective and equitable manner.

Effective management

Council will ensure that public open space and active transport facilities are managed in the most efficient and cost effective way.

Public safety

Council will ensure public open spaces and active transport infrastructure are safe for public use.

4.2 Open space

4.2.1 Public open space network

For the purpose of this Strategy, both public and private open space types have been considered to plan strategically to achieve an integrated public open space network. Privately owned land, such as a golf course, bowling club or private school can play an important role in providing benefits and opportunities to the community. However, the Strategy primarily relates to publicly owned and/or managed open space.

4.2.2 Classification and hierarchy

Classification

Various open space types possess different values, functions and settings. Compatible and incompatible uses of open space can result in impacts, changing the nature of open space types over time. To promote appropriate use of open space, a classification framework has been developed for application to the open space network. The classification identifies the primary purpose of the land, the size and scale (hierarchy) of the park and the embellishments required to provide recreation and sport opportunities. The open space classifications are detailed in Table 01 according to function, purpose, hierarchy, and description.

Hierarchy

Assessment and allocation of parks within a hierarchy provides a useful framework to manage the level and variety of embellishments in a particular park type. The park hierarchy also assists park users' expectations as they can select to visit parks that provide the recreation experience and opportunities they are seeking.

The hierarchy levels used for Northern Grampians Shire's open space network are:

- Local (core)
- Township (core)
- Specialised
- Linear
- Encumbered
- Natural areas
- Civic

The park hierarchy is described in Table 02 including the catchment for each park type, where relevant.

Table 01: Open space classification by function, purpose, hierarchy and description

FUNCTION	PURPOSE	HIERARCHY	DESCRIPTION
Passive open space (Recreation Parks)	Provides a setting for informal play and physical activity, relaxation and social interaction	Local (core) Township (core)	Provides a range of passive recreation activities in predominantly informal settings. The sites can also contribute to the amenity and environmental values of towns and villages.
		Linear (non-core)	Long and relatively narrow interconnected open space that can contain natural creek lines and associated riparian vegetation. Linear reserves can also play an important secondary role providing cycle and pedestrian pathways and values consistent with other open space categories.
		Encumbered (non-core)	Encumbered open space is often associated with areas for stormwater, drainage, utility infrastructure and cemeteries. However, it can also add value to the core open space network through provision of pedestrian connections and enhancing visual amenity.
Active open space (Sport Parks)	Provides a setting for formal structured sporting activities	Township (core)	Site predominantly used for active or competitive recreation including grassed or synthetic playing fields and courts.
		Specialised (non-core)	Open space provided for sporting activities where the nature of the sport precludes the easy transfer to an alternative sport, or the nature of the activity precludes free, unrestricted access to members of the public, or where the land and facility requirements result in high level provision (e.g. large stadia).
Environmental protection open space	Provides a setting where biodiversity is the primary purpose of the reserve	Natural areas (non-core)	Reserves that contain biodiversity features of local, regional, state or federal significance. As the primary use of open space is for environmental protection, the area is likely to be significantly encumbered and may preclude unrestricted public access
Civic open space	Provides amenity value	Civic spaces	Civic spaces may provide opportunities for civic ceremonies, passive recreation, and contribute to the amenity of a town or village

4.2.3 Desired standard of service

Desired Standards of Service (DSS) is the level of open space that Council aims to provide as a minimum to all residents in the Shire. DSS is calculated using quantitative and spatial measures.

The passive and active open space supply for Northern Grampians Shire is provided below:

- Recreation Parks (passive open space) - 2ha/1,000 people
- Sport Parks (active open space) - 2ha/1,000 people

4.2.4 Core levels of service

To achieve the potential benefits of open space to individuals and the community, parks need to provide established minimum levels of service. This section aims to provide guidance on the siting and design of open space types delivered by local government. It includes:

- factors for consideration when designing parks
- principles that influence good design
- performance standards detailing land size, catchments, minimum and optional embellishments for core open space types.

A planned and strategic approach

A well planned and strategic approach to the design and development of open space will contribute to the long term sustainability of the open space network for current and future generations. Benefits of a planned and strategic approach include:

- open space located to reflect Council's open space and land use planning outcomes relating to distribution and access, connectivity and linkages, co-location of compatible services/opportunities, and shared use of available resources
- design considerations that reflect the Council's policies and objectives relating to diversity of opportunities and settings, integration with natural and urban landscapes, accessibility features and environmental sustainability
- continual enhancement of the open space network in line with Council's capital works program and budgets, changing local needs and changes in the urban environment
- improvements in the quality or distribution of open space in line with relevant local strategies and plans.

Distribution

- provide new parkland in growth areas and in areas that have an under supply of parkland
- public open space should be provided along foreshores, streams and permanent water bodies
- provide a network of well-distributed neighbourhood public open space that includes:
 - local parks within 500m safe walking of at least 95% of all dwellings
 - active open space of sufficient size within 2 kilometre of 90% of all dwellings
 - linear parks and trails along waterways, vegetation corridors and road reserves within 1 kilometre of 95% of all dwellings (where practical).

Connectivity

- ensure that land is set aside and developed in residential areas for local recreation use and to create pedestrian and cycle links to commercial and community facilities
- ensure that open space networks:
 - are linked through the provision of walking and cycle trails and rights of way
 - are integrated with open space from abutting subdivisions
 - incorporate, where possible, links between major parks and activity areas, along waterways and natural drainage corridors, connecting places of natural and cultural interest, as well as maintaining public accessibility on public land immediately adjoining waterways.
- ensure land identified as critical to the completion of open space links is transferred for open space purposes
- the provision of public open space should be linked to existing or proposed future public open spaces where appropriate
- an application for subdivision that creates public open space should be accompanied by a landscape design that provides for walking and cycling networks that link with community facilities.

Access

- ensure public access is not prevented by developments along stream banks and foreshore
- ensure public land immediately adjoining waterways remains in public ownership

Urban design

- ensure open space is designed to accommodate people of all abilities, ages and cultures
- accessibility - provide ease, safety and choice of access for all people
- inclusiveness and interaction - create places where all people are free to encounter each other as equals.

Layout options and features

- maximise road frontage to the boundaries (minimum of 50%) of any shape, piece or linear section of open space
- maximise surrounding residential frontage to the open space (minimum 50%) to provide visual surveillance
- maximise safe pedestrian connections and links to the open space.

Appropriateness and usability

- ensure the size of the open space land is suitable for its intended primary purpose
- ensure the shape of the land can accommodate the required embellishments
- ensure the topography including appropriateness of the slope, vegetation, drainage, cultural or heritage values:
 - slope no steeper than 1:10 for recreation parks
 - slope no steeper than 1:50 for sport parks
 - land that is steeply sloping or has natural water flowing through it may be suitable for environmental or conservation purposes
- aspect/orientation of the land for the proposed activities.

4.2.5 Performance standards

Performance standards are required to ensure that land offered by developers as part of their developer contribution, or acquired by Council with other funds, is capable of supporting the recreation activity intended from the site.

Basic performance standards have been established for recreation and sporting parks. These will generally only be applicable to new open space acquisitions or additions to existing spaces to improve their functionality.

Table 02: Minimum performance standards for recreation and sport parks

RECREATION PARKS (PASSIVE OPEN SPACE)	
Local	<p>Typically, local parks will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » be 0.25-2.0ha in size (or joined to a network of open space areas) » be within 500m walking distance from surrounding homes » have slopes no greater than 1:10 for 25% of the park area. Where wheelchair access is more likely to occur then some of the park should have slopes of 1:20 or less » retain and integrate natural vegetation and creek lines where possible into the park design » have 50% of the park boundary with road frontage » have a minimum width of 40m » have sufficient land above 100 year flood levels for infrastructure (notionally at least 10%) » have access to required services such as electricity and water » be linked to other open space where possible.
Township	<p>Typically, town parks will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » be 5-10ha in size depending on function (or joined to a network of open space areas) » have an average grade no greater than 1:10 for 75% of the park area. Where wheelchair access is more likely to occur then some of the park should have slopes of 1:15 or less » retain and integrate natural vegetation and creek lines where possible into the park design » have sufficient land above 100 year flood levels for infrastructure (notionally at least 10%) » have 75% of the park boundary with road frontage so that visibility is maximised » have access to required services such as electricity, sewerage and water » be linked to other open space where possible.
SPORT PARKS (ACTIVE OPEN SPACE)	
Township	<p>The following criteria are for typical open space areas used for field and courts sports. Specialised facilities, such as indoor sports or lawn bowling greens may be adequately accommodated on other land types. Typical open space for sporting fields will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » be at least 8ha in size as this allows for efficient development of infrastructure, adequate buffers and adequate space for competitions. There is no limit to maximum size » have at least 75% of the park boundary with road frontage » have adequate space for car and bus parking » be relatively flat to minimise the earthworks required to provide level playing fields » if the site is a closed landfill, then have some virgin areas for facilities » have sufficient land area above the 100 year flood level for infrastructure (e.g. clubrooms, change rooms, storage sheds etc.) » have soils that offer adequate drainage.

4.2.6 Recreation setting and diversity

The open space network also needs to offer variety in the recreation setting. This is a measure of the diversity within the recreation park network and recognises people’s needs and expectations for a variety of recreation experiences. The figure below provides a scale or range of naturalness from wild to urban settings.

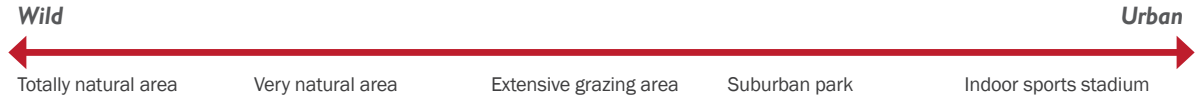


Fig. 03 Range of naturalness of outdoor recreation settings

Example images of park setting and diversity in Northern Grampians across the scale from wild to urban settings



4.2.7 Embellishment and maintenance standards

Embellishment standards describe the typical levels of infrastructure and services expected for recreation and sport parks. Detailing the typical level of embellishment for park types within the open space hierarchy assists local government managers, development assessment staff, and developers by providing:

- descriptions that convey the typical embellishments to expect at different park types
- a basis to estimate typical capital costs of development (for infrastructure charging and/or budgeting)
- an initial set of parameters guiding appropriate versus inappropriate embellishment, ensuring functionality, diversity and values are not eroded.

Management and maintenance standards can be developed that are related to the planning framework, classification and hierarchy categories. These standards provide a structure for allocating resources in the areas where they best serve community needs.

Table 03: Park embellishment

PARK TYPE	PARK SIZE	FUNCTION	ACCESS	MINIMUM EMBELLISHMENT	OPTIONAL EMBELLISHMENT
Local	0.25ha-2.0ha	Recreation	500m catchment minimum 50% road frontage	<input type="checkbox"/> turf <input type="checkbox"/> paths <input type="checkbox"/> bins <input type="checkbox"/> seating <input type="checkbox"/> shade (natural and/or built) <input type="checkbox"/> play space	<input type="checkbox"/> lighting <input type="checkbox"/> drinking fountains <input type="checkbox"/> landscaping elements that contribute to comfortable use, appeal and aesthetics.
Township	5ha-10ha	Recreation Sport	1km catchment minimum 50% road frontage; 75% preferred	<input type="checkbox"/> turf <input type="checkbox"/> paths <input type="checkbox"/> bins <input type="checkbox"/> seating <input type="checkbox"/> lighting <input type="checkbox"/> shade (natural and/or built) <input type="checkbox"/> multiple play spaces for different age ranges <input type="checkbox"/> drinking fountains <input type="checkbox"/> irrigation <input type="checkbox"/> public toilets <input type="checkbox"/> bicycle racks <input type="checkbox"/> soft and hard landscaping elements that contribute to comfortable use, appeal and aesthetics.	<input type="checkbox"/> picnic settings <input type="checkbox"/> barbeques <input type="checkbox"/> dog exercise area and dog amenities for owners (e.g. seating, shelter) <input type="checkbox"/> event infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> mobile food vendor zones <input type="checkbox"/> sport infrastructure, clubhouse and ancillary facilities.

4.2.8 Current open space provision

The following maps show existing open space across the Shire to provide context for the public open space gap analysis undertaken.

Current open space provision in Northern Grampians Shire is shown in the following below. This identifies the current area of public open space against the 2021 population (available Census data) and projected population growth in 5-year increments with provision of public open space per 1,000 head of population. The current provision of public open space across the Shire is high when compared with other local government authorities (LGAs) in rural and regional Victoria, and across Australia. When separated into recreation parks and sport parks, there is a surplus of land for both types of public open space.

Demand is based on a total DSS of 4ha/1,000 population, made up of 2ha/1,000 population for recreation parks and 2ha/1,000 population for sport parks.

Three scenarios have been used to examine the current and future provision of public open space across the Shire.

- Scenario one uses the Victoria State Government population projections for the Northern Grampians Shire Council area. This projection sees a decline.
- Scenario two uses a population increase of 0.88% per annum. This projection has been used by Council for its Housing Strategy to ensure adequate provision in the future.
- Scenario three uses an aspirational population increase provided by Council's elected representatives, projecting a total population of 20,000 residents by 2040.

Provision of land for recreation and sport parks remains in surplus under all three scenarios.

When reflecting on the trends indicating increasing use and demand for passive open space (recreation parks), and reducing participation in formal sport, planning and design will need to balance need and demand carefully to resolve potential underused parks and facilities across the public open space network. The generous provision of open space overall, places Council in a relatively comfortable position currently, and for the foreseeable future.

However, additional open space will be required to ensure distribution attributes are met. This open space should be acquired through the contributions associated with residential development.

Table 04: Scenario one: Victoria Planning population projections - declining population. Provision of core open space required for current and projected population in 5-year increments

Open space classification	Current supply (ha)	Current (2021) 11,885		Future (2026) 11,581		Future (2031) 11,238		Future (2036) 10,210	
		Demand	Gap/Suplus	Demand	Gap/Suplus	Demand	Gap/Suplus	Demand	Gap/Suplus
Total recreation parks	39	23.77	+15.23	23.16	+15.84	22.48	+16.52	20.42	+18.58
Sport parks	248	23.77	+224.23	23.16	+224.84	22.48	+225.52	20.42	+227.58
Total core open space	287	47.54	+239.46	46.33	+240.67	44.95	+242.05	40.84	+246.16

Table 05: Scenario two: NGSC Housing Strategy population projection of 0.88%. Provision of core open space required for current and projected population in 5-year increments

Open space classification	Current supply (ha)	Current (2021) 11,885		Future (2026) 12,417		Future (2031) 12,973		Future (2036) 13,554	
		Demand	Gap/Suplus	Demand	Gap/Suplus	Demand	Gap/Suplus	Demand	Gap/Suplus
Recreation parks	39	23.77	+15.23	24.83	+14.17	25.95	+13.05	27.11	+11.89
Sport parks	248	23.77	+224.23	24.83	+223.17	25.95	+222.05	27.11	+220.89
Total core open space	287	47.54	+239.46	49.67	+237.33	51.89	+235.11	54.22	+232.78

Table 06: Scenario three: Council population projection of 20,000 residents by 2040. Provision of core open space required for current and projected population in 5-year increments

Open space classification	Current supply (ha)	Current (2021) 11,885		Future (2026) 13,122		Future (2031) 14,488		Future (2036) 15,966	
		Demand	Gap/Suplus	Demand	Gap/Suplus	Demand	Gap/Suplus	Demand	Gap/Suplus
Recreation parks	39	23.77	+15.23	26.24	+12.76	28.98	+10.02	31.99	+7.01
Sport parks	248	23.77	+224.23	26.24	+221.76	28.98	+219.02	31.99	+216.01
Total core open space	287	47.54	+239.46	52.49	+234.51	57.95	+229.05	63.98	+223.02

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4.2.9 Current open space provision

The following maps show existing open space across the Shire to provide context for the public open space gap analysis undertaken.

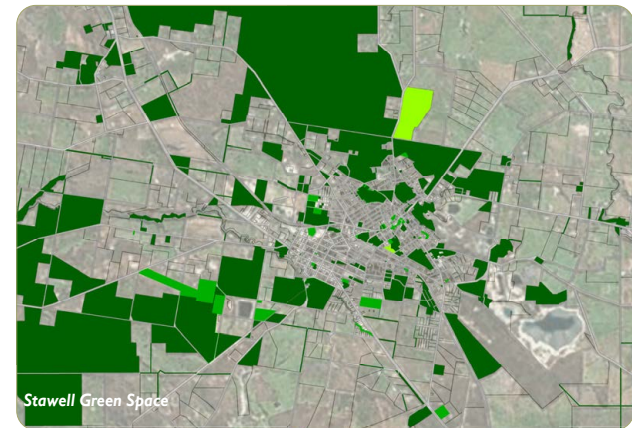
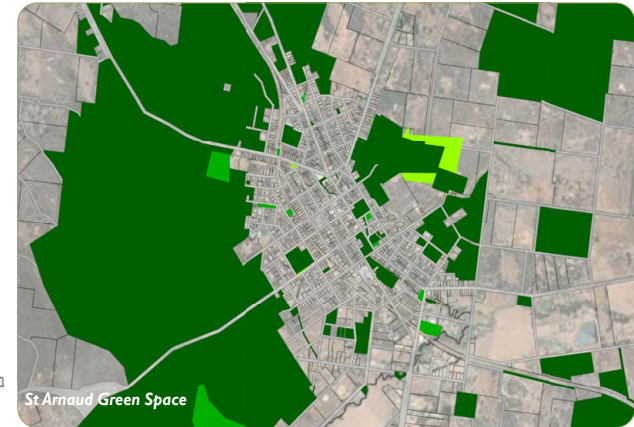
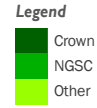
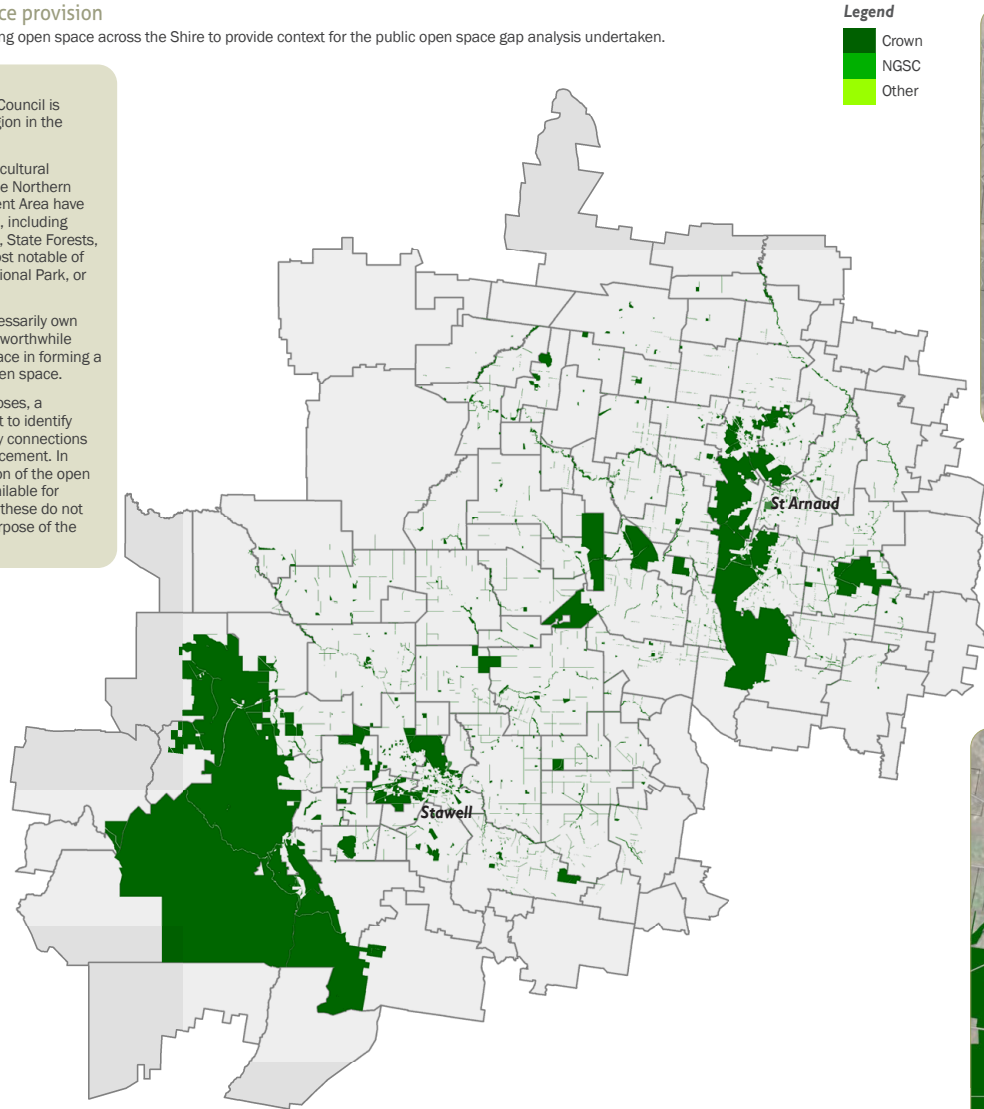
Regional Green Space

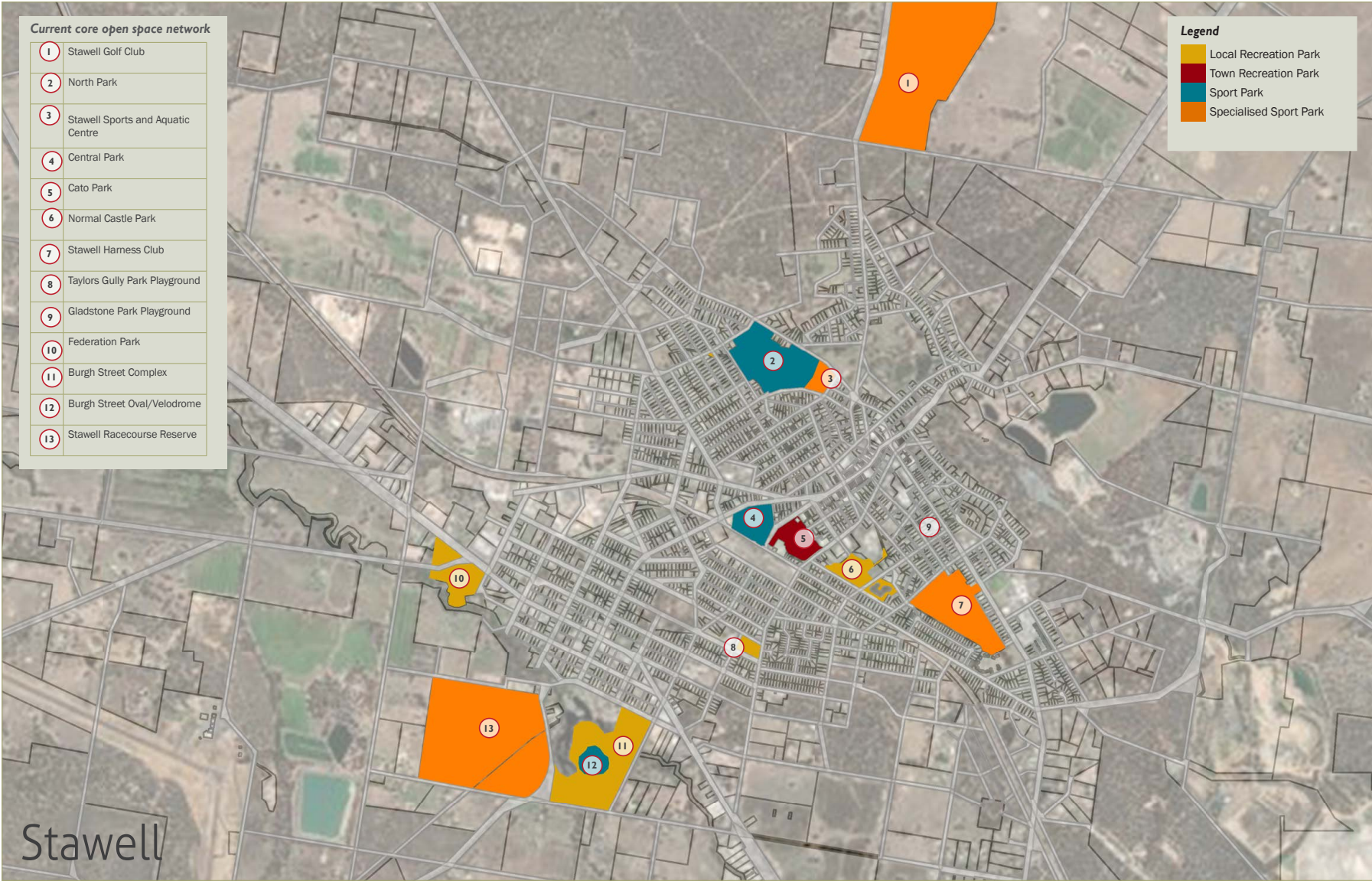
Northern Grampians Shire Council is located in the Wimmera region in the western part of Victoria.

As a primarily rural and agricultural region, residents living in the Northern Grampians Local Government Area have access to vast open spaces, including waterways, nature reserves, State Forests, and National Parks. The most notable of these is the Grampians National Park, or Gariberd.

While Council does not necessarily own or manage these sites, it is worthwhile recognising the role they place in forming a regional perspective for green space.

For strategic planning purposes, a regional overview can assist to identify significant corridors and key connections for preservation and enhancement. In addition, it allows recognition of the open space that is potentially available for recreation activities, where these do not conflict with the primary purpose of the land.





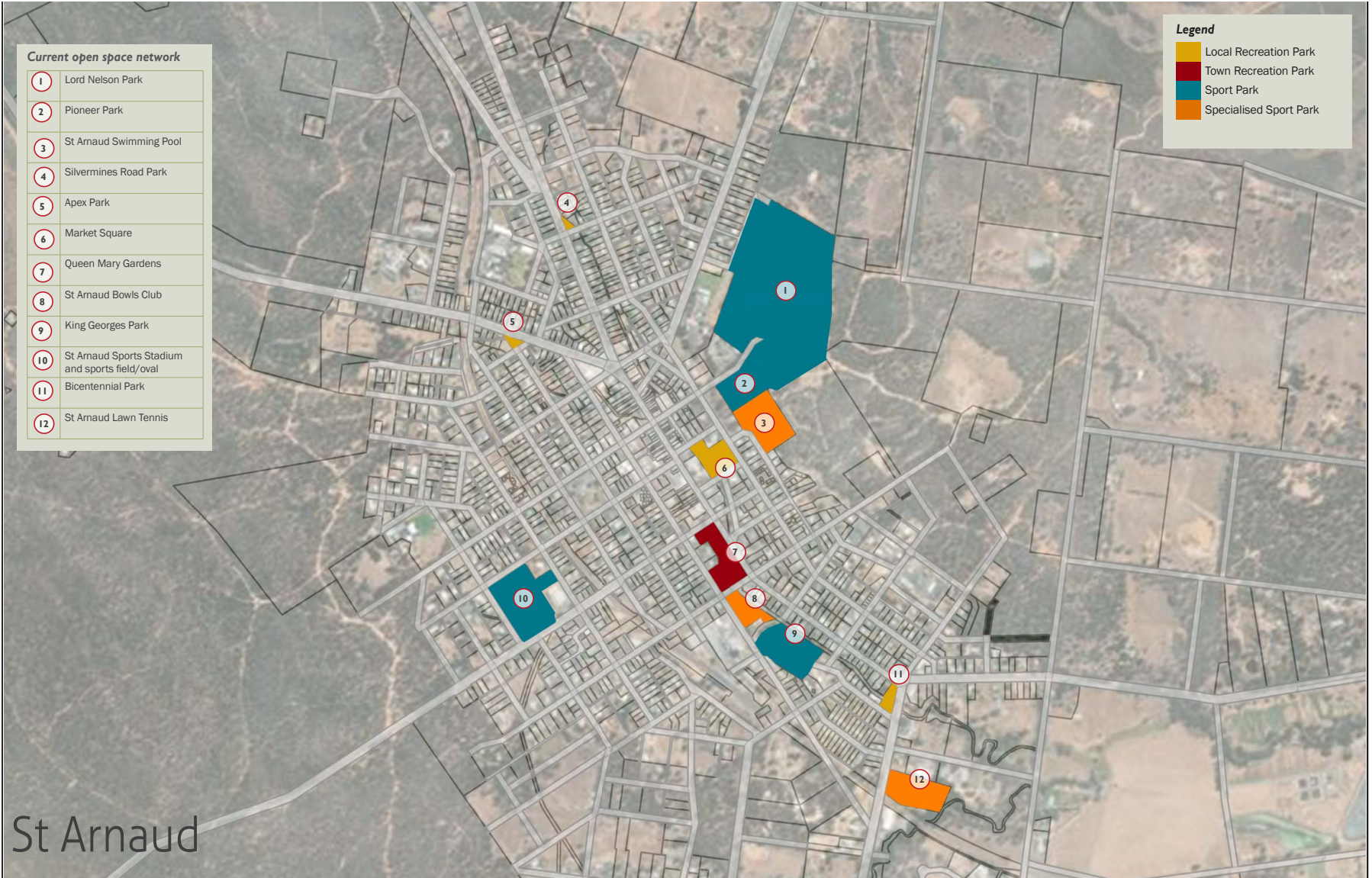
Stawell current open space network

Current open space network

1	Lord Nelson Park
2	Pioneer Park
3	St Arnaud Swimming Pool
4	Silvermines Road Park
5	Apex Park
6	Market Square
7	Queen Mary Gardens
8	St Arnaud Bowls Club
9	King Georges Park
10	St Arnaud Sports Stadium and sports field/ oval
11	Bicentennial Park
12	St Arnaud Lawn Tennis

Legend

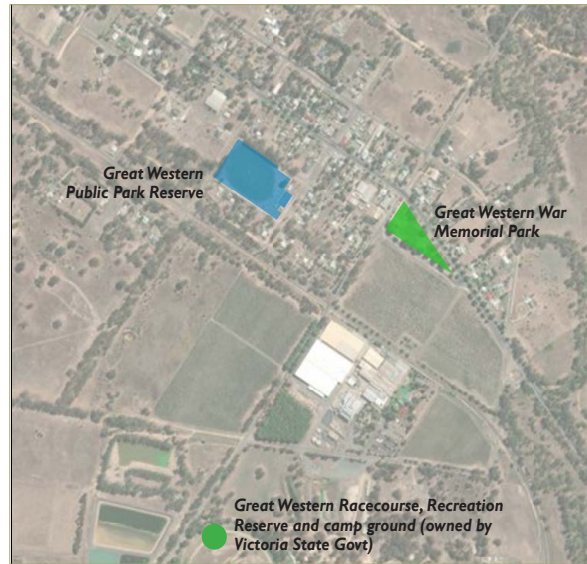
Yellow	Local Recreation Park
Red	Town Recreation Park
Blue	Sport Park
Orange	Specialised Sport Park



St Arnaud



Glenorchy existing open space



Great Western existing open space



Halls Gap existing open space



Marnoo existing open space



Navarre existing open space



Stuart Mill existing open space

4.3 Active transport

4.3.1 Active transport network

Council has a role in creating an environment that supports active transport options, particularly through the provision of infrastructure, and coordinating advocacy and awareness in partnership with health services.

For most people, walking and cycling are the most accessible form of exercise and travelling to key destinations, particularly short journeys of up to 2km for walking and 5km for cycling. It is important for everyone in the community to be able to access and enjoy the public realm, including streets. Connecting the missing links in the walking and cycling networks with more footpaths and bike lanes is essential to encourage regular walking and cycling trips. It is also important that paths are wide and smooth, particularly considered the ageing population, to cater for people using motorised mobility scooters and wheelchairs.

Council also needs to consider emerging technologies such as e-scooters, which can be an attractive alternative mode where public transport is limited. Trial rules in Victoria at the moment restrict e-scooters to shared paths and roads 60km/h or less (they are not currently allowed on footpaths), so more separated bicycle lanes and shared paths will ensure safe spaces for everyone to travel.

Trialling temporary facilities like 'pop-up' bike lanes allows the community to test ideas that can help to create safer and more attractive places for walking and cycling. These 'lighter quicker cheaper' approaches are a great opportunity for Council to provide safe and cost-effective infrastructure.

The community told us they would love to walk and ride more, but they don't always have options to do so. Council's community engagement activities when developing its asset management plan, and more recently during development of this Strategy, the key barriers to walking and cycling included:

- lack of footpaths and/or shared paths
- lack of connectivity between walking/cycling paths
- lack of shade
- mobility needs.

4.3.2 Local Government Infrastructure Design Manual

Council currently uses Austroads to guide design of walk and cycle infrastructure. An alternative being utilised by an increasing number of Victoria's local government authorities will allow Council to provide improved walk and cycle infrastructure to meet the needs of residents.

The Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM) is a joint initiative of Victorian rural and regional Councils working together to formulate and maintain a set of consistent requirements and standards for the design and development of infrastructure.

The IDM is designed to be used within the boundaries of all the municipalities who have adopted the IDM. The primary objectives of the IDM are:

- To clearly document Council's requirements for the design and development of Infrastructure that is or will become Council's Infrastructure.
- To standardise development submissions as much as possible and thus to expedite Council's engineering approvals.
- To ensure that minimum design criteria are met in regard to the design and construction of Infrastructure within the municipalities regardless of whether it is constructed by Council or a Developer.
- To recognise and deal with the various issues currently impacting on the land development industry, in particular sustainability, integrated water cycle management, timeliness and affordability.

When there is a conflict with Standard Drawings or other Council policies the IDM will take precedence where the matter relates to Infrastructure standards.

4.3.3 Matrix for decision-making

By coordinating planning, construction and maintenance activities, we can increase opportunities to accelerate the development of the active transport network. Council's current expenditure on cycling and walking is primarily through the capital works and footpath maintenance programs. Opportunities for improving the quality and quantity of walking and cycling infrastructure include:

Footpath renewal program - when footpaths are replaced under renewal programs, ensure they are widened to meet latest standards.

Road resurfacing - upgrade line marking to include on-road bicycle lanes

Kerb and channel upgrades - install/replace kerb ramps to meet current standards for disability access.

New roads/bridges - incorporate footpaths/shared paths and on-road cycling facilities in new roads and structures

The following matrix outlines design considerations and preferred facility types for the Northern Grampians active transport network. The Active Transport Strategy maps for each township should be referred to when determining walking and cycling facility types for new and upgraded infrastructure.

NOTES:

Design considerations and facility types are for guidance only and are subject to technical feasibility and local conditions. Locations such as schools, hospitals, aged care and childcare facilities may require wider paths to cater for higher pedestrian volumes and/or different devices such as bicycles, scooters, wheelchairs and mobility aids.

The Primary Pedestrian Network has been identified in Stawell in the Stawell Structure Plan 2021.

Any roads or streets not marked as a primary or secondary active transport route should have a minimum of a 1.5m wide footpath on at least one side of the street, with kerb ramps at all street crossings.

Table 04: Active Transport Matrix for decision-making

FUNCTION/CHARACTERISTICS	DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS (CYCLING)	PREFERRED FACILITY TYPES	DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS (WALKING)	PREFERRED FACILITY TYPES
Primary active transport routes				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> High demand corridors (including Victorian Strategic Cycling Corridors – Stawell only) <input type="checkbox"/> Connects major destinations (town centres, schools, employment, health care, open space, recreational trail heads and tourist attractions) <input type="checkbox"/> Predominantly within 800m of town centres and other major activity nodes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Safe and continuous with limited interruptions <input type="checkbox"/> Caters for all types of bicycle riders (from higher speed bike riders to less-experience bike riders) <input type="checkbox"/> Separated from cars when on high speed and traffic volume roads <input type="checkbox"/> Shared with motor vehicles when on low speed and traffic volume roads <input type="checkbox"/> Separated from pedestrians when off road <input type="checkbox"/> Signage/wayfinding <input type="checkbox"/> End and mid trip facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Lighting for morning/evening trips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Kerb-separated bicycle lanes <input type="checkbox"/> Protected intersections <input type="checkbox"/> Priority crossings at side streets <input type="checkbox"/> Separate walking/cycling paths (where demand warrants) <input type="checkbox"/> Min. 3.0m wide shared paths <input type="checkbox"/> Shared streets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Safe and continuous with limited interruptions <input type="checkbox"/> Cater for people walking of all ages and abilities (people using strollers and people with physical/vision impairments) <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable and attractive (shade trees, seating/rest areas) <input type="checkbox"/> Lighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Min. 1.8m wide footpaths: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » On both sides of the road for highways/arterial roads/urban collectors » On one side of the street for access/residential streets <input type="checkbox"/> Continuous footpath treatments at side streets and driveways <input type="checkbox"/> Priority crossings e.g. signalised pedestrian crossings, wombat (raised zebra) crossings <input type="checkbox"/> Kerb ramps at all crossing points
Secondary active transport routes				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate level of demand <input type="checkbox"/> Connects residential areas to primary routes and provides links between primary routes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Continuous, safe, and visible <input type="checkbox"/> Lighting dependant on demand <input type="checkbox"/> Separated from cars when on high speed and traffic volume roads <input type="checkbox"/> Shared with motor vehicles when on low speed and traffic volume roads <input type="checkbox"/> Shared with pedestrians when off road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle lanes (painted or kerb-separated) <input type="checkbox"/> Min. 2.5m wide shared paths <input type="checkbox"/> Shared streets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Safe and continuous with limited interruptions <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable (shade trees) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Min. 1.5m wide footpaths <input type="checkbox"/> Zebra/wombat crossings <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian refuges <input type="checkbox"/> Kerb extensions <input type="checkbox"/> Kerb ramps at all crossing points
Primary pedestrian network				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> High Amenity Pedestrian Area within the town centre that supports reallocation of street space used for on-street car parking to uses such as widened footpaths, street trading, public space and gathering areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cycling facilities to be separated from people walking in highly pedestrianised areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle lanes (painted or kerb-separated) <input type="checkbox"/> Shared streets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> High quality, DDA compliant footpaths with safe, dedicated crossing points on desire lines <input type="checkbox"/> Measures to address perceptions of safety, including clear sightlines, lighting, active surveillance, active frontages and minimising conflict between pedestrians and other transport users <input type="checkbox"/> Improved public realm, including pause points incorporating facilities such as seating and shade <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation of wayfinding strategies including directional signage and markers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Full-width footpaths <input type="checkbox"/> Zebra/wombat crossings <input type="checkbox"/> Slow vehicle speeds e.g. 10km/h shared zones, 30-40km/h speed precincts

4.3.4 Overarching priorities

Getting to school by walking and cycling

School-based initiatives represent a 'quick win' as they are typically simple to implement and represent a cost-effective way to catalyse change. Designing facilities for children also makes walking and cycling more accessible for all. Importantly, our consultation with the community showed support for measures which support the behaviour change around schools, such as reduced car usage and safer walking and cycling facilities.

Creating walking and cycling towns

It is proposed that active transport is established in towns, villages/outlying communities to make them comfortable and attractive places to walk. This will include initiatives which prioritise the convenience of walking in favour of driving and car parking. We envision communities where people can walk from home (or park their car), then linger and spend time at the shops, a cafe and the supermarket by foot, rather than by car. In turn, this will stimulate economic activity and opportunities for social interaction.

Connected and liveable developments

In tandem with other initiatives and actions in the Strategy, we will implement and uphold standards for good walking and cycling connections in new developments.

4.3.5 Overarching strategies

Increase the provision of quality on-road and off-road active transport infrastructure across the Shire

1. Address gaps in connections and facilitate the creation of circuits (loops)
2. Improve the provision of a walk and cycle network both on- and off-road (refer to maps)
3. Increase the length of off-road cycle routes that are safe, accessible, convenient, comfortable and attractive
4. Improve the level of safety for cyclists/pedestrians during infrastructure upgrades.

Effective maintenance of the active transport network

1. Improve maintenance systems of current active transport infrastructure.

Align the Council Planning Scheme and recognise the role of active transport

1. Embed active transport and Healthy by Design values into Council's strategic objectives.

Improve the environment for walking, cycling and public transport use, both in transit and end of trip facilities

1. Increase the number and quality of walk and cycle amenities (such as bike racks, water stations, etc.)
2. Create elements of interest along walking routes
3. Improve the accessibility of public transport
4. Increase shelter from weather along key routes

Raise the profile and increase the prestige of active transport options

1. Increase awareness within the community of places to walk and cycle
2. Promote the benefits of walking and cycling
3. Support events, activities and infrastructure upgrades that will promote walking and cycling
4. Identify community leaders and ambassadors from key organisations and the community

Enable more people to confidently walk and cycle and maintain a bicycle

1. Support an increase in the level of cycling skills and knowledge of relevant rules
2. Reduce barriers to walking and cycling

Enable cyclists, pedestrians and motorists to interact more considerably and safely

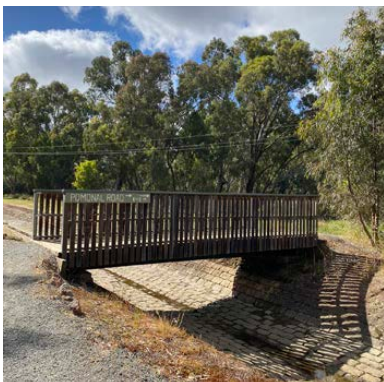
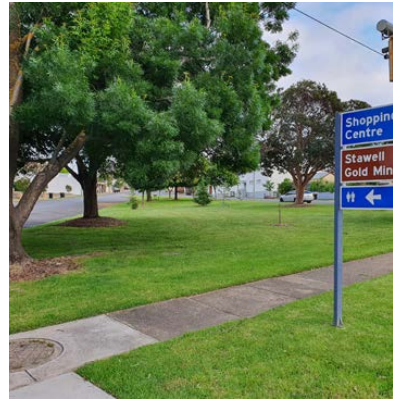
1. Promote road rules and mutual respect between cyclists, pedestrians and motorists.

Monitor and report walking and cycling participation data

1. Establish methods to monitor levels of walking and cycling across the Shire.

4.3.6 Proposed active transport networks

The maps on the following pages detail the primary and secondary active transport routes to be systematically implemented over the course of the next 20 years.




North Grampians Active Transport Strategy Stawell

Legend

Key destinations

-  Centre/retail
-  Health
-  Education
-  Tourist
-  Recreation
-  Community
-  Transport
-  Other

Existing facilities

-  Existing paths

Active transport hierarchy

-  Primary active transport route
-  Secondary active transport route
-  Primary Pedestrian Network
-  800m buffer (town centre)

Roads and Rail

-  Railway Stations
-  Bus Stops
-  Major Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Railway

0 0.5 1 1.5 km

Map Scale (A3) - 1:10,000



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North Grampians Active Transport Strategy

St Arnaud

Legend




Key destinations

-  Centre/retail
-  Health
-  Education
-  Tourist
-  Recreation
-  Community
-  Transport
-  Other

Existing facilities

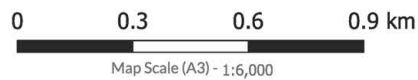
-  Existing paths

Active transport hierarchy

-  Primary active transport route
-  Secondary active transport route
-  800m buffer (town centre)

Roads and Rail

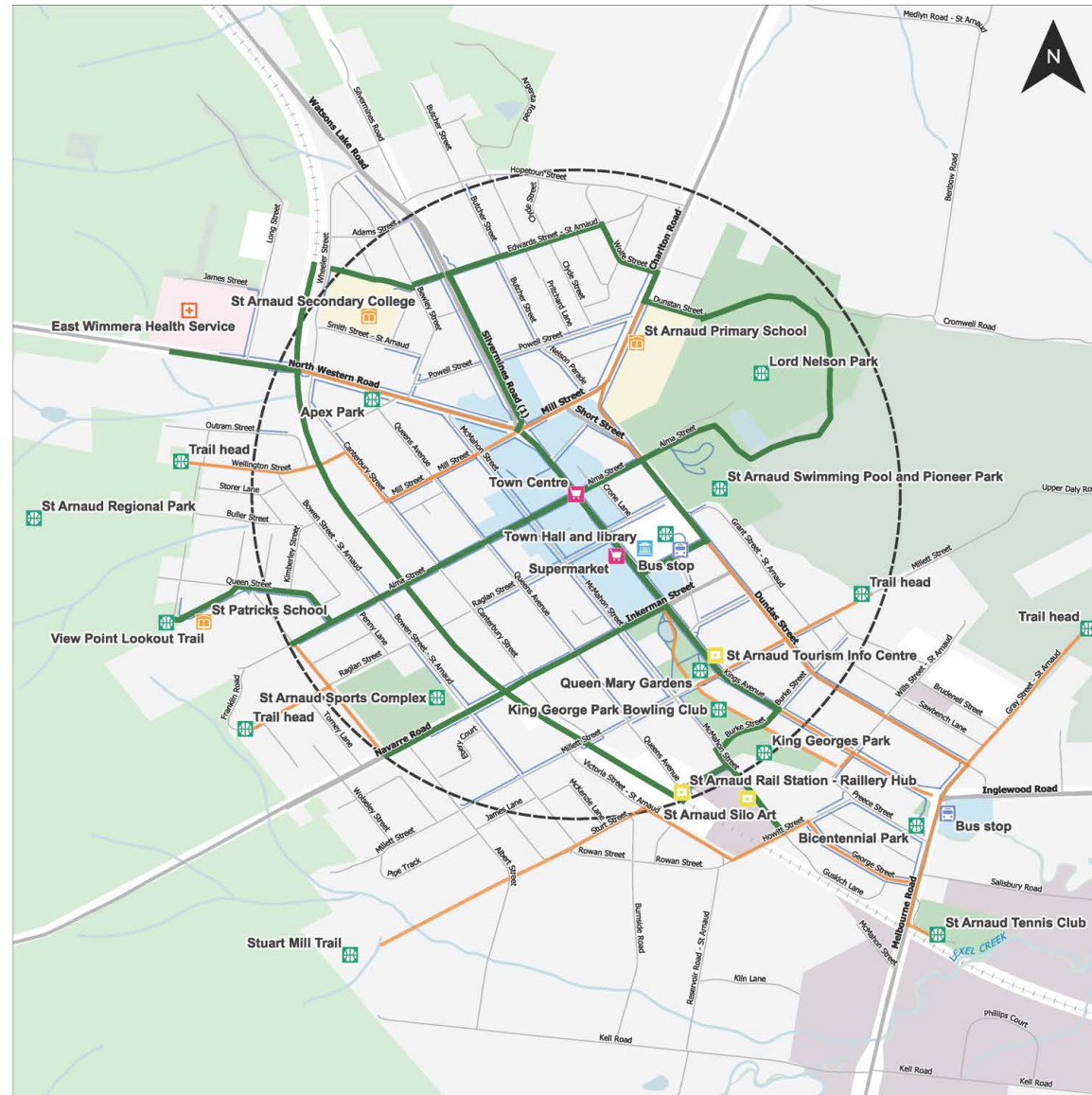
-  Railway Stations
-  Bus Stops
-  Major Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Railway



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North Grampians Active Transport Strategy Glenorchy

Legend




Key destinations

-  Centre/retail
-  Health
-  Education
-  Tourist
-  Recreation
-  Community
-  Transport
-  Other






Existing facilities

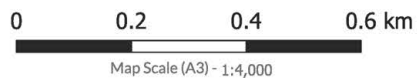
-  Existing paths

Active transport hierarchy

-  Primary active transport route
-  Secondary active transport route
-  800m buffer (town centre)

Roads and Rail

-  Railway Stations
-  Bus Stops
-  Major Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Railway



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North Grampians Active Transport Strategy Great Western

Legend





Key destinations

-  Centre/retail
-  Health
-  Education
-  Tourist
-  Recreation
-  Community
-  Transport
-  Other

Existing facilities

-  Existing paths

Active transport hierarchy

-  Primary active transport route
-  Secondary active transport route
-  Potential crossing improvement
-  800m buffer (town centre)

Roads and Rail

-  Railway Stations
-  Bus Stops
-  Major Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Railway

0 0.4 0.8 1.2 km

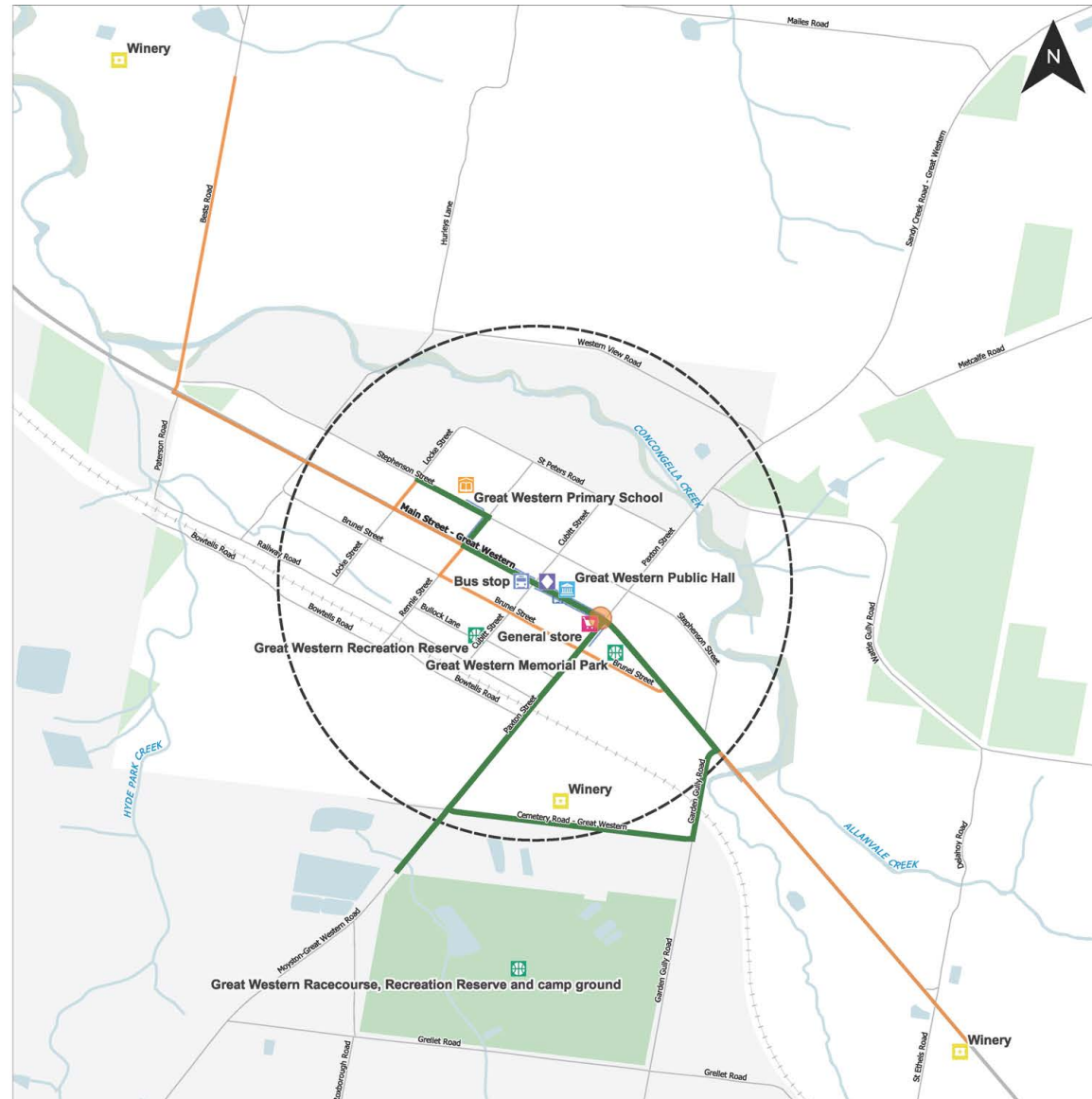
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North Grampians Active Transport Strategy Halls Gap

Legend





Key destinations

-  Centre/retail
-  Health
-  Education
-  Tourist
-  Recreation
-  Community
-  Transport
-  Other

Existing facilities

-  Existing paths

Active transport hierarchy

-  Primary active transport route
-  Secondary active transport route
-  Potential crossing improvement
-  800m buffer (town centre)

Roads and Rail

-  Railway Stations
-  Bus Stops
-  Major Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Railway

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 km

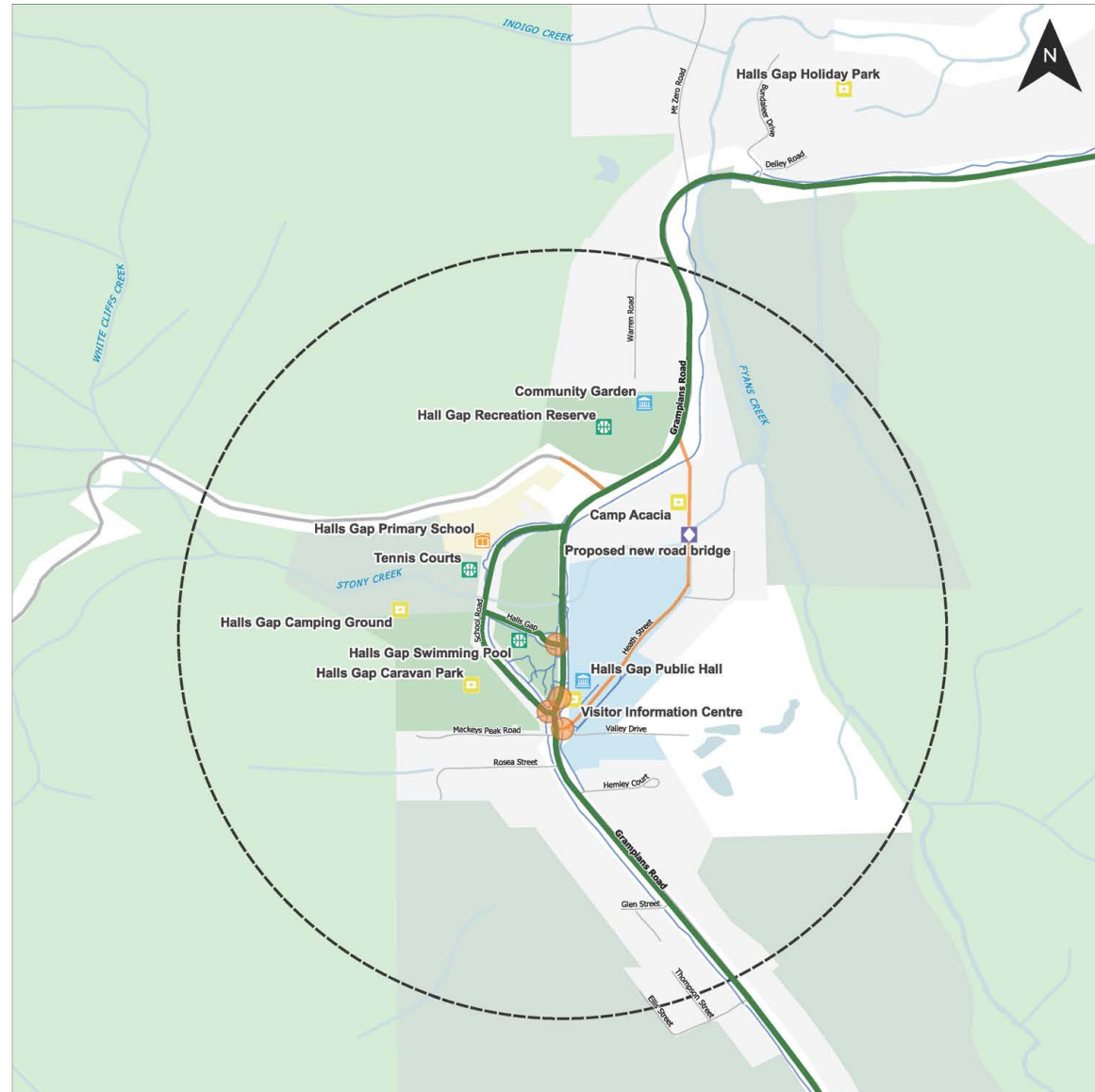
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North Grampians Active Transport Strategy


Marnoo

Legend




Key destinations

-  Centre/retail
-  Health
-  Education
-  Tourist
-  Recreation
-  Community
-  Transport
-  Other

Existing facilities

-  Existing paths

Active transport hierarchy

-  Primary active transport route
-  Secondary active transport route
-  Potential crossing improvement
-  800m buffer (town centre)

Roads and Rail

-  Railway Stations
-  Bus Stops
-  Major Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Railway

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 km



Map Scale (A3) - 1:3,000



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Issued	09/11/23

Map Data : © State of Victoria and North Grampians Shire Council



North Grampians Active Transport Strategy


Navarre

Legend



Key destinations

-  Centre/retail
-  Health
-  Education
-  Tourist
-  Recreation
-  Community
-  Transport
-  Other

Existing facilities

-  Existing paths

Active transport hierarchy

-  Primary active transport route
-  Secondary active transport route
-  Potential crossing improvement
-  800m buffer (town centre)

Roads and Rail

-  Railway Stations
-  Bus Stops
-  Major Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Railway

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 km

Map Scale (A3) - 1:3,000



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Issued	09/11/23

Map Data : © State of Victoria and North Grampians Shire Council




North Grampians Active Transport Strategy Stuart Mill

Legend



Key destinations

-  Centre/retail
-  Health
-  Education
-  Tourist
-  Recreation
-  Community
-  Transport
-  Other






Existing facilities

-  Existing paths

Active transport hierarchy

-  Primary active transport route
-  Secondary active transport route
-  Potential crossing improvement
-  800m buffer (town centre)

Roads and Rail

-  Railway Stations
-  Bus Stops
-  Major Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Railway

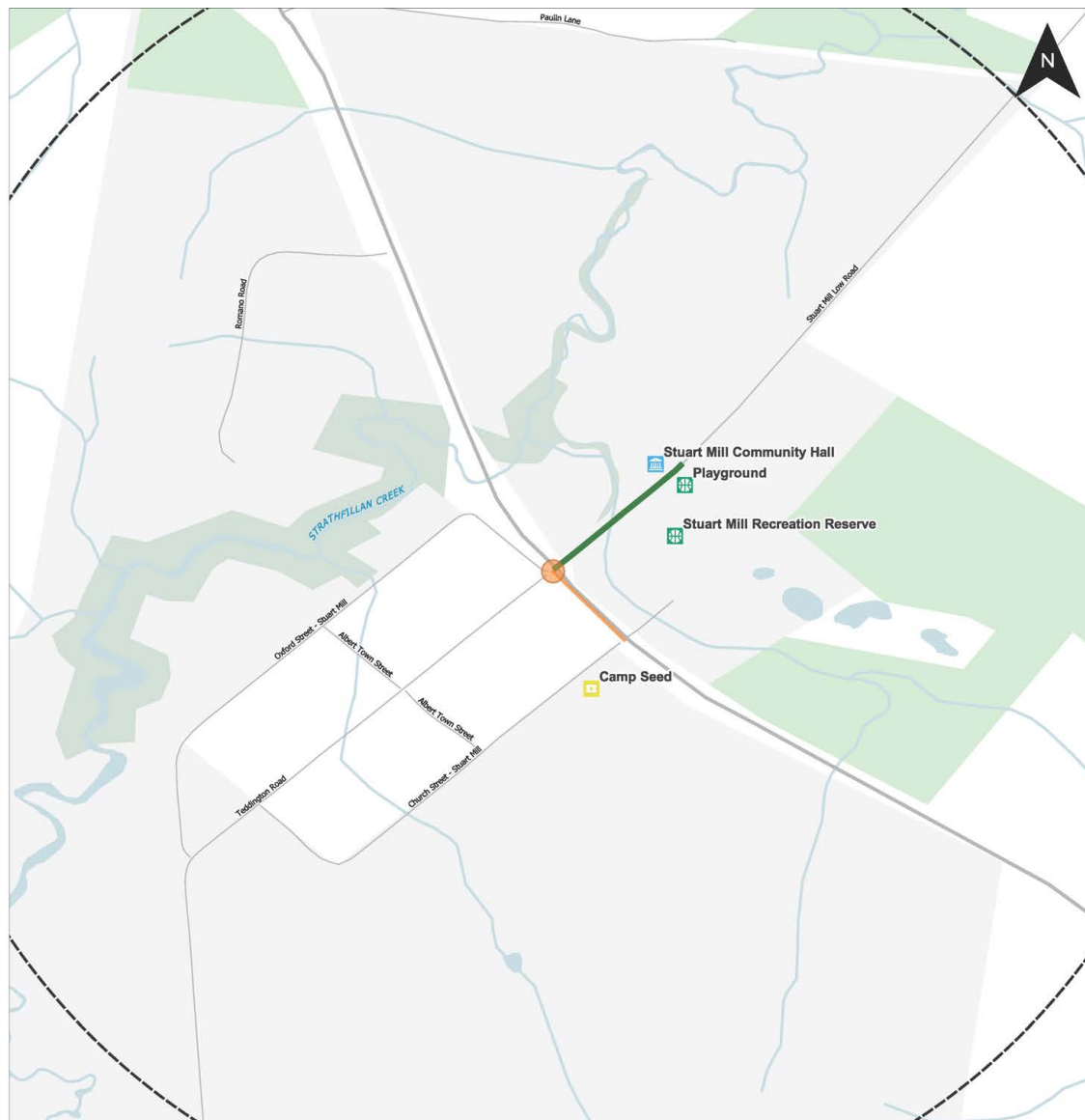
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Map Scale (A3) - 1:3,000



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4.4 Grampians Rail Trail

The Grampians Rail Trail is currently an 11km stretch of gravel/sand trail extending from Stawell West to Mt Dryden Road. The trail officially starts at a small carpark on the Grampians road approximately 700m south of Western Highway. Some trail users choose to park vehicles at Federation Park where there is ample car parking, toilets, and picnic facilities. From Federation Park, a trail connects to Hines Road, connecting to Grampians Road near the start of the rail trail.

The initial 2.5km of the trail travels west toward the Grampians National Park along a path south of the original easement. The remaining 9km of the trail travels along the old rail alignment parallel to the Grampians road and then Mt Dryden Rd near Lake Lonsdale. Bridges and an 800m boardwalk have been installed along the trail. A car park is located on Mt Dryden Road where the trail terminates.

4.4.1 What is a rail trail?

Rail trails are shared-use paths recycled from abandoned railway corridors. Usually managed by local councils for the enjoyment of the general public, rail trails can be used for a range of purposes including walking, cycling and horse riding.

The Grampians Rail Trail is currently maintained by the Friends of Grampians Rail Trail community group. This group and local students have been integral to constructing bridges and boardwalks along the trail, as well as ongoing maintenance.

4.4.2 Rail Trails Australia

Rail Trails Australia is a not-for-profit organisation that supports the development and promotion of a rail trail network across Australia. The organisation supports local government and community committees through the provision of information, experience and resources, primarily through the website, committee and regional representatives.

4.4.3 Future directions

The rail trail is currently popular as a walking, running, and riding trail as it is considered a relatively easy route extending 22km out and back.

The Halls Gap Zoo is a popular attraction, but is located on the Ararat Halls Gap Road which is an arterial road with a current speed limit of 100km/hr.

The Halls Gap Bike Path Zoo Link is a clear priority for the Halls Gap community and will further encourage safe active tourism in the Halls Gap area. In addition it is expected the path will link to the proposed Wildlife Arts Museum Australia (WAMA) to facilitate further safe travel to two key tourism locations.

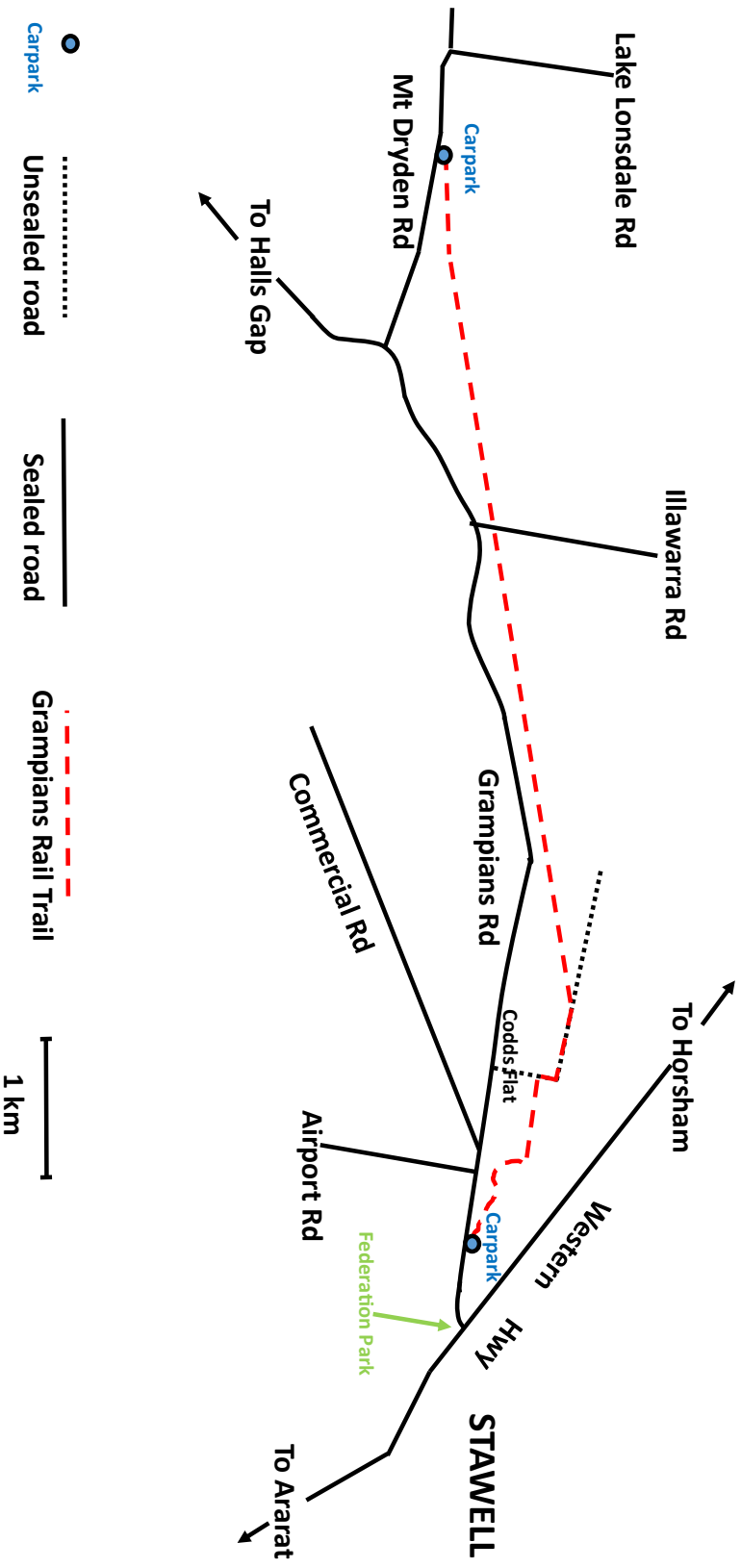
Council's tourism strategies have previously identified continuation of the rail trail to Halls Gap, and this Strategy provides further support to this initiative. The following actions are recommended to progress the required planning and design work to achieve this.

- Undertake a feasibility study to identify the costs, benefits and whether a continuous connection from Stawell to Halls Gap can be achieved, including the existing Grampians Rail Trail. Ongoing maintenance considerations should also be identified
- Develop a landscape master plan over Federation Park including necessary elements to create a trail head for the Grampians Rail Trail
- Identify and implement a continuous walk and cycle route connecting the Grampians Rail Trail and Federation Park Trailhead with the Stawell Railway Station allowing visitors to confidently travel to the area without a private vehicle.



A. Constructed boardwalk
B. Car park at start of rail trail on Grampians Road

Grampians Rail Trail 11km



4.5 Public realm

Delivering good urban and landscape design outcomes in the public realm requires an in depth understanding of four key contributing factors:

- site characteristics and parameters (i.e. physical attributes including extent of works, existing and proposed uses, infrastructure needs, existing conditions and any other opportunities, restrictions or limitations)
- the community and various user groups, including asset owner/s, key stakeholders and tourists
- design expectations and desirable outcomes
- budget and time.

These factors influence the scale, form, function and on-the-ground attributes that are necessary to deliver a high-quality and successful outcome. These considerations apply to all types of public realm - from natural areas, parks and open spaces to more urban settings, such as town squares and streetscapes.

It is critical for the design approach to holistically consider the very different needs between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles; where the objective is achieving balanced provisions between each user group with safety being paramount.

The practical aspects of designing in the public realm setting should equally consider accessibility, amenity, user comfort and experience. It is essential for a sustainable future to appropriately respond to climatic conditions, heritage assets, community values, and other distinguishing qualities that are unique to that place. Collectively, this ensures a well-integrated, functional and enhanced outcome can be achieved for the enjoyment of all.

The information provided in this section is an overview on guiding principles that can assist Council and the Northern Grampians community in how they approach future beautification works in the public realm.

4.5.1 Statutory context

At a governance level, the Victorian government has a suite of policies and strategic documents that provide guidance on best practices for public realm and streetscape design. The documents listed below provide a range of objectives and targets that seeks to enhance the urban landscape environment across Victoria. They also provide technical guidance and minimum standards.

Relevant strategic documents include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Regional Growth Plans (e.g. Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP 2021)
- Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria
- 20-minute neighbourhoods
- Built Environment Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan
- Victorian Cycling Strategy 2019-2028 and strategic cycling corridors
- case studies published on the Healthy Active by Design website by the Heart Foundation
- Trees for cooler and greener streetscapes.

"Public spaces are essential for the wellbeing of everyone in a community. They provide opportunity for relaxation, recreation and socialising, and contribute to a neighbourhood's local character and sense of place."

- Victorian State Government Public spaces principles

4.5.2 Other influential trends

Revitalising public spaces can present many new opportunities and benefits to a town and its community. Changes in social, environmental and financial trends should be considered when designing for public realm beautification works and includes the following contributing factors:



Transport options

There is increasing public interest in more efficient and sustainable modes of transport, such as public transport, electric vehicles, bicycles, scooters and walking.



Walkability

Increase the walkability of places by providing good access to parks and civic spaces that are supported by attractive and functional neighbourhood facilities and services. Walkability can be enhanced further by being accessible by foot and bike.



Smart cities

Technology, although constantly changing, can be introduced to the public realm to enhance user experience and operations for governing authorities. Examples of smart city technology include:

- providing free WiFi in public spaces
- using smart signals that give additional time to pedestrians at crossings
- providing public electric charging points to facilitate the use of more low-emission vehicles
- planning for a potential future with driver-less vehicles, which will undoubtedly change how traditional streets operate.



Changing workplace behaviours

The impacts of changing customer behaviour and business operations, particularly as a result of COVID-19, is affecting main street retailers and the commercial leasing market. A strong transition to online shopping and operations is placing less reliance on traditional “9 to 5” hours in favour of home delivery and more flexible work arrangements, such as shared work spaces and growing trends towards working from home.



Modernisation of vehicles

The changing size and type of vehicles in Australia is seeing a general trend towards ownership of large SUV and 4WD vehicles, particularly in regional areas. According to Toyota Australia, there is an increased interest in regional areas for hybrid pick-ups and four-wheel drives.

4.5.3 Other influential trends

There are many contributing factors that can influence the design and performance of public spaces. At a basic level, design and constructed outcomes must adhere to relevant legislation, building and development codes, and Australian Standards.

As previously described, there are several main factors that generally apply when planning public realm beautification works. These include the following:

- celebrate historical and cultural attributes
- incorporate local materials and plants to highlight, complement and reflect local character
 - whole-of-life maintenance costs should be a key driver when selecting hard and softscape components and the type of infrastructure/furniture introduced within the space
- public safety is critical and cannot be compromised, hence Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles should be applied to the design of the space
- ensure there is clear delineation between public and private space
- design for human scale and cater for a diversity of users, abilities and activities
- striving for 'shared use' outcomes, where possible, in streetscape settings
- integrate greenery wherever possible
- engage the community in the design and activation of the space.

In addition to the above, there are other trends and influential factors that should be considered when planning for public realm works. Often, this reflects current social, environmental or physical trends. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of open space for the community.

Accommodating the physical aspects of these recommendations into the public realm will need to consider outcomes such as:

- providing footpaths wide enough to allow for 1.5m social distancing between individuals
- providing additional space on verges for shops that create high demand and long queues
- increasing the footprint of footpath dining zones to accommodate a safe distance between tables
- frequently cleaning commonly touched surfaces such as parking meters, handrails, seats and rubbish bins.

Other trends to consider into the future include:

- population growth and decline
 - whilst many cities are experiencing rapid growth, many regional towns are experiencing a decline. The Northern Grampians Shire Council is determined to promote the lifestyle benefits of the Shire to maintain and increase the population.
- the rising rate of obesity
 - providing walkable environments that also encourage cycling and other alternative transport options will help encourage individuals to use those other modes of travel over vehicles and incidentally experience exercise, thereby contributing to reduced physical and mental health issues.
- an aging population
 - Australia's aging population is a well known fact and, therefore, the public realm must aim to be equitable to all and cater to the physical needs of an aging demographic. This includes continuous and good quality footpaths, integration of rest points at regular intervals (particularly on roads with steep grades the use of suitable street furniture), supporting people with disabilities by providing convenient and dedicated on-street parking bays and drop-off zones.
- equity and deprivation
 - residents living in regional areas are often impacted by distance to and frequency of community-based services such as public transport. The young and elderly are often dependent on alternative transportation options (such as rail, bus and bicycles) as these members of the community are often less likely to drive or own personal vehicles.

4.5.4 Streetscapes

What makes a great street?⁹

The following characteristics are typical of a well-designed and successful main streets.

Offer a superior pedestrian experience

- Encourage walking, browsing, lingering and socialising - main streets must be highly walkable to succeed.
- Consider pedestrian needs (i.e. footpath width wide enough to accommodate all users and uses, convenient and safe crossings, shade, and legible shopfronts with active uses such as cafes, retailers, etc.)
- Reduce traffic volumes and speed in high-use pedestrian traffic areas. This may include reducing the number of traffic lanes to make the main street feel more intimate and human-scaled. It also reduces the distance pedestrians have to walk over crossings.
- Maintain clear sightlines between vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists by ensuring landscaping and street furniture elements are appropriately positioned.
- Ensure entrapment zones are designed out. Consider the safety of individuals with special needs or potentially in vulnerable situations (e.g. women, children, persons with disabilities, and elderly).
- Avoid unnecessary obstructions and visual clutter (i.e. proliferation of signs, service pits and power lines).
- Ensure there is good drainage, lighting and security infrastructure.
- Integrate accessibility infrastructure, such as tactile indicators and contrasting colours.
- Manage anti-social behaviour through considerate design, layout and activation rather than exclusionary furniture or restricting access (unless necessary for public safety).

Density is OK but at a human and regional town scale

- Moderate density is necessary for a main street to be viable, however, should not be overwhelming.
- Encourage a mixture of building heights and articulated frontages to create a dynamic edge to the street.
- Setbacks should be used to character buildings and features.

Promote and support local businesses

- Encourage a mix of retailers, hospitality outlets, service providers, and arts/community/entertainment based activities (e.g. galleries, museums, library, etc.) along the main street.
- Ensure that main street businesses have adequate on-street parking provision but ensure there is ample space to accommodate a streetscape that buffers walkers from vehicles.
- Ensure that 'placemaking' attributes are authentically represented, particularly in terms of architecture, public art, furniture and materials selection. Historical storytelling helps with the success of a main street, particularly in terms of boosting the local economy by stimulating tourism.

Celebrate natural, cultural and historical assets






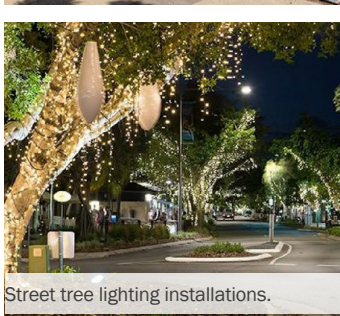
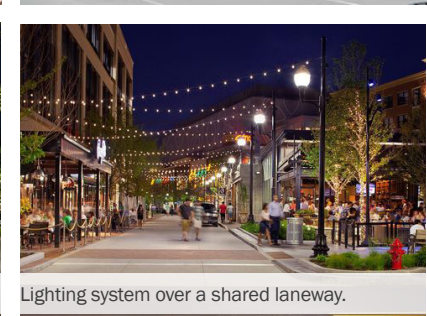





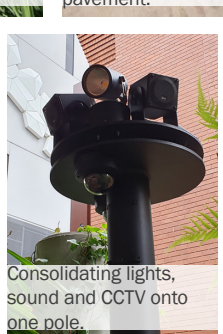


- Maintain greenery within the town centre that is distinctive and functional (such as street trees for shade). Landscaping helps to create amenity, activity and comfort. Ensure materials are robust and affordable.
- Provide spaces / nodes that cater to rest, interpretation and gathering. A civic space at the heart of town encourages community pride and provides a space for events.
- Use locally sourced, high-quality and place-appropriate landscape and urban design treatments.

Promote liveable lifestyle choices

- Encourage walking from local residential areas by providing shady, accessible and continuous paths.
- Cater to cycling as an alternative to driving by providing dedicated cycle infrastructure.
- Consider mixed use developments for any new developments within close proximity of or on the main street. The integration of residential accommodation above commercial/retail shopfronts on the ground level allows for 24-hour passive surveillance and can stimulate activity at quieter times of the day/week.
- Promote good wayfinding by providing visual cues, signs and maps to key destinations and public spaces.
- Employ high standards of maintenance (particularly devoid of rubbish and graffiti).

⁹ <http://www.placemakers.com/2016/12/13/what-makes-a-good-main-street-work/>

Below are photographic examples of main streets that have been beautified in recent years and successfully introduced characteristics of “great streets.”

Walkable	 <p>Wide footpaths allow multiple uses on the verge.</p>	 <p>Pedestrian prioritisation and traffic calming with a raised “wombat” pedestrian crossing.</p>		
Shade	 <p>Structures provided where trees cannot grow.</p>	 <p>Reducing the Urban Heat Island effect with large canopy trees providing shade over footpaths and road pavement.</p>	 <p>Integrated art opportunity.</p>	
Night time activation	 <p>Street tree lighting installations.</p>	 <p>Lighting system over a shared laneway.</p>	 <p>Architectural lighting within furniture.</p>	
Art, history and culture	 <p>Public art provided within the town centre.</p>	 <p>Cultural references in pavement.</p>	 <p>Storytelling through materials and interpretive signage.</p>	 <p>Retaining objects from the past.</p>
Innovation	 <p>An outdoor public art gallery.</p>	 <p>Consolidating lights, sound and CCTV onto one pole.</p>	 <p>Misters provided within a town square.</p>	 <p>Smart technology (i.e. charging station with USB ports) integrated into street furniture.</p>

4.5.5 Future directions

Understand the street and its function:

- Use a place-based approach to set a vision for the future form and character of the street
- Develop a landscape master plan, which will capture the vision and objectives by proposing physical changes needed to improve the amenity and functionality of the street.

Gap analysis:

- A detailed analysis of the existing landscape and urban design and transport functions of the street will identify any current and future issues and opportunities related to the corridor. A comprehensive analysis of the existing situation is crucial to identifying any gaps in performance and provisions before commencing design
- Some influencing factors to be assessed include traffic counts, hazardous or high-risk spots, accident prone locations, landform, sightlines, drainage, location of existing services, heritage and culturally-significant features, significant healthy trees, etc.

Develop options:

- Explore options that address any change to vehicle speeds, desirable pedestrian crossing locations, carriageway and parking arrangements to balance outcomes that enable optimal footpath widths and cycle lanes, and the location and frequency of street trees, landscaping, street furniture and outdoor nodes (i.e. footpath dining, rest stops, interpretation/art) provisions
- Validate the options by consulting a variety of stakeholders and the broader community, particularly in terms of the ultimate vision for the function and character of the street.

Prioritise people and businesses:

- The impacts of traffic volume, speed, noise and emissions seriously affects the pedestrian experience, and when these conditions are hostile or allowed to continue to grow (in terms of traffic volumes) often, those streets ultimately fail. A chain effect can occur when pedestrian numbers decline - businesses suffer from loss of patrons and the street becomes entirely about vehicle movements.

Prioritise greenery:

- The health of a street - the trees, people and businesses that inhabit it - needs to be co-equal with the impact on its moving parts.

4.5.6 Guiding principles for public realm improvements

- Prioritise people over vehicles by encouraging quieter and slower streets
- Support walking to and from the town centre and residential areas that are within a 10 minute walk of any public space (NOTE: this is a common distance used when linking park access for public health benefit)
- Improve air quality and noise where people congregate along the main street, particularly avoid on-street parking or loading bays situated close or adjacent to footpath dining
- Reduce and manage traffic speeds by considering the main street transitions to a 40 km/hr speed limit zone passing through the town centres and introducing traffic calming treatments to support this (such as gateways, signage, raised threshold/wombat crossings, kerb extensions, installation of medians, etc.)
- Consider peak times of the day, where movement is congested or high-risk, and pedestrian activity occurs, particularly if evening activation is a goal
- Ensure there is sufficient and efficient provision of dedicated disability parking, commercial loading zones and bus stops
- Dedicate space and infrastructure for cycling
- Maintain existing trees and increase the tree canopy along streets.

4.5.7 Signs of success after investing in beautification works



More people on the street, especially children.



An increase in walking and cycling.



Lower crime rates, particularly acts of vandalism.



An increase in private reinvestment (i.e. new development)



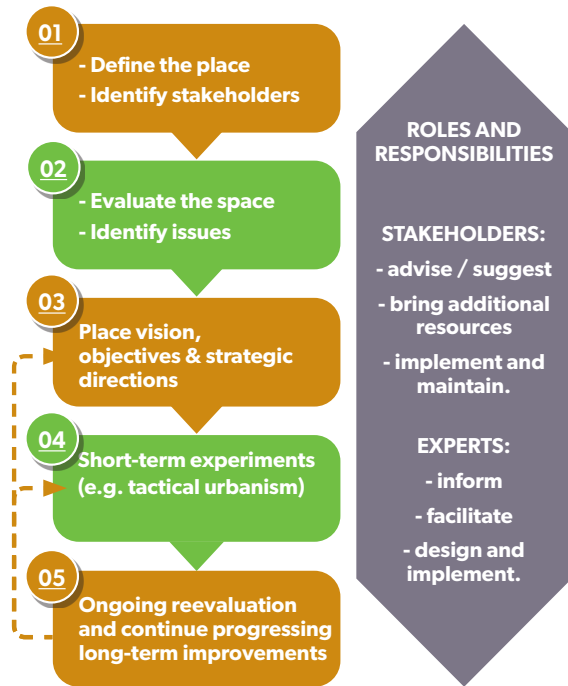
Economic vitality (measurable by decrease in vacancy rates, a diverse mix of businesses, extended trading hours, activity in the evenings, and a rise in real estate values).

4.5.8 Placemaking and activation

Employing a place making approach can be invaluable in how places are created, as it seeks to ingrain context-specific outcomes that are dynamic, inclusive and flexible and developed in a balanced manner that equally considers social, environmental and economic factors. In fact, Australasia has been on the cutting edge of the place making movement for many years, with government organisations and professionals driving innovation and “new models of place-led design, governance, and economic development.” (Ethan Kent, PSP, 2016)

“Placemaking inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community. Strengthening the connection between people and the places they share, place making refers to a collaborative process by which we can shape our public realm in order to maximize shared value. More than just promoting better urban design, place making facilitates creative patterns of use, paying particular attention to the physical, cultural, and social identities that define a place and support its ongoing evolution.”

- Placemaking: What if we built our cities around places?, Project for Public Places, 2007



The place making process: a place led, community-based approach¹

What is place making?¹⁰

Placemaking is a multidimensional approach to the design, activation and transformation of public spaces. The process performs best when collaboration is prioritised; the active involvement of the community, stakeholders and government agencies, in most cases, leads to successful visioning, ongoing community involvement and support, and quality on-the-ground built outcomes.

Key principles

There are eleven (11) guiding principles for improving places that have been published by internationally renowned leaders in place making - Project for Public Spaces (PPS), a nonprofit planning, design and educational organisation dedicated to helping people create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities. These principles are provided on the following page.



10 <https://www.pps.org/article/what-is-placemaking>

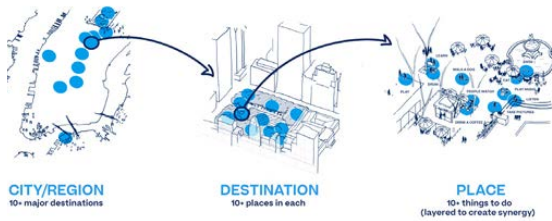
Key principles recommended by PPS¹¹ are:

2. The community is the expert
 - identify members within the community with an interest in the project and who can provide skills and/or knowledge (such as historical details, insights into local environmental and social traits) and an understanding of critical issues
 - information gathered at the beginning of the process will help to create a sense of community ownership over the project; a great benefit to the future success of the space.
3. Create a place, not a design
 - identify the physical elements to be retained and what features would attract the community and other visitors. Outcomes should ensure user comfort, amenity, enhanced pedestrian and cyclist circulation, and effective relationships to surrounding retailers and destinations.
 - create a place that invokes a strong sense of community and a setting which provides a range of activities and uses that collectively reflects the wants and needs of the community.
4. Look for partners
 - partners are critical to the future success and image of a public space beautification project. Partners can assist with project planning, options development and participation in the future
 - these collaborations are invaluable in providing support and getting a project off the ground. Partners can be local institutions, schools, various organisations, and many others.
5. They always say “it can’t be done”
 - challenges are inevitable when creating good public spaces. Engaging and involving the community early in the process (and ongoing through out delivery) can help the community feel a sense of ownership for the new space.
 - consider implementing small scale interventions to test cumbersome ideas as demonstration projects, as this can help some individuals to overcome the perceived obstacle. For example, “PARKing Day” is an event where on-street car parks are temporarily transformed into “parklets” for the day to demonstrate how these spaces can be repurposed without significant impact on local parking systems.
6. Have a vision
 - a vision needs to be borne from the interests expressed by the community and stakeholders. It is essential for a project to have an overarching vision as it provides all individuals with a clear idea of what the future space will look and feel like.
 - the vision statement should be aspirational and have a good appreciation for the important values of that place. It should also inspire and excite people whilst instilling a sense of pride in residents who live and work in the local area.
7. You can see a lot just by observing
 - by undertaking a benchmarking exercise and case study research, much can be learned about the successes and failures of other places.
 - investigate how people use public spaces by finding out what they like and don’t like about the space, what is missing, and what could enhance the activation of the space. This can be achieved either through observing individuals in the space, holding community meetings/workshops, running a questionnaire or survey, school visits, and other community engagement techniques.
8. Form supports function
 - inputs from the community and project partners provides an understanding of how other spaces function and can overcome the future obstacles when implementing the conceptual ideas into built outcomes. Design is important, however, these other elements will establish the “form” needed to accomplish the future vision for the space.
9. Triangulate
 - triangulation is “the process by which some external stimulus provides a linkage between people and prompts strangers to talk to other strangers as if they knew each other” (Holly Whyte)
 - the selection and arrangement of different elements and how they relate to each other can affect the triangulation process.
10. Experiment: lighter, quicker, cheaper
 - public spaces are complex and it may be that staged delivery is required to achieve the overall vision, particularly due to cost. In other instances, concepts may be challenging for others to envision and therefore could benefit from an “experiment” whereby the initiative/s are introduced in a short term manner that can be tested and refined. Pending the success of the experiment, it can then be made permanent.
11. Money is not the issue
 - by experimenting first or undertaking works in stages, the elements that are added into that space will contribute to the future success of the finished space (e.g. pop-up vendors, cafes, shade and seating) and are reasonably inexpensive. It also creates enthusiasm for the project.
 - involving the community and other partners can help with programming and other activities, which can also reduce costs.
12. Works are never finished
 - regular management and maintenance of public spaces must respond to the ever changing needs of the community, the environment and technology. Plan ahead for when amenities provided within the space come to the end of their life. Build-in flexibility and funding to readily enact repairs, replacements and upgrades, as needed, to maintain great public spaces and towns.

11 Project for Public Spaces

4.5.8 Placemaking concepts

The Power of 10+



Graphic representation of the Power of 10+ concept from PPS.

This concept (developed by PPS) is an evaluation tool to help facilitate place making across varying urban setting scales. It enables constructive conversations to help identify priorities, opportunities and challenges.

The tool helps to identify a range of reasons (10+) for people to visit a place. Activities may include relaxation and respite, taking children to a playground, attending an event, dining at an on-site cafe, educational purposes, or a meeting point. Seek out which of these activities are unique to that particular place as they positively represent local culture and history. Local residents are the best source for identifying and prioritising the top 10+ list.¹²

Place Activation



Example of evening activation in a park in Maitland (image source: www.maitland.nsw.gov.au)

The activities that happen in a public space and the people there enjoying those moments are what typically makes a successful public space. It is, therefore, important that Council and the community prepare (from start to completion and beyond) a public space activation program/strategy that will plan for a variety of community events to occur at a range of times (day and night, weekdays and weekends) to generate opportunities for the community to interact with each other and the space. Examples include pop-ups, outdoor cinema nights, giant board games (such as chess), and potentially regular events such as monthly markets or annual festivals.

Tactical urbanism or 'Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper'



Example of PARKing Day from the Maitland Activation Strategy (2016).

Introducing interim or trial measures that, in most instances, are low-cost can yield a high return and have significant impact on community support when entering into any public space beautification project.

This approach helps to capitalise on the excitement of the community generated by new opportunities to engage in ways that the space previously may not have been equipped to cater for. This helps the community to prepare for the transformation whilst the space is still familiar. From small and 'tactical' interventions such as PARKing Day and temporary art installations to large temporary structures and community events.

Place governance / management



Place management flow diagram (source: www.townteamovement.com/whats-the-difference-placemaking-place-management-and-place-activation/)

Place management can be defined as:

"A coordinated, area-based, multi-stakeholder approach to improve locations, harnessing the skills, experiences and resources of those in the private, public and voluntary sectors." - www.placemanagement.org/

This intentional form of governance can be the key contributing factor in successfully delivering the transformation of a public space into a vibrant and active place. A Place Manager's role is to be the conduit between government, businesses and the community, and drive the collective towards reaching their full potential and the vision for that public space.

¹² <https://www.pps.org/article/what-is-placemaking>

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Open space gap analysis

5.1 Open space audit

All open space in Northern Grampians Shire has been audited to assess characteristics including accessibility, amenities, appearance, maintenance, safety and security. Key observations from the audit and assessment reveal the following key themes.

Table 05: Themes identified from the visual audit of Northern Grampians Shire open space

AREA OF INTEREST	KEY OBSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT
Walk and cycle connections	Walking and cycling are popular activities in Northern Grampians Shire across the full spectrum of the community. Respondents to the community survey highlighted the need for additional and improved infrastructure to support walking and cycling for recreation, physical activity and active transport.
Access to nature	People living in the Northern Grampians Shire have access to a diverse range of natural areas providing the potential for a broad array of outdoor recreation activities (where appropriate and when negative impacts to the natural area will not occur). Residents highly value the natural environment and the recreation activities available.
Wayfinding and signage	For long-term residents, navigating available parks, reserves and recreation opportunities within the towns and outlying communities across the Shire is likely second nature. However, for local residents (particularly youth) seeking alternate activities to those their family participate in, or for visitors to the area, signage and the ability to navigate to places and activities confidently and safely is constrained by a lack of clear signage and wayfinding.
Inclusive design	Inclusive design applies to both physical and social elements of accessing public spaces. Council has made in-roads to ensure public places are designed to be inclusive. There are opportunities for further enhancement to ensure everyone in the community feels welcome, safe and a sense of belonging.
Shade	Several parks and playgrounds across the Shire lack sufficient shade. Shade trees and structures provide protection from exposure to harmful ultraviolet (UV) light and heat. Provision of shade is an essential design component for parks and particularly play spaces to encourage people to utilise these public spaces safely, regardless of the time of day. Shade trees contribute significantly to the amenity of parks and shade structures can provide effective all-weather shelter.
Play space distribution	The distribution of play spaces is generally good, with each outlying community/village including a play space. The distribution of play spaces across St Arnaud provides access for a majority of residents within 500m of their homes. There are gaps in distribution of play spaces across Stawell
Play infrastructure	Playgrounds and play spaces are currently provided for children in age ranges including: infants and toddlers; preschoolers; primary school children up to 8 years of age. Traditional playgrounds have been installed and consist of off-the-shelf play equipment and softfall (bark chip or rubber). Future trends in play space creation require the integration of select pieces of play equipment with natural elements and landscaping to encourage imagination play and inquisitive investigation of the environment.
Recreation vs Sport	Generally, sport parks appear to be embellished and maintained to a high standard. Similarly, larger recreation parks in St Arnaud and Stawell (e.g. Cato Par, Queen Mary Gardens) have facilities and landscaping to provide recreation opportunities, amenity and appeal to a broad cross-section of the community. There is opportunity to enhance local parks to enhance their appeal and opportunities for play and recreation.

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5.2 Stawell core open space network analysis

The public open space network has been analysed through a series of scenarios to provide direction on future enhancement and development. The following section examines the existing public open space network against a range of variables, including:

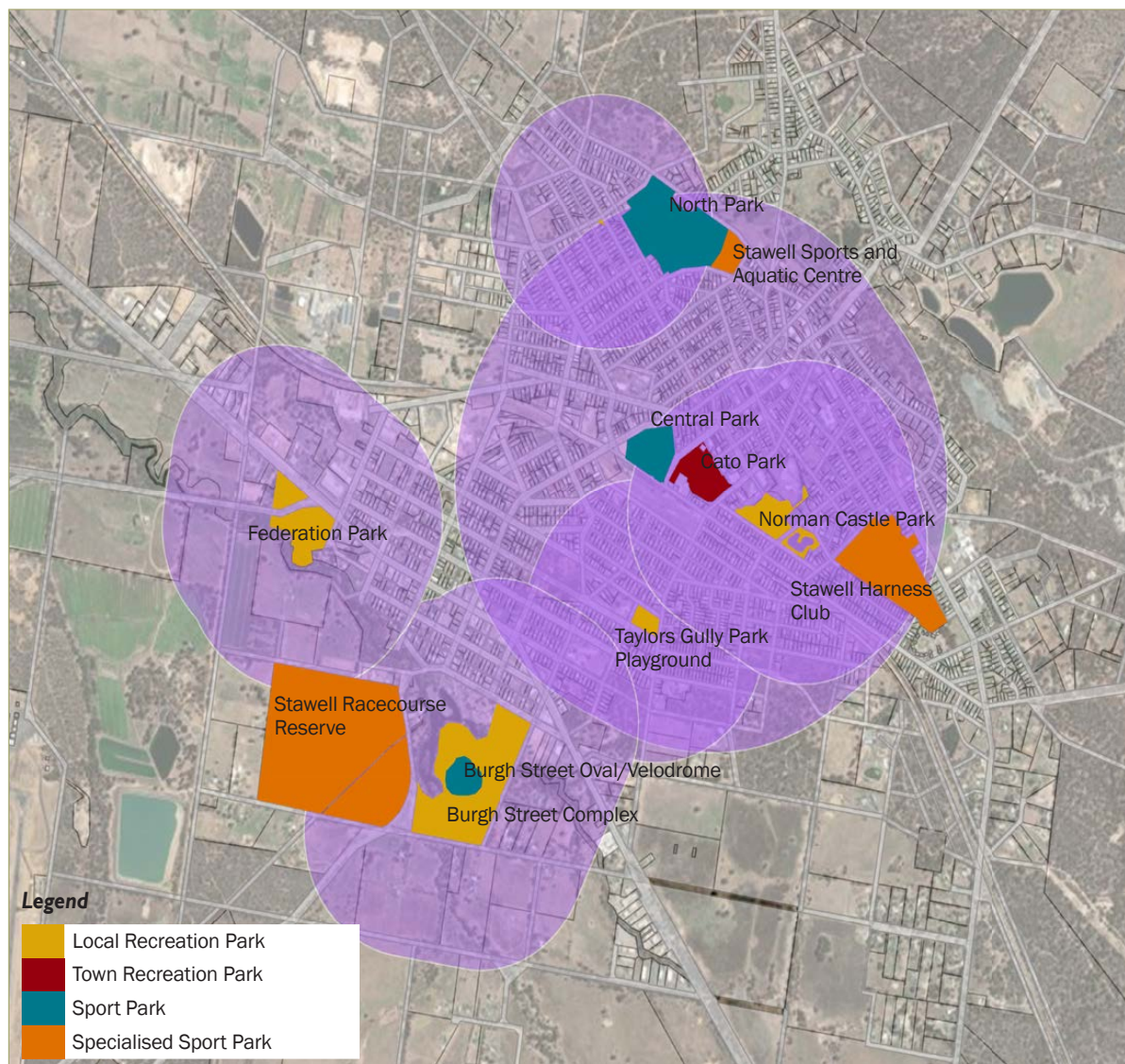
- residential lot access to open space within 500m walkability catchments
- sport parks within 1km of residential homes
- playground accessibility to residential areas within 500m (Local Recreation) and 1km (Town Recreation)
- youth space accessibility to residential areas within 1km.

5.2.1 Stawell: Local Recreation Park within 500m Or Town Recreation Park within 1km

When a catchment area of 500m (or 5-7 minute walk) for Local Recreation Parks and 1km (10-15 minute walk) for Town Recreation Parks is overlaid with existing recreation and sport parks, the majority of residents can access a park relatively quickly.

However, while sport parks are embellished and fit-for purpose, not all recreation parks have been developed to function for the intended purpose. Additionally, major sport parks could be enhanced with play spaces to serve dual purposes and better meet the recreation and sport needs of nearby residents.

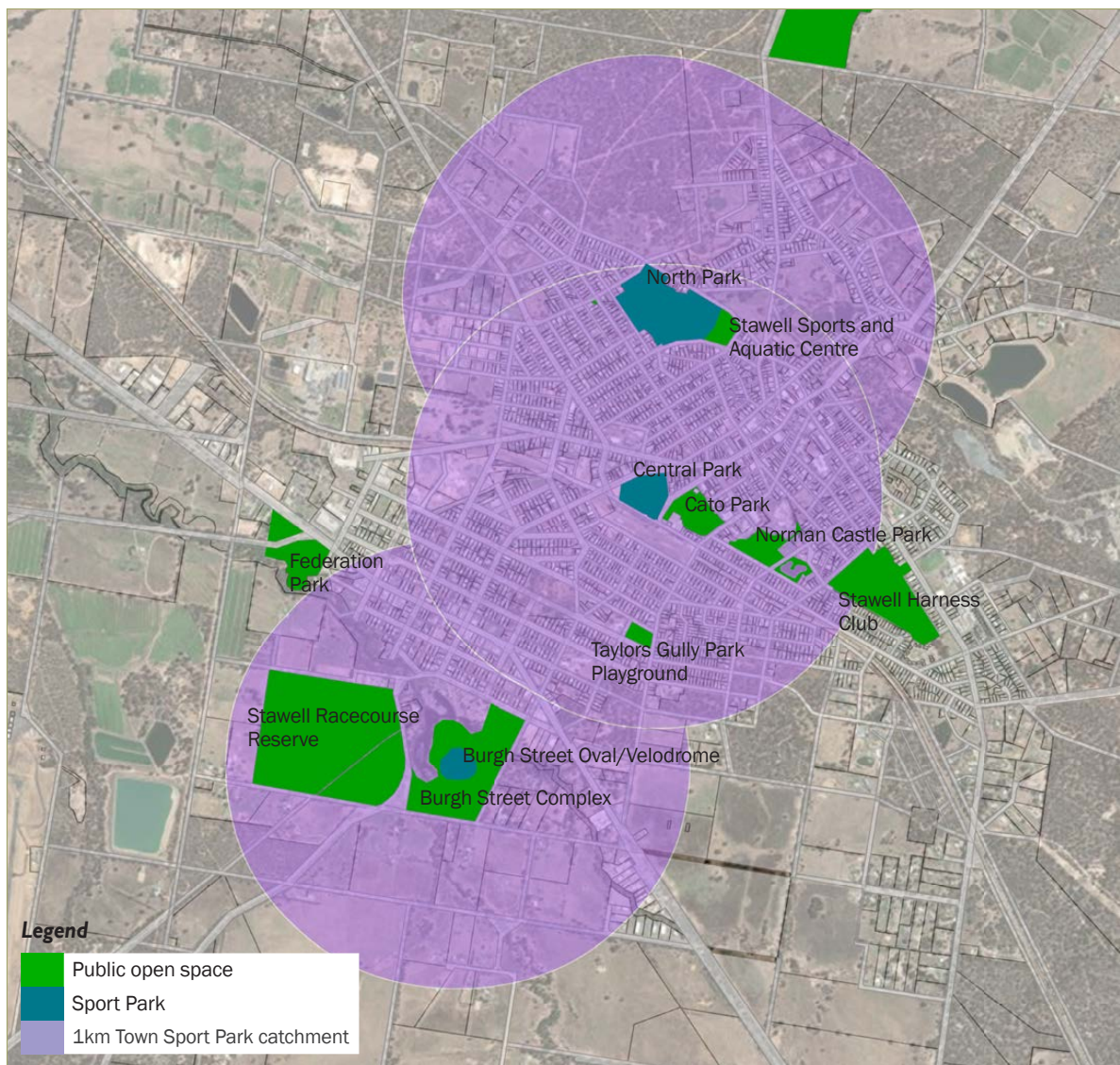
Council has ample open space land for the current and projected population. However, there are gaps in provision across the network in relation to access and embellishment standards (DSS and LoS).



5.2.2 Stawell: Sport Parks within 1km

Sport Parks are a resource for formal sport training and competition and also provide an open recreation space for unstructured play and social sport. When a catchment area of 1km is overlaid with existing sport parks, the majority of residents can access sport parks and opportunities relatively easily.

In addition to sport parks provided by Council, most schools provide at least one sport field within their grounds for health and physical education classes, as well as physical activity by students during breaks. With consultation and approval by the school principal, these sport fields can provide additional open space accessible to surrounding residents for appropriate use, outside of school hours and on weekends.



5.2.3 Stawell: Play space accessibility

To gain an understanding of the relative access of playground infrastructure to the resident population of Stawell, all playgrounds were mapped and 500m catchments assessed. The analysis indicated:

- an estimated 75% of the population has access to play space facilities within 500m of their residence
- the quality of local park play spaces is generally good, however it does vary, with shade a significant missing element
- additional play spaces are required to meet catchment standards and provide local, easily accessed opportunities for children
- factors impacting on safe and comfortable use of the play space may be discouraging use, e.g. poor drainage
- embellishment levels of service need to be applied consistently across the network
- there are opportunities for more contemporary play space creation including imagination and nature play elements in addition to traditional play equipment.

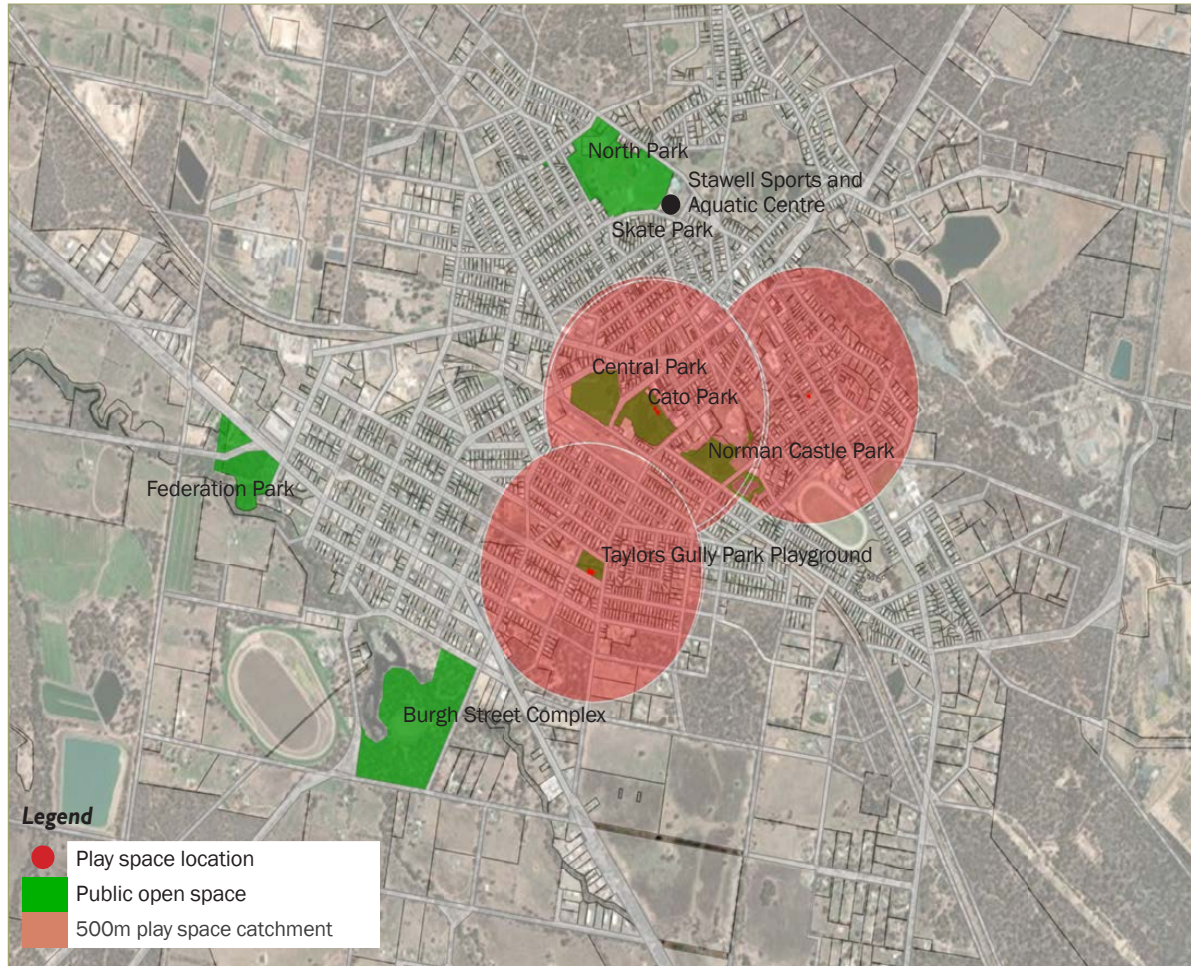
5.2.4 Stawell: Skate Park accessibility

Youth are typically people in the 15-24 age group and from a recreation planning perspective this group has characteristics including:

- significant 'free time'
- are high users of public transport
- are attracted to town centres and public spaces to socialise and gather
- are going through a challenging period of transition (from childhood to adulthood) and change.

A 'youth space' is a public space deliberately designed to attract youth to participate in recreation, socialising, events and contribute to their community.

Council has built skate parks in Stawell.

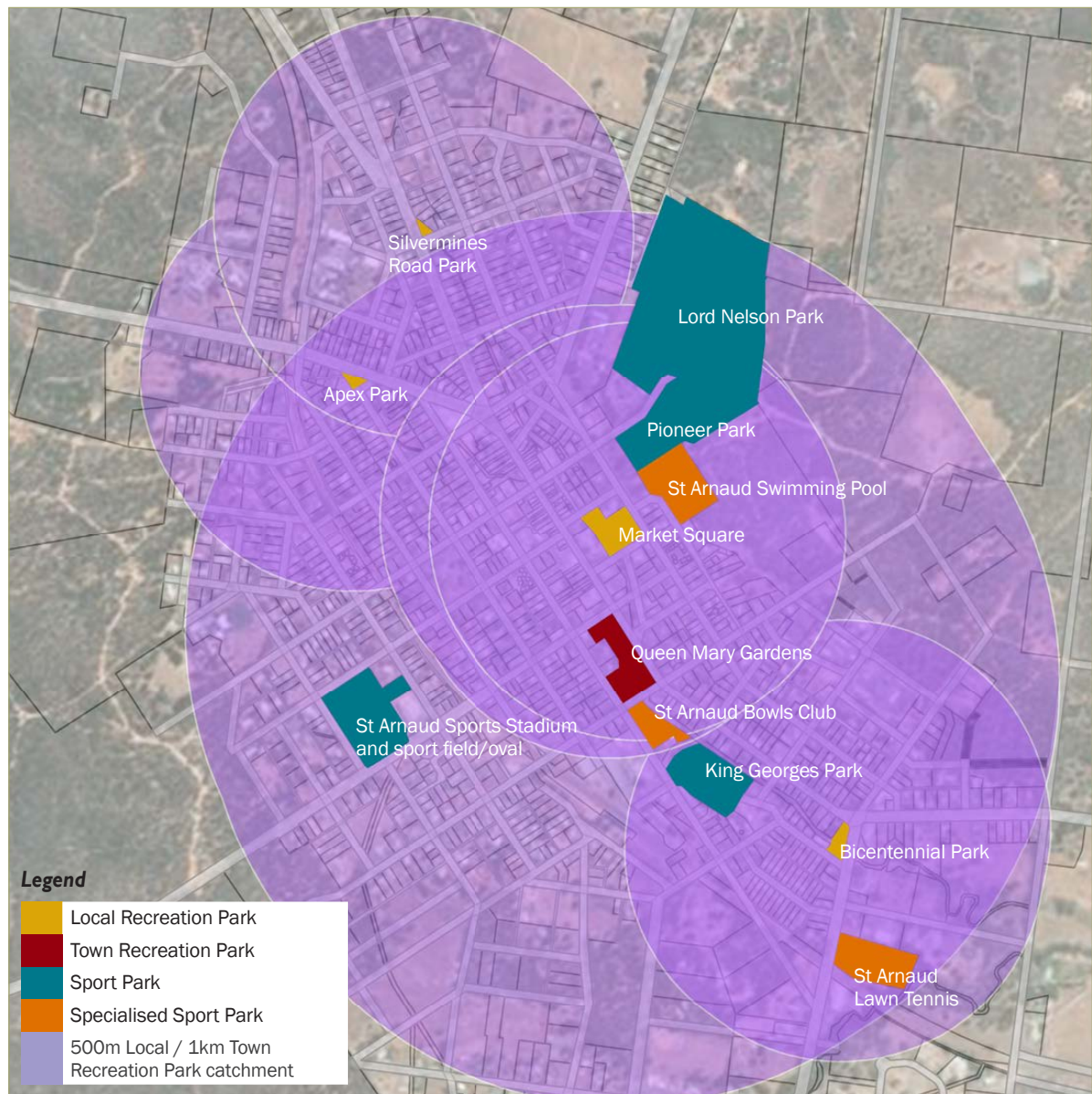


5.3 St Arnaud core open space network analysis

5.3.1 St Arnaud: Local Recreation Park within 500m Or Town Recreation Park within 1km

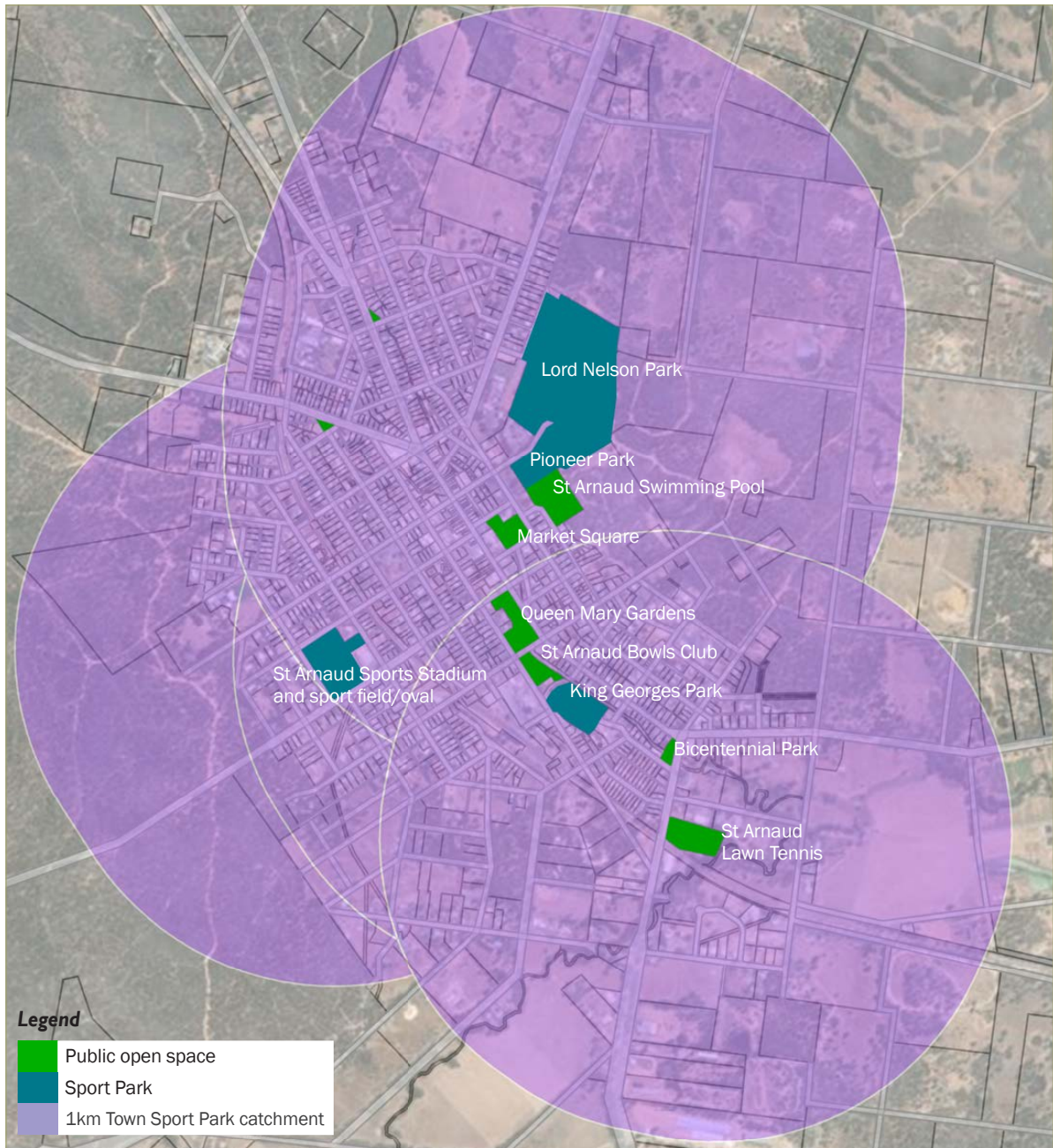
When a catchment area of 500m (or 5-7 minute walk) or 1km (10-15 minute walk) is overlaid with existing recreation and sport parks, the majority of residents can access a park relatively quickly.

The settlement pattern and location of existing Recreation Parks means that the vast majority of residents can access at least a Local Park relatively quickly and easily.



5.3.2 St Arnaud: Sport Parks within 1km

When a catchment area of 1km is overlaid with existing sport parks, the majority of residents can access sport parks and opportunities relatively easily.



5.3.3 St Arnaud: Play space accessibility

Play spaces across St Arnaud were mapped and 500m catchments assessed. The analysis indicated:

- an estimated 95% of the population has access to play space facilities within 500m of their residence
- the quality of local park play spaces is generally good, however it does vary, with shade a significant missing element
- some playgrounds are tired and aging and require replacement or removal through Council's asset management planning
- there are opportunities for more contemporary play space creation including imagination and nature play elements in addition to traditional play equipment.

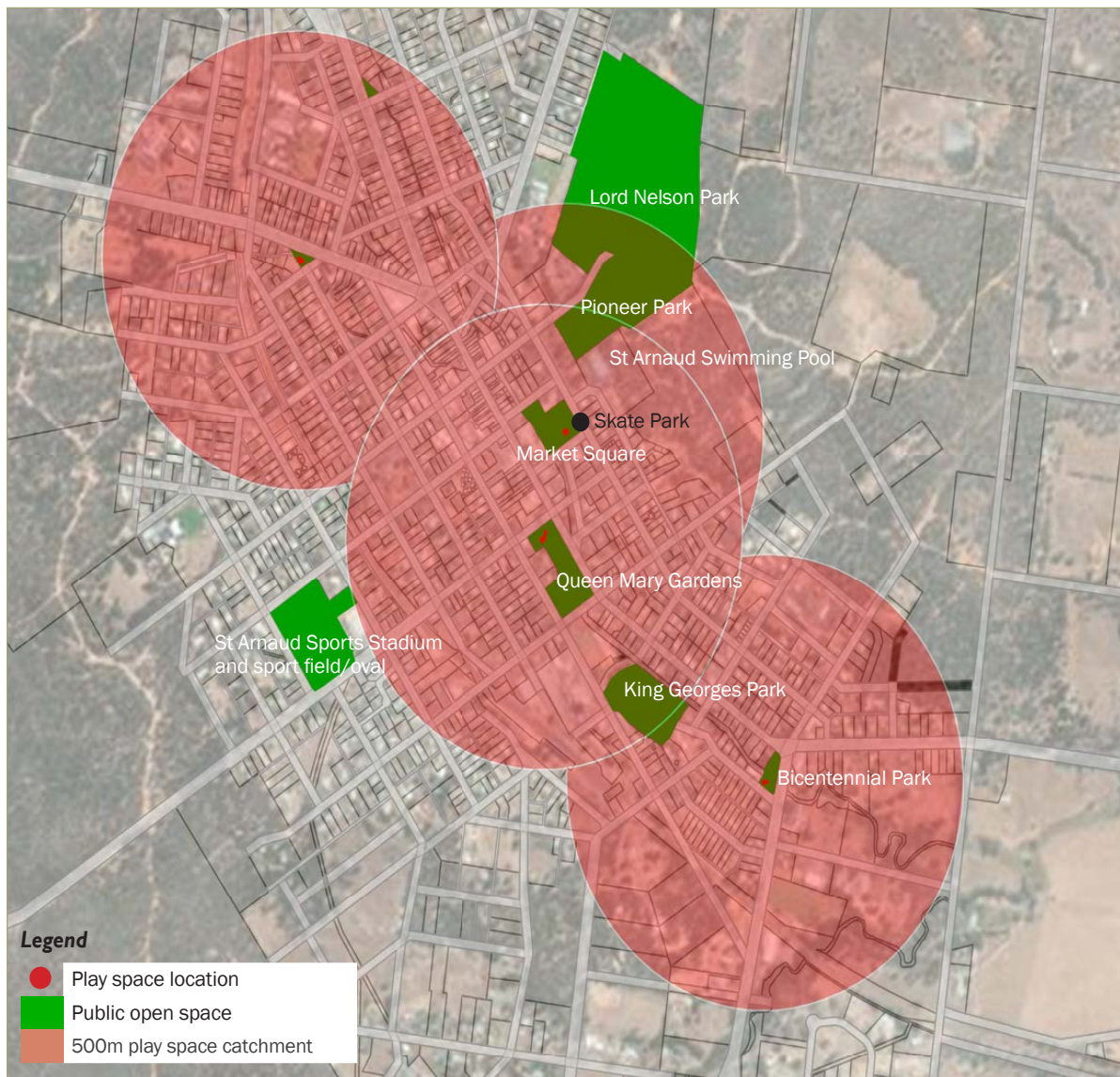
5.3.4 St Arnaud: Skate Park accessibility

Youth are typically people in the 15-24 age group and from a recreation planning perspective this group has characteristics including:

- significant 'free time'
- are high users of public transport
- are attracted to town centres and public spaces to socialise and gather
- are going through a challenging period of transition (from childhood to adulthood) and change.

A 'youth space' is a public space deliberately designed to attract youth to participate in recreation, socialising, events and contribute to their community.

Council has built a skate park at Market Square in St Arnaud.

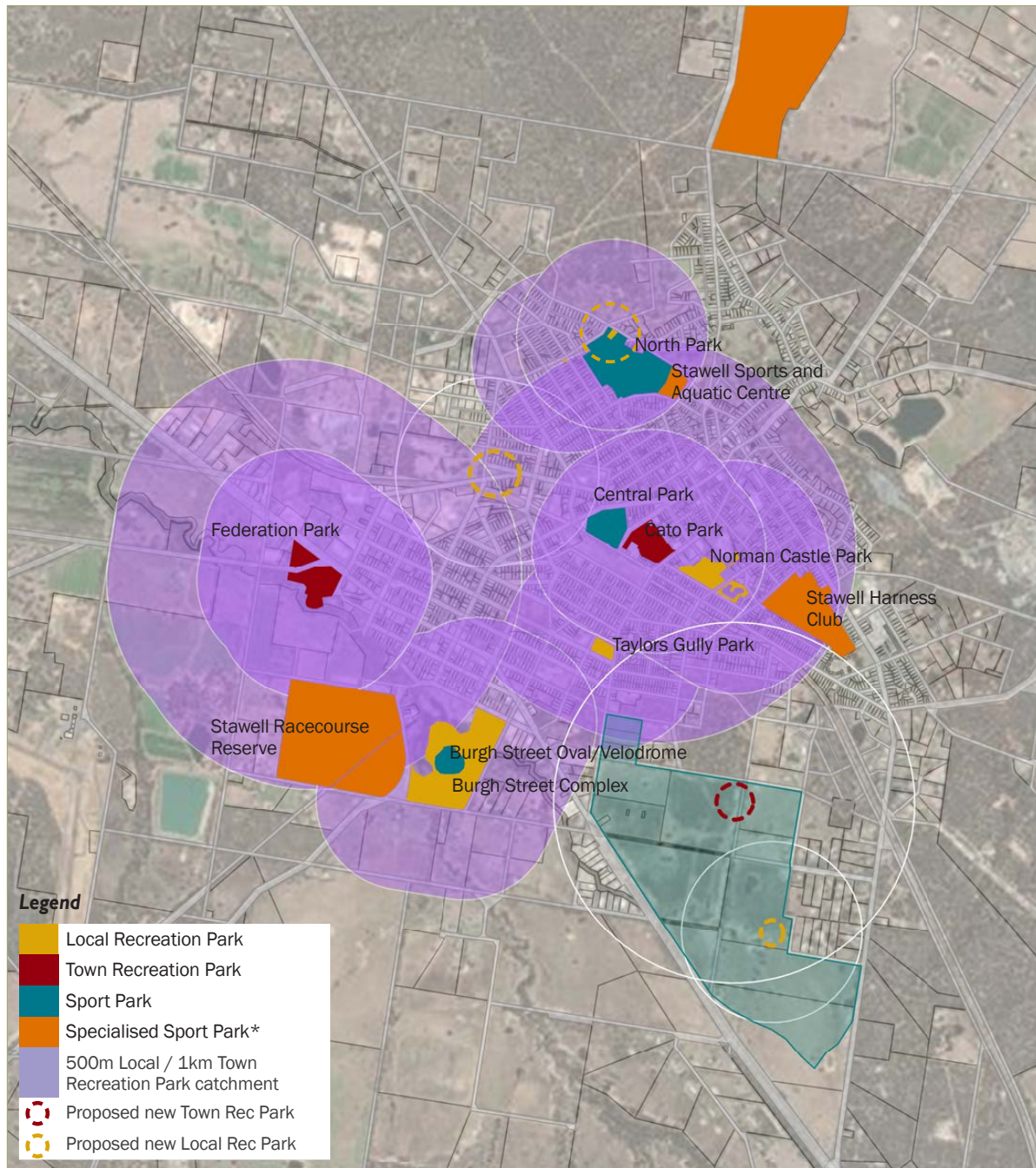


5.4 Proposed future core public open space

5.4.1 Stawell future core public open space

To achieve the Desired Standard of Service (DSS) and Core Level of Service (LoS) for Stawall, the following enhancements and additional Local and Town Recreation Parks are proposed for development:

- Upgrade Federation Park from Local to Town Recreation Park with appropriate planning, design and embellishment
- Create a play space at North Park
- Create a play space at Cypress Street Public Park Reserve
- Ensure appropriate collection of development contributions in the proposed future residential area to dedicate land and embellishment appropriate to deliver a Town Recreation Park, as well as a Local Recreation Park (depending on the extent of development and population).



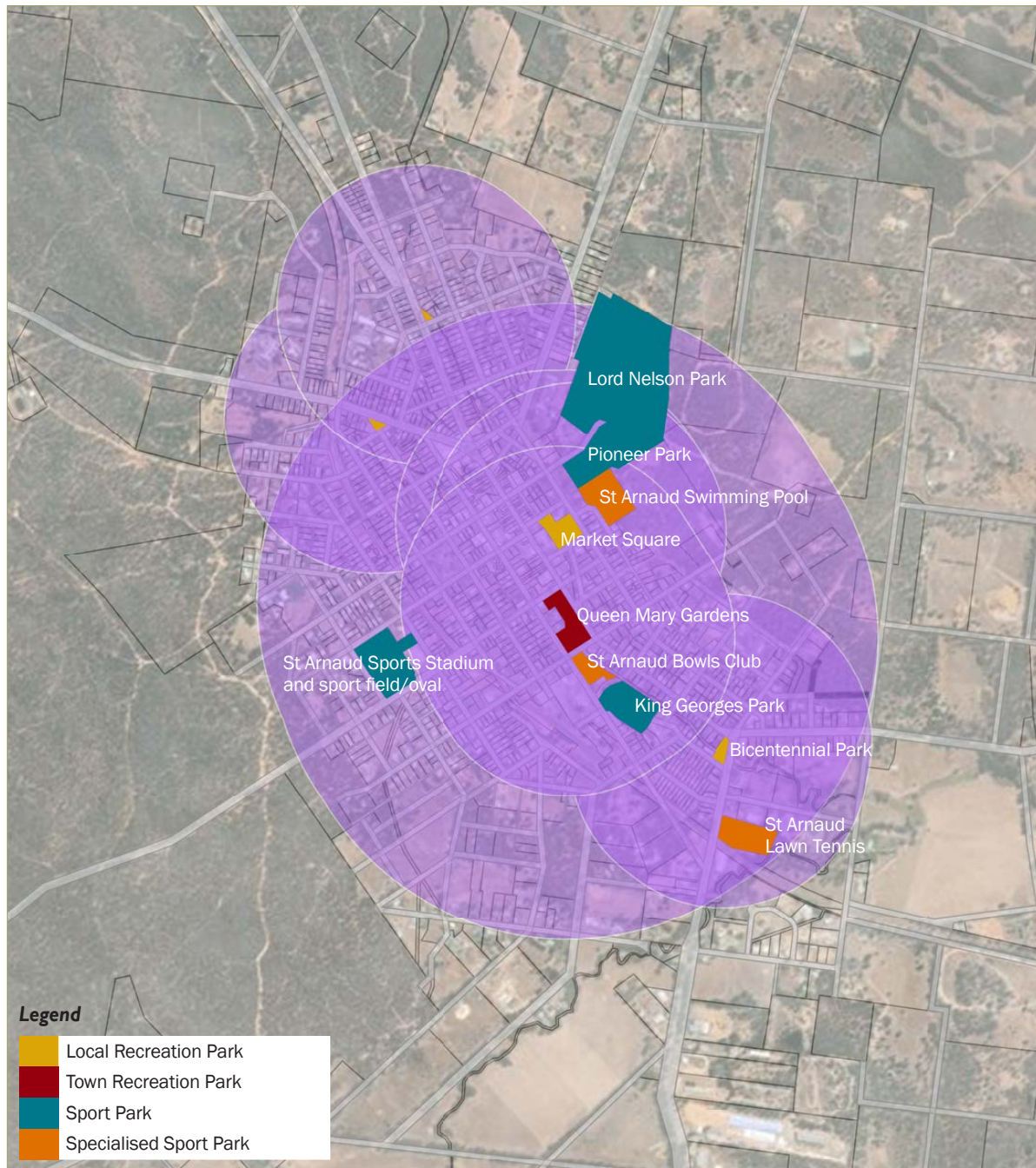
5.4.2 St Arnaud future core public open space

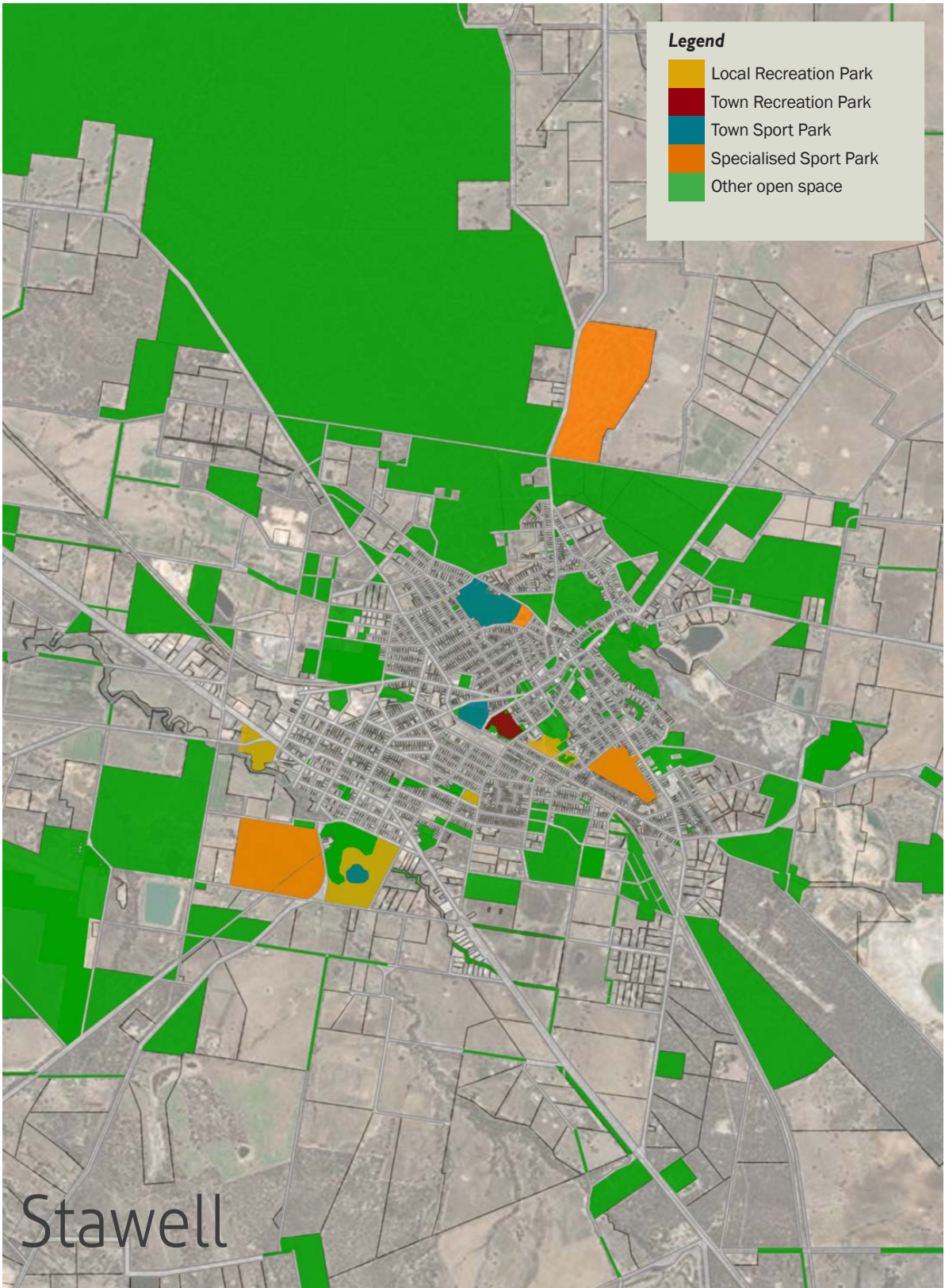
Overall, the provision, distribution and standard of public open space in St Arnaud sufficiently meets the Desired Standard of Service (DSS) and Core Levels of Service (LoS).

St Arnaud's settlement pattern, large public open spaces and the level and standard of park embellishments provide a high standard of facilities to meet the recreation needs of the

community, as well as contributing to high amenity value of the town.

It will be important in future years to ensure park embellishments meet the changing needs of the population age groups living in St Arnaud.

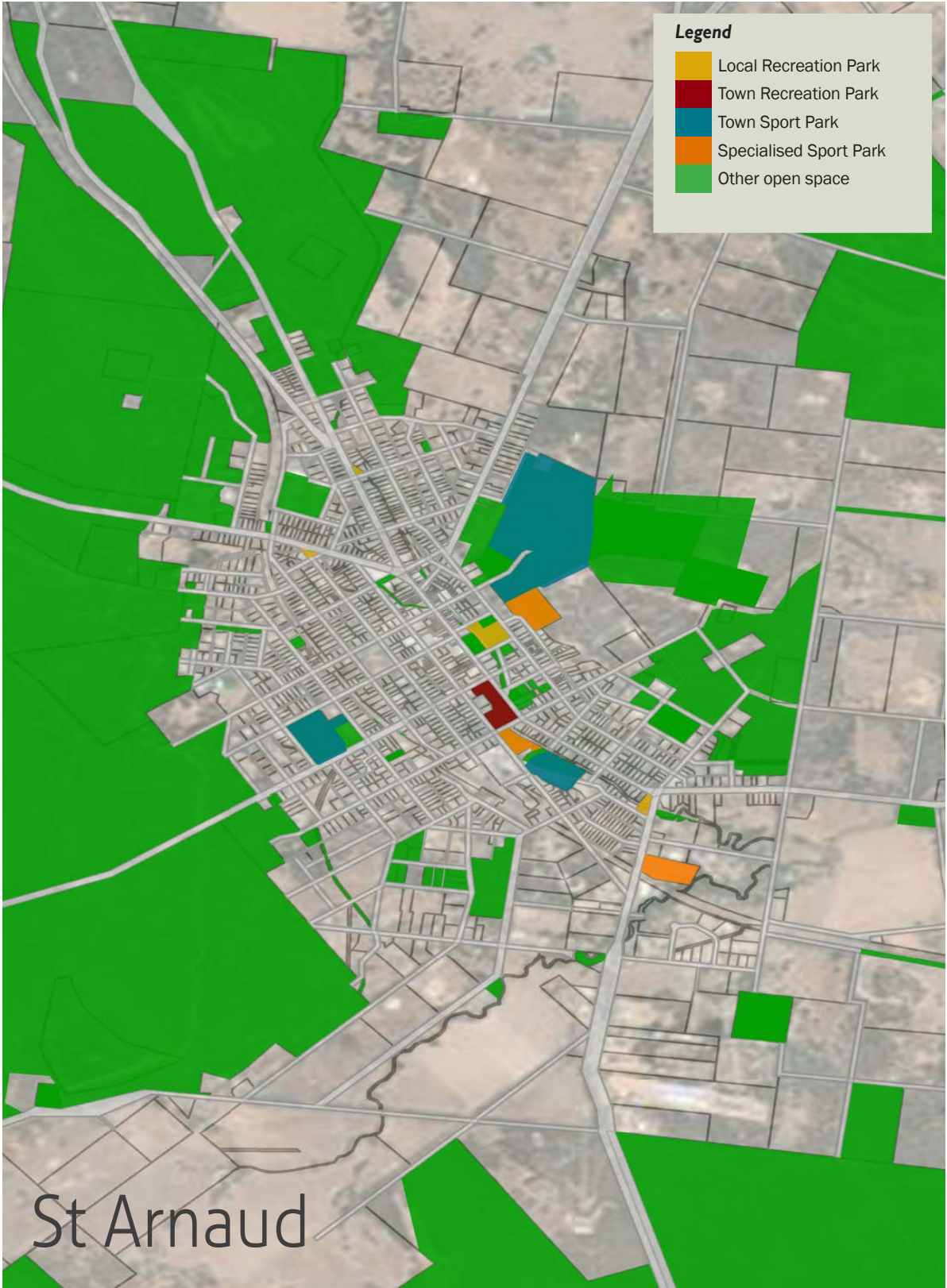




Stawell

Stawell - all open space





St Arnaud - all open space



Planning area directions

Planning areas have been identified across the Shire to allow strategic analysis and direction for public open space, specific parks and reserves, and active transport. The planning areas are in alphabetical order and are:

- Glenorchy
- Great Western
- Halls Gap
- Marnoo
- Navarre
- St Arnaud
- Stawell
- Stuart Mill.

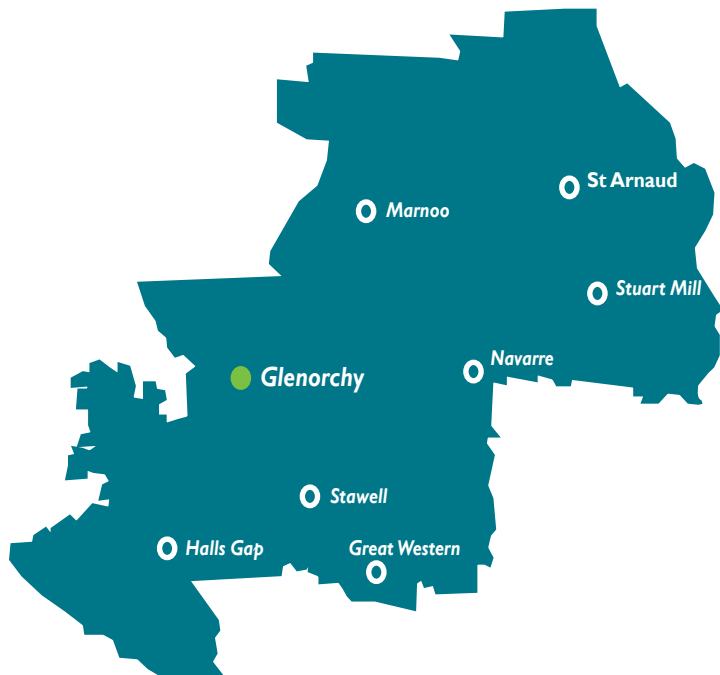
It is important to note that this Strategy is primarily concerned with ensuring public open space and active transport meets relevant desired standards of service and infrastructure standards to meet the broad recreation needs of the community.

Additional recommendations for specific parks and reserves are also included in the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.

6.1 Glenorchy

Snapshot

131	population
53	median age
55	(42.8%) female
76	(57.2%) male
2.1	average people per household
\$1,020	median weekly household income
4	(6.7%) unoccupied dwellings



6.1.1 Locality

Glenorchy is an outlying community located on the Wimmera River about 23km north-west of Stawell via the Western Highway and the Stawell-Warracknabeal Road.

The planning area is comprised of low density residential township zone, rural living zone, and farming zone under Council's Planning Scheme.

6.1.2 Public open space

A needs-based approach has been applied to open space planning in Glenorchy.

The planning area contains the following public open space:

- Clarke Street Playground
- Glenorchy Tennis Club Reserve
- Glenorchy Golf Club.

No additional public open space is required.

In addition to public open space, residents can access additional open spaces such as natural areas and waterways. The Wimmera River travels along the southern boundary of the community in a generally north-west to south-east direction. Glenorchy I5 Bushland Reserve borders the western side of the community and the Glenorchy Streamside Reserve is located about 6km east of the village via Campbell's Bridge Road.

6.1.3 Active transport

There are no existing footpaths or cycle lanes within the village to connect people to key destinations such as the Community Hall and Postal Agency, bus stop, sport facilities or playground.

Active Transport Directions

- design and construct the primary and secondary active transport routes as indicated in the Active Transport Strategy Glenorchy map on page 56 to provide safe walk and cycle infrastructure for residents.

6.2 Great Western

Snapshot

425	population
52	median age
207	(48.7%) female
218	(51.3%) male
2.2	average people per household
\$1,474	median weekly household income
25	(12.2%) unoccupied dwellings



6.2.1 Locality

Great Western is located about 15km south-east of Stawell, on the Western Highway, and could be described as a gateway to the Shire, when travelling from Melbourne. The Western Highway travels through the centre of the community.

The planning area is comprised of low density residential town zone, rural living zone, and farming zone under Council's Planning Scheme.

6.2.2 Public open space

A needs-based approach has been applied to open space planning in Great Western.

The planning area contains the following public open space:

- Great Western Memorial Park (master planning process underway)
- Great Western Public Park Reserve
- Great Western Racecourse and Recreation Reserve (owned by Vic State Govt).

No additional public open space is required.

In addition to public open space, residents can access additional open spaces including the following natural areas (not an exhaustive list):

- Great Western Lead Bushland Reserve
- Great Western Lead Mine Historic and Cultural Features Reserve
- Concongella H8A Bushland Reserve

- Hyde Park Bushland Reserve
- Black Range Scenic Reserve.

6.2.3 Active transport

There are no existing footpaths or cycle lanes within the village to connect people to key destinations such as the Community Hall and Postal Agency, bus stop, sport facilities or playground.

Active Transport Directions

- design and construct the primary and secondary active transport routes as indicated in the Active Transport Strategy Great Western map on page 57 to provide safe walk and cycle infrastructure for residents.

6.3 Halls Gap

Snapshot

495	population
44	median age
227	(45.9%) female
268	(54.1%) male
2	average people per household
\$1,196	median weekly household income
230	(55.2%) unoccupied dwellings



6.3.1 Locality

Halls Gap is a small rural town at the southern edge of the Northern Grampians Shire and located in a narrow valley at the foothills of the Grampians National Park. During the peak of the tourism season, the population can swell to 10,000 people.

The planning area is comprised of low density residential zone, general residential zone, rural activity zone, rural conservation zone, farming zone, public conservation and resource zone, and public park and recreation zone under Council's Planning Scheme.

6.3.2 Public open space

A needs-based approach has been applied to open space planning in Halls Gap.

The planning area contains the following public open space:

- Halls Gap Recreation Reserve
- Halls Gap Caravan Park
- Halls Gap Swimming Pool
- Halls Gap Botanical Gardens
- Halls Gap Community Gardens.

No additional public open space is required.

The Grampians National Park is a world-famous conservation area known for its natural environment and hiking trails. Traditionally known as Gariwerd, the region is part of the Gariwerd Aboriginal cultural landscape and is home to the largest collection of significant and ancient Aboriginal rock

art paintings and shelters in southern Australia. In addition to bushwalking and hiking, other outdoor recreation activities include fishing, kayaking or canoeing, and rock-climbing. Shared paths and trails also attract mountain bike riders and cyclists.

6.3.3 Active transport

There are existing footpaths and shared paths within the village to connect people to key destinations such as the retail shopping strip, Community Hall, bus stop, sport facilities, recreation reserve and play space.

Active Transport Directions

- design and construct the primary and secondary active transport routes as indicated in the Active Transport Strategy Halls Gap map on page 58 to provide safe walk and cycle infrastructure for residents.

6.4 Marnoo

Snapshot

99	population
52	median age
46	(46.7%) female
53	(53.3%) male
2.1	average people per household
\$900	median weekly household income



6.4.1 Locality

Marnoo is a small outlying community in the north of the Shire surrounded by rural farming properties.

The planning area is comprised of township zone, farming zone, and public conservation and resource zone under Council's Planning Scheme.

6.4.2 Public open space

A needs-based approach has been applied to open space planning in Marnoo.

The planning area contains the following public open space:

- Shanahan Park
- Marnoo Recreation Reserve.

No additional public open space is required.

In addition to public open space, residents can access additional open spaces such as the Wallaloo Creek that travels along the western edge of the settlement.

6.4.3 Active transport

There are no existing footpaths or cycle lanes within the village to connect people to key destinations such as the sport facilities or playground.

Active Transport Directions

- design and construct the primary and secondary active transport routes as indicated in the Active Transport Strategy Marnoo map on page 59 to provide safe walk and cycle infrastructure for residents.

6.5 Navarre

Snapshot

99	population
54	median age
54	(54.9%) female
45	(45.1%) male
2.2	average people per household
\$814	median weekly household income



6.5.1 Locality

Navarre is a small outlying community located north-east of Stawell on the Stawell-Avoca Road.

The planning area is comprised of township zone, farming zone, state transport infrastructure zone, public park and recreation zone, and rural living zone under Council's Planning Scheme.

6.5.2 Public open space

A needs-based approach has been applied to open space planning in Navarre.

The planning area contains the following public open space:

- Navarre Recreation Reserve
- Stawell-Avoca Road Playground.

No additional public open space is required.

In addition to public open space, residents can access additional open spaces such as Kara Kara National Park to the east, Landsborough Hill Nature Conservation Reserve to the south, and several conservation reserves to the north. Wattle Creek travels along the southern edge of the settlement.

6.5.3 Active transport

There are no existing footpaths or cycle lanes within the village to connect people to key destinations such as the sport facilities or playground.

Active Transport Directions

- design and construct the primary and secondary active transport routes as indicated in the Active Transport Strategy Navarre map on page 60 to provide safe walk and cycle infrastructure for residents.

6.6 St Arnaud

Snapshot

2,318	population
52	median age
1,203	(51.9%) female
1,115	(49.3%) male
2	average people per household
\$920	median weekly household income
54	Aboriginal/ Torres Strait Islander people
1,042	(86.6%) occupied private dwellings
160	(13.3%) unoccupied private dwellings



6.6.1 Locality

St. Arnaud is a historic and picturesque town with a distinctive urban layout, surrounded by fertile agricultural land and offering a range of outdoor and recreational opportunities. Its population is modest, but its rich history and community spirit make it a welcoming and attractive destination for both residents and visitors.

St Arnaud is located in the northern part of the Shire and has a compact and well-defined town centre, with a mix of historic and modern buildings. The town's layout is a grid-pattern, with wide streets and a town centre. This layout reflects the town's origins in the mid-19th century as a gold mining and agricultural service centre.

The town features a coordinated network of parks and green spaces making it an attractive area for outdoor recreation, and easy to travel around by walking or cycling.

The town is located in close proximity to several natural features, including the St. Arnaud Range to the south, which provides a scenic backdrop to the town. The presence of several nearby lakes and wetlands enhances the local landscape and provides opportunities for recreational activities.

6.6.2 Public open space network

A desired standard of service (DSS) approach has been applied to open space planning in St Arnaud.

The following table summarises directions to ensure the public open space network can function to deliver the required levels of service and remain fit-for-purpose.

PARK NAME	HIERARCHY & CLASSIFICATION	DIRECTIONS
Lord Nelson Park	Town sport park	<input type="checkbox"/> continue to implement the Lord Nelson Park Precinct Plan 2015 <input type="checkbox"/> refer to NGSC Sport and Active Recreation Plan
Pioneer Park	Local recreation park	<input type="checkbox"/> partner with the Kara Branch of the Central Wimmera Group Country Women's Association (CWA) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » review the 'Initial Report on Pioneer Park' by Edna Walling and the 'Restoration Plan' prepared by Trisha Dixon (this could be in the form of an 'As Constructed' initial drawing of Pioneer Park) » develop a landscape master plan that recognises the original design intent and restoration elements, as well as additional upgrades and new features to meet the needs of the community » replace signage that has reached the end of its useful life, and particularly those that convey the important history of the park.
St Arnaud Swimming Pool	Specialised public swimming pool	<input type="checkbox"/> refer to NGSC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy
Silvermines Road Park	Local recreation park	<input type="checkbox"/> change hierarchy and classification to Civic as this land parcel is not sufficient size to be developed into a recreation park <input type="checkbox"/> additional tree planting and landscaping
Apex Park	Local recreation park	<input type="checkbox"/> develop a landscape plan for the park including additional embellishments (facilities) to enhance its use. Consider including elements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » picnic shelter(s) with table and chairs settings » shade structure over play space » appropriate treatment of stormwater treatment through site in accordance with WSUD principles » additional landscaping including tree planting
Market Square	Local recreation park	<input type="checkbox"/> review and renew the Market Square Master Plan 2019, particularly pedestrian walkways and safety improvements
Queen Mary Gardens	Town recreation park	<input type="checkbox"/> continue to maintain Queen Mary Gardens consistent with the Landscape Plan and to support community activities and events
St Arnaud Bowls Club	Specialised sport park	<input type="checkbox"/> refer to NGSC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy
King Georges Park	Town sport park	<input type="checkbox"/> refer to NGSC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy
St Arnaud Sports Stadium and sports field/oval	Specialised sport indoor facility and sports field/oval	<input type="checkbox"/> refer to NGSC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy
Bicentennial Park	Local recreation park	<input type="checkbox"/> install shade over the play space <input type="checkbox"/> develop a landscape plan for Bicentennial Park focused on additional tree planting and native garden beds to beautify the Park
St Arnaud Lawn Tennis	Specialised sport park	<input type="checkbox"/> refer to NGSC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy

6.2.3 Active transport network

There are existing footpaths, shared paths, cycle lanes and trails within St Arnaud that support walking and cycling for recreation and active transport.

Active Transport Directions

- design and construct the primary and secondary active transport routes as indicated in the Active Transport Strategy St Arnaud map on page 55 to provide safe walk and cycle infrastructure for residents.

6.7 Stawell

Snapshot

5,627	population
48	median age
2,853	(50.7%) female
2,774	(49.3%) male
2.1	average people per household
\$1,089	median weekly household income
118	Aboriginal/ Torres Strait Islander people
2,384	(88.9%) occupied private dwellings
294	(11%) unoccupied private dwellings



6.7.1 Locality

Stawell is located in the southern portion of the Shire with a settlement pattern primarily concentrated around the town centre. The topography of the area is characterised by rolling hills and scenic landscapes, making it a popular destination for nature enthusiasts and hikers.

Stawell is perhaps best known for annual Stawell Gift event, a prestigious footrace that has been held since 1878, drawing athletes and spectators from far and wide. This event adds a unique and vibrant dimension to the town's cultural heritage.

The population of Stawell is modest, with a close-knit community that enjoys a relaxed, small-town atmosphere. Residents take pride in their rich mining history, which is evident in the town's architecture and local museums.

Stawell is the Shire's largest population centre, and is approximately 30 minutes drive to the stunning Grampians National Park, where visitors can explore waterfalls, wildlife, and indigenous rock art. The town is also famous for its gold mining heritage, with historical sites and museums that offer a glimpse into the region's past. Stawell is a place where natural beauty and history combine to create a welcoming and intriguing destination for both locals and tourists alike.



6.7.2 Public open space network

A desired standard of service (DSS) approach has been applied to open space planning in Stawell.

The following table summarises directions to ensure the public open space network can function to deliver the required levels of service and remain fit-for-purpose.

Of note, two new recreation parks have been proposed in the proposed urban growth area to meet the DSS levels of services and performance standards, particularly distribution. Enhancements to existing parks have been recommended to eliminate distribution gaps in the public open space network, namely at North Park and Cypress Street Public Park Reserve.

PARK NAME	HIERARCHY & CLASSIFICATION	DIRECTIONS
Proposed new	Town recreation park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure appropriate land and embellishments are dedicated to develop a Town Recreation Park in the potential urban growth area
Proposed new	Local recreation park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure appropriate land and embellishments are dedicated to develop a Local Recreation Park in the potential urban growth area
Stawell Golf Club	Specialised sport park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> refer to NGSC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy
North Park	Town sport park (and including recreation elements such as fenced dog park and proposed future play space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> continue to implement the North Park Master Plan November 2022 <input type="checkbox"/> identify an appropriate area and for a play space at North Park <input type="checkbox"/> develop a detailed design for a children's play space at North Park to ensure adequate access by surrounding families <input type="checkbox"/> identify appropriate access to toilets for unstructured recreation users of North Park
Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre	Specialised sport indoor facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> refer to NGSC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy
Cypress Street Public Park Reserve	Local recreation park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cypress Street is a relatively small park (just over 5,000m²) and is located at a busy road intersection used by heavy vehicles. It is acknowledged that safe use of this park is a key consideration. Despite these constraints however, if designed and developed carefully this park could provide local recreation benefits to surrounding residents. It is recommended that Council develop a landscape plan for the park including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » appropriate treatments (fencing, landscaping) to manage and mitigate safety concerns relating to adjacent roads » enhance its use as a small local play space with broad age appeal (e.g. swings, climbing and imagination play) » additional landscape elements and seating » consider line marked car parking and traffic calming along Barnes Street
Central Park	Town sport park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> continue to implement the Stawell Parks Precinct Plan <input type="checkbox"/> refer to NGSC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> investigate treatments to pedestrianise Victoria Street between Central and Cato Parks <input type="checkbox"/> investigate treatments to enhance the road frontage along Napier Street for the length of Central and Cato Parks <input type="checkbox"/> investigate treatments to enhance the road safety of the intersection including Taylor, Frayne, Main and Napier Streets <input type="checkbox"/> investigate landscaping treatments to enhance the visual appeal and functionality of the corner of the park at the intersection of Napier and Main Streets
Cato Park	Town recreation park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> continue to implement the Stawell Parks Precinct Plan <input type="checkbox"/> when due for asset renewal/replacement, consider upgrading the children's playground to create a destination play space for multiple age groups (infants through to teens) with consideration of improved accessibility <input type="checkbox"/> partner with Neighbourhood House to assess that the existing amenities comply with relevant accessibility codes and standards (refer to 'Changing Places' design standards), and support any modifications and works to rectify non-compliance

PARK NAME	HIERARCHY & CLASSIFICATION	DIRECTIONS
Norman Castle Park	Local recreation park	<input type="checkbox"/> continue to implement the Stawell Parks Precinct Plan
Stawell Harness Club	Specialised sport	<input type="checkbox"/> refer to NGSC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy
Taylors Gully Park	Local recreation park	<input type="checkbox"/> develop a landscape plan for the park including additional embellishments (facilities) to enhance its use for a broader age demographic of the community. Consider including elements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » picnic shelter(s) with table and chairs settings » area designed for youth, separate to the children's play space » investigation and rectification of play space soft fall drainage issues » internal circuit pathway around the perimeter and connecting to key facilities within the park » additional landscaping
Gladstone Park	Local recreation park	<input type="checkbox"/> include additional embellishment to enhance and increase use of the park including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » picnic shelter(s) with table and chairs settings » additional shade tree planting and landscaping » internal pathways connecting to key facilities within the park
Federation Park	Town recreation park	<input type="checkbox"/> change hierarchy from local (existing) to town (proposed) recreation park <input type="checkbox"/> confirm Federation Park as the Grampians Rail Trail trailhead <input type="checkbox"/> develop a landscape master plan for the park recognising and retaining its semi-natural setting and including appropriate embellishments to enhance its use, including as a destination for travellers to showcase the town and region
Burgh Street Complex	Local recreation park	<input type="checkbox"/> create a clearly marked trail network with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » trails that are easy to locate and navigate with clear entries/exits » well formed trails that are easily identified » develop a trailhead, including signage and maps (trail network, interest points, distances, grading, regulatory information)
Burgh Street Oval/Velodrome	Town sport park	<input type="checkbox"/> refer to NGSC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy
Stawell Racecourse Reserve	Specialised sport park	<input type="checkbox"/> refer to NGSC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy

6.7.3 Active transport network

There are existing footpaths, shared paths, cycle lanes and trails within Stawell that support walking and cycling for recreation and active transport.

Active Transport Directions

- design and construct the primary and secondary active transport routes as indicated in the Active Transport Strategy Stawell map on page 54 to provide safe walk and cycle infrastructure for residents.

6.8 Stuart Mill

Snapshot

78	population
57	median age
38	(48.8%) female
40	(51.2%) male
2.1	average people per household
\$1,042	median weekly household income



6.8.1 Locality

Stuart Mill is a small outlying community positioned toward the north-eastern part of the Shire.

The planning area is comprised of township zone, rural living zone, farming zone, and public conservation and resource zone under Council's Planning Scheme.

6.8.2 Public open space

A needs-based approach has been applied to open space planning in Stuart Mill.

The planning area contains one public open space area: the Stuart Mill Recreation Reserve (also known as the Cricket and Recreation Reserve).

No additional open space is required.

In addition to public open space, residents can access additional open spaces such as nearby Stuart Mill Nature Conservation Reserve, Kara Kara National Park, and Dalynong Nature Conservation Reserve. The Strathfillan Creek travels along the north-western edge of the village with minor ephemeral tributaries running through the community.

6.8.3 Active Transport

There are no existing footpaths or cycle lanes within the community to connect people to key destinations such as the sport facilities or playground.

Active Transport Directions

- design and construct the primary and secondary active transport routes as indicated in the Active Transport Strategy Stuart Mill map on page 61 to provide safe walk and cycle infrastructure for residents.



Implementation plan

Implementation of the directions outlined in this Strategy will require strong leadership, appropriate resources from Council, a partnership approach, and a commitment to making some difficult decisions. Importantly, the directions do not commit Council as sole lead for implementation. Rather, the report engenders ongoing Council, government, business, and community partnerships and provides evidence and support for all groups to seek grant funding and other investment opportunities.

The directions recommended in this Strategy are summarised in this section and are grouped by planning area - Council-wide first followed by each of the localities within the LGA. This allows interested readers easy access to those actions most directly related to them.

Priorities are assigned for each action:

Immediate - an immediate action should be undertaken as soon as resources allow.

High - a high priority should be undertaken within the next 1 - 3 years.

Medium - a medium priority should be undertaken within the next 4 - 6 years

Low - a low priority should be undertaken within the next 7 - 10 years.

Excepting immediate priorities, the recommended priorities are provided as a guide—changes in community requirements or earlier opportunities for funding may alter development.

Project leaders have not been assigned for each action. However, each project identified requires a responsible party to take action, form a project team and drive each project to its successful completion. It is recommended that project leaders identify other groups and individuals in the community for assistance and support to achieve projects identified in the Strategy.

7.1 Key directions

NO.	KEY DIRECTION	PRIORITY
OPERATIONAL		
OP1	Ensure budget allocation for identified projects is included in Council's capital works plan and annual operational plan	Ongoing
OP2	Ensure that the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy is consistently referenced to develop operational plans and budgets, and capital budgets, effectively being utilised as a 'work plan' for relevant Council Officer(s), recognising that the lead role for implementation of directions requires allocation to the most appropriate officer with the most relevant skill set/area of responsibility	Ongoing
PARTNERSHIPS		
PA1	Collaborate with businesses and relevant government agencies to develop new and promote existing campaigns to specific destinations within the Northern Grampians to increase awareness and access to existing recreation and outdoor recreation opportunities to residents and potential visitors	Ongoing
PA2	Collaborate with health and health promotion agencies and media outlets in the Northern Grampians to promote <i>Australia's Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines</i> , highlighting each of the guides applicable to age brackets and distinct groups and promote current activities available in towns and communities	High
PLANNING		
PL1	Ensure the Desired Standards of Service (DSS), hierarchy and open space embellishment guidelines detailed within this Strategy are included in key Council planning instruments such as the Planning Scheme, Structure and Master Plans, and any developer guidelines	High
PL2	Prepare a Clause 52.01 schedule for open space contributions using the information in Section 4 - Strategic framework and Section 5 - Open space gap analysis	Immediate
PL3	Develop a shade tree planting program by undertaking a planning process to identify open spaces (particularly recreation and sport parks) and walking routes/circuits in each town that require shade. This could also contribute to any climate change adaptation and mitigation planning Council undertakes.	High
PL4	Apply Universal Design principles to guide design of parks including embellishments, buildings, internal pathways and playground equipment	Ongoing
PL5	Develop a Signage Strategy for parks identifying the style and best locations for name, information, direction, interpretation and wayfinding signage to support independent and confident navigation to sport and recreation parks, particularly via active transport routes, by residents and visitors. Standardise park signage across the Shire including park naming signs, park directional signs and walk/cycle opportunity signs	Medium
PL6	Conduct an information session for councillors, the executive team and senior officers regarding modern play opportunities and trends in play space design to support their understanding of design intent, importance to healthy childhood development, and cost implications	High
PL7	Undertake a feasibility study to identify the costs, benefits and whether a continuous connection from Stawell to Halls Gap can be achieved, including the existing Grampians Rail Trail and Halls Gap Zoo connection. Ongoing maintenance considerations should also be identified	Medium
POLICY		
P01	Adopt the Northern Grampians Shire Council Open Space and Active Transport Strategy as a policy document to guide operational planning and budget allocation, and capital budget allocation over the next 10 years	Immediate
P02	Adopt the Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM) and standard drawings to ensure that Northern Grampians Shire Council is designing and developing infrastructure that is consistent with other rural and regional Victorian Councils	Immediate
P03	Identify and implement a continuous walk and cycle route connecting the Grampians Rail Trail and Federation Park Trailhead with the Stawell Railway Station allowing visitors to confidently travel to the area without a private vehicle	Medium

NO.	KEY DIRECTION	PRIORITY
ST ARNAUD PUBLIC OPEN SPACE		
Apex Park		
SA POS1	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop a landscape plan for the park including additional embellishments (facilities) to enhance its use. Consider including elements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » picnic shelter(s) with table and chairs settings » shade structure over play space » appropriate treatment of stormwater treatment through site in accordance with WSUD principles » additional landscaping including tree planting 	Medium
Bicentennial Park		
SA POS2	<input type="checkbox"/> Install shade over the play space	High
SA POS3	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop a landscape plan for Bicentennial Park focused on additional tree planting and native garden beds to beautify the Park	Medium
King Georges Park		
SA POS4	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to the NGSC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy	NA
Lord Nelson Park		
SA POS5	<input type="checkbox"/> Continue to implement the Lord Nelson Park Precinct Plan 2015 <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to the NGSC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy	Various
Market Square		
SA POS6	<input type="checkbox"/> Review and renew the Market Square Master Plan 2019, particularly pedestrian walkways and safety improvements	
Pioneer Park		
SA POS7	<input type="checkbox"/> Partner with the Kara Branch of the Central Wimmera Group Country Women's Association (CWA) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » review the 'Initial Report on Pioneer Park' by Edna Walling and the 'Restoration Plan' prepared by Trisha Dixon (this could be in the form of an 'As Constructed' initial drawing of Pioneer Park) » develop a landscape master plan that recognises the original design intent and restoration elements, as well as additional upgrades and new features to meet the needs of the community » replace signage that has reached the end of its useful life, and particularly those that convey the important history of the park. 	
Queen Mary Gardens		
SA POS8	<input type="checkbox"/> Continue to maintain Queen Mary Gardens consistent with the Landscape Plan and to support community activities and events	
Silvermines Road Park		
SA POS9	<input type="checkbox"/> Change hierarchy and classification to Civic as this land parcel is not sufficient size to be developed into a recreation park <input type="checkbox"/> Additional tree planting and landscaping	
St Arnaud Sport and Aquatic Facilities		
-	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to the NGSC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy for actions relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » St Arnaud Swimming Pool » St Arnaud Bowls Club » St Arnaud Sports Stadium and sports field/oval » St Arnaud Lawn Tennis. 	
STAWELL PUBLIC OPEN SPACE		
Proposed new recreation parks		
ST POS1	<input type="checkbox"/> Town Recreation Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » ensure appropriate land and embellishments are dedicated to develop a Town Recreation Park in the potential urban growth area 	
ST POS2	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Recreation Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » ensure appropriate land and embellishments are dedicated to develop a Local Recreation Park in the potential urban growth area 	

NO.	KEY DIRECTION	PRIORITY
Burgh Street Complex		
ST POS3	<input type="checkbox"/> Create a clearly marked trail network with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » trails that are easy to locate and navigate with clear entries/exits » well formed trails that are easily identified » develop a trailhead, including signage and maps (trail network, interest points, distances, grading, regulatory information) 	High
Cato Park		
ST POS4	<input type="checkbox"/> Continue to implement the Stawell Parks Precinct Plan	Ongoing
ST POS5	<input type="checkbox"/> When due for asset renewal/replacement, consider upgrading the children's playground to create a destination play space for multiple age groups (infants through to teens) with consideration of improved accessibility	Medium
ST POS6	<input type="checkbox"/> Partner with Neighbourhood House to assess that the existing amenities comply with relevant accessibility codes and standards (refer to 'Changing Places' design standards), and support any modifications and works to rectify non-compliance	High
Central Park		
ST POS7	<input type="checkbox"/> Continue to implement the Stawell Parks Precinct Plan	Ongoing
ST POS8	<input type="checkbox"/> Investigate treatments to pedestrianise Victoria Street between Central and Cato Parks	Medium
ST POS9	<input type="checkbox"/> Investigate treatments to enhance the road frontage along Napier Street for the length of Central and Cato Parks	Medium
ST POS10	<input type="checkbox"/> Investigate treatments to enhance the road safety of the intersection including Taylor, Frayne, Main and Napier Streets	High
ST POS11	<input type="checkbox"/> Investigate landscaping treatments to enhance the visual appeal and functionality of the corner of the park at the intersection of Napier and Main Streets	High
Cypress Street Park		
ST POS12	<input type="checkbox"/> Cypress Street is a relatively small park (just over 5,000m ²) and is located at a busy road intersection used by heavy vehicles. It is acknowledged that safe use of this park is a key consideration. Despite these constraints however, if designed and developed carefully this park could provide local recreation benefits to surrounding residents. It is recommended that Council develop a landscape plan for the park including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » appropriate treatments (fencing, landscaping) to manage and mitigate safety concerns relating to adjacent roads » enhance its use as a small local play space with broad age appeal (e.g. swings, climbing and imagination play) » additional landscape elements and seating » consider line marked car parking and traffic calming along Barnes Street 	
Federation Park		
ST POS13	<input type="checkbox"/> Change hierarchy from local (existing) to town (proposed) recreation park	
ST POS14	<input type="checkbox"/> Confirm Federation Park as the Grampians Rail Trail trailhead	
ST POS15	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop a landscape master plan for the park recognising and retaining its semi-natural setting and including appropriate embellishments to enhance its use, including as a destination for travellers to showcase the town and region <input type="checkbox"/> Identify and implement a continuous walk and cycle route connecting the Grampians Rail Trail and Federation Park Trailhead with the Stawell Railway Station allowing visitors to confidently travel to the area without a private vehicle	
Gladstone Park		
ST POS16	<input type="checkbox"/> Include additional embellishment to enhance and increase use of the park including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » picnic shelter(s) with table and chairs settings » additional shade tree planting and landscaping » internal pathways connecting to key facilities within the park 	

NO.	KEY DIRECTION	PRIORITY
North Park		
ST POS17	<input type="checkbox"/> Continue to implement the North Park Master Plan November 2022	
ST POS18	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify an appropriate area and for a play space at North Park	
ST POS19	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop a detailed design for a children's play space at North Park to ensure adequate access by surrounding families	
ST POS20	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify appropriate access to toilets for unstructured recreation users of North Park	
Norman Castle Park		
ST POS21	<input type="checkbox"/> continue to implement the Stawell Parks Precinct Plan	
Stawell Sport and Aquatic Facilities		
-	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to the NGSC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy for actions relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Stawell Golf Club » Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre » Stawell Harness Club » Stawell Racecourse Reserve 	
Taylors Gully Park		
ST POS22	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop a landscape plan for the park including additional embellishments (facilities) to enhance its use for a broader age demographic of the community. Consider including elements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » picnic shelter(s) with table and chairs settings » area designed for youth, separate to the children's play space » investigation and rectification of play space soft fall drainage issues » internal circuit pathway around the perimeter and connecting to key facilities within the park » additional landscaping 	
ACTIVE TRANSPORT STRATEGY		
1.0 Increase the provision of quality on-road and off-road active transport infrastructure across the Shire		
AT1.1	Address gaps in connections and facilitate the creation of circuits (loops)	
AT1.2	Improve the provision of a walk and cycle network both on- and off-road (refer to maps)	
AT1.3	Increase the length of off-road cycle routes that are safe, accessible, convenient, comfortable and attractive	
AT1.4	Improve the level of safety for cyclists/pedestrians during infrastructure upgrades	
2.0 Effective maintenance of the active transport network		
AT2.1	Improve maintenance systems of current active transport infrastructure	
3.0 Align the Council Planning Scheme and recognise the role of active transport		
AT3.1	Embed active transport and Healthy by Design values into Council's strategic objectives	
4.0 Raise the profile and increase the prestige of active transport options		
AT4.1	Increase awareness within the community of places to walk and cycle	
AT4.2	Promote the benefits of walking and cycling	
AT4.3	Support events, activities and infrastructure upgrades that will promote walking and cycling	
AT4.4	Identify community leaders and ambassadors from key organisations and the community	
5.0 Enable more people to confidently walk and cycle and maintain a bicycle		
AT5.1	Support an increase in the level of cycling skills and knowledge of relevant rules	
AT5.2	Reduce barriers to walking and cycling	
6.0 Enable cyclists, pedestrians and motorists to interact more considerately and safely		
AT6.1	Promote road rules and mutual respect between cyclists, pedestrians and motorists	
7.0 Monitor and report walking and cycling participation data		
AT7.1	Establish methods to monitor levels of walking and cycling across the Shire	



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National Reserve System

The National Reserve System is a network of protected areas aimed at conserving examples of Australia's natural landscapes and native plants and animals for future generations. Underpinned by a scientific framework, it is the nation's natural safety net against our biggest environmental challenges.

At the time of writing this report, the reserve system includes 13,540 protected areas covering 19.75 per cent of the country, which is over 151.8 million hectares. The network includes Commonwealth, state and territory reserves, Indigenous lands and protected areas run by non-profit conservation organisations, as well as ecosystems protected by farmers on their private working properties.

The places that make up the National Reserve System provide an extensive range of diverse outdoor recreation locations, where these activities are appropriate.

National Landcare Program

The National Landcare Program (NLP) was established in 1990 to focus on supporting natural resource management and sustainable agriculture, and protecting Australia's biodiversity.

A robust outcomes-based reporting framework is an important part of the program and this has helped to improve monitoring and evaluation of program outcomes.

Landcare programs operating in Northern Grampians Shire include the West Wimmera Landcare Network and Project Platypus.

Healthy Active by Design

Healthy Active by Design is a website created by the Heart Foundation to highlight best-practice planning and design and includes research, advice and case studies to assist develop healthy and active neighbourhoods. Several of the resources will be applied to the investigation and development of the NGSC strategies including:

- What Australia Wants Living Locally in Walkable Neighbourhoods (Vic Summary)
- Active Streets - the new normal for public space
- Active Travel to School - Urban Design Study
- Quality Green Space Supporting Health, Wellbeing and Biodiversity: A Literature Review.

National Cycling Strategy 2011-2016

The National Cycling Strategy includes six key priorities. These are:

- Cycling promotion: Promote cycling as both a viable and safe mode of transport and an enjoyable recreational activity
- Infrastructure and facilities: Create a comprehensive network of safe and attractive routes to cycle and end-of-trip facilities
- Integrated planning: Consider and address cycling needs in all relevant transport and land use planning activities
- Safety: Enable people to cycle safely
- Monitoring and evaluation: Improve monitoring and evaluation of cycling programs and develop a national decision making process for investment in cycling
- Guidance and best practice: Develop nationally consistent technical guidance for stakeholders to use and share best practice across jurisdictions.

Table 07: Relevant legislation, policy options, and guidelines relevant to the Strategy

LEGISLATION	APPLICATION
Planning legislation	
Planning and Environment Act 1987	<p>Land use in Victoria is regulated by the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (The Act) allows plans to be made to guide the process of development and to regulate competing land uses. The Act enables planning through subordinate instruments including the Victoria Planning Provisions, planning scheme, regulations and Ministerial directions.</p> <p>The Northern Grampians Planning Scheme is the principal land use planning instrument applying to land in the Northern Grampians local government area.</p>
Ministerial Directions	<p>Directions can be issued by the Minister for Planning to planning authorities about the preparation of planning schemes and amendments to planning schemes. These directions apply to planning scheme layout and required information, including amendments to those planning schemes, and should be read in conjunction with the Victoria Planning Provisions. When preparing a planning scheme or an amendment, planning authorities must consider all Ministerial directions.</p>
Subdivision Act 1988	<p>Northern Grampians Shire Council does not currently have an Infrastructure Contributions Plan and Policy. Therefore it currently relies on the Subdivision Act for open space contributions.</p> <p>The Act governs the requirements and guidelines for subdividing land. The Act is an important piece of legislation that helps to balance the need for urban development with the preservation of green spaces and public recreation areas.</p> <p>One of the provisions of the act pertains to open space contributions. When a piece of land is subdivided, the act requires that a certain amount of open space must be set aside for public use. This open space contribution is calculated as a percentage of the total area of the subdivision and must be provided in the form of parks, embellishments such as playgrounds, or other public recreation areas. The aim of this requirement is to ensure that new developments have adequate public open space for residents to enjoy, thus enhancing the liveability of the area.</p> <p>It is Council's intent to develop a contributions policy to guide open space contributions, after completion of the Open Space and Active Transport Strategy.</p>
Contributions Policy	<p>A Contributions Policy outlines how the open space contributions required by the Subdivision Act 1988 will be implemented within the jurisdiction of that specific local government authority. The policy will establish Desired Standards of Service including the percentage of open space that must be set aside for public use, as well as the characteristics of open spaces that are considered acceptable. The policy may also outline the process for obtaining approval for a subdivision, including the submission of plans and documentation, as well as any fees that may be payable.</p> <p>It's important to note that the requirements for open space contributions can vary between localities, as the open space and recreation needs of different communities vary.</p> <p>A Contributions Policy provides a level of detail and specificity to the open space contribution requirements outlined in the Subdivision Act 1988. It ensures that new developments are providing adequate public open space for residents to enjoy, while also ensuring that these open spaces meet the specific needs and requirements of the local community.</p>
Other relevant legislation	
Local Government Act 2020	<p>The Act aims to achieve improved service delivery, innovation, collaboration, and sustainable futures through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> better financial management and community engagement <input type="checkbox"/> clearer standards of behaviour for elected representatives <input type="checkbox"/> increased council and councillor accountability <input type="checkbox"/> changes to election processes and candidate requirements <input type="checkbox"/> increased transparency of council decisions.

LEGISLATION	APPLICATION
Victorian Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994	<p>The Act is aimed at protecting the state's natural resources, including soil, water, and vegetation, from degradation and depletion. The Act establishes the framework for managing land, water, and other natural resources in a sustainable manner, with a focus on preserving the environment for future generations. It also provides the basis for regulation and enforcement of environmental standards, and ensures that development is carried out in an environmentally responsible manner.</p> <p>The Act is widely recognised as one of the most comprehensive pieces of environmental legislation in Australia, and has had a significant impact on the protection and preservation of the state's natural resources</p>
Infrastructure, design guides and strategies	
Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria	<p>The Victorian Government has developed guidelines to support the delivery of functional and enjoyable places for people to live, work and spend leisure time. The following guidelines are of particular relevance to the NGSC strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian priority streets <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian and bicycle paths <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian and bicycle crossings <input type="checkbox"/> Public spaces principles <input type="checkbox"/> Local parks <input type="checkbox"/> Communal open spaces <input type="checkbox"/> Principles for objects in the public realm <input type="checkbox"/> Street and park furniture <input type="checkbox"/> Trees and planting <input type="checkbox"/> Barriers and fencing <input type="checkbox"/> Lighting <input type="checkbox"/> Signs and way-finding <input type="checkbox"/> Small public buildings and structures.
Design for Everyone Guide	<p>Victoria's Design for Everyone Guide is a practical resource to assist the planning, design and development of inclusive sport and recreation facilities. The principles underpinning the guide will be applied to both Strategies to support inclusive design.</p>
Victoria's Cycling Strategy 2018-2028	<p>The strategy aims to increase the number, frequency, and diversity of Victorians cycling for transport by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> investing in safer, lower-stress, better connected network, prioritising strategic cycling corridors <input type="checkbox"/> making cycling a more inclusive experience. <p>It includes initiatives that will result in more direct, separated cycle paths to important destinations, like workplaces, schools and public transport stops, and make it easier for cyclists to park their bikes at stations or take them on a train or bus. The strategy will also support local councils in their crucial role as providers and managers of parts of the cycling network.</p>
Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030	<p>The Strategy aims to halve road deaths by 2030 and put the State on a strong path to eliminate all road deaths by 2050. It also seeks to reduce the incidence of serious injury resulting from road crashes. The Strategy's aims and objectives will be delivered via a series of short-term action plans over the life of the Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Be safe: ensure all Victorians are safe and feel safe, on and around our roads. <input type="checkbox"/> 10 year reduction: halve road deaths and progressively reduce serious injuries by 2030. <input type="checkbox"/> A culture of safety: embed a culture of road safety within the Victorian community. <input type="checkbox"/> Deliver initiatives: deliver a suite of initiatives that are achievable and have an impact in the short-term, but also prepare the state for the future. <p>The Strategy's objectives will be achieved through a combination of methods using policy, innovation and technology, infrastructure improvements, public information campaigns, education programs, enforcement and other mechanisms available to government.</p>

Regional Growth Plan

The Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan is aimed at guiding a coordinated regional response to population growth and regional change over the next 30 years. The Plan recognises key environmental, cultural, recreational, economic, tourism and natural resources of value that require preservation, maintenance or development. The Plan supports growth in

the Northern Grampians Shire, particularly in the district towns of Stawell and St Arnaud that support communities of interest across the Shire.

Western Region Sustainable Water Strategy

The Western Region covers around one-third of Victoria from Colac and Lorne in the south-east to Ouyen in the north-west. Its agricultural and urban centres include Colac, Port Campbell, Horsham, Stawell, Ararat, Hamilton, Warrnambool and Portland.

The Western Region Sustainable Water Strategy includes policy statements and 69 actions for implementation at a regional and local scale.

Waterways and water bodies often have cultural significance and contribute to the landscape character. They also can provide recreation opportunities for residents and visitors, if safe and appropriate.

Council is reaping the benefits of securing ample water supply for a range of uses and applications, including irrigation of recreation and sport parks.

Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Strategy

The Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Strategy is a comprehensive plan developed to address the impacts of climate change. The Strategy aims to help the region prepare for and respond to the impacts of a changing climate, including increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events, changes in rainfall patterns, and rising temperatures. The Strategy outlines a range of actions that can be taken to reduce the vulnerability of the region and its communities to the impacts of climate change, and to ensure that the region is better able to adapt to these changes over time.

The Strategy takes a collaborative approach with a range of stakeholders including local government, businesses, community organisations, and government agencies. Based on the latest climate science, the Strategy considers the unique characteristics and needs of the Grampians region, and focuses on key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, water management, and infrastructure, identifying practical actions that can be taken to enhance the resilience of these sectors to the impacts of climate change. The Strategy is an important step towards building a more resilient and sustainable future for the region and its communities.

Planning for open space and active transport for the future requires consideration of the impact of climate change, and can form part of adaptation and mitigation actions.

Wimmera Regional Catchment Strategy

The Wimmera Regional Catchment Strategy is a long-term plan for the management of the Wimmera region's water resources. This Strategy is aimed at balancing the region's economic, environmental, and social needs by managing water resources in a sustainable and integrated manner. The Strategy provides a framework for the protection and management of the region's rivers, wetlands, and groundwater resources, and sets out a vision for a sustainable future that supports the growth and development of the region while also safeguarding its natural assets.

The Strategy focuses on a range of key issues, including water quality, water availability, and the protection of important ecological assets such as wetlands. It also provides a framework for the integration of water management into broader planning processes, such as land use planning and economic development. By taking a collaborative and integrated approach, the Strategy helps to ensure that the region's water resources are managed in a way that meets the needs of the current and future generations.

Access to and proximity to water bodies has numerous benefits to people's health and wellbeing. Swimming, fishing, boating, and other water-based activities are popular recreational pursuits and offer a chance to exercise, relax, and connect with nature. The sound (waves, flowing water) and presence of water can also have a calming effect, reducing stress and improving mental health. Additionally, the natural beauty of waterways can also serve as a source of inspiration for artists, photographers, and writers, helping to foster creativity and a sense of purpose. Overall, the value of access and proximity to water bodies in Australia is widely recognised as a crucial aspect of a healthy, balanced lifestyle.

Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan 2021

The Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is part of the Greater Gariwerd Landscape, along with 16 other Parks and Reserves. A Management Plan for the area was finalised in 2021 and recognises the extensive and enduring connections of Traditional Owners to Gariwerd. Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is included on the Australian Heritage Council's National Heritage List for its outstanding heritage value to the nation.

The second part of the Plan provides management strategies to conserve and enhance the natural values of the landscape while allowing compatible use for recreation. The Park is a popular drawcard for visitors.

Activate Plan 2020-2030

Activate 2020–2030 is a 10-year regional strategic plan enabling a coordinated and collaborative approach aimed at increasing participation in sport and active recreation for livability, health and wellbeing of the Central Highlands and Grampians Pyrenees region



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9.1.4. Appointment of St Arnaud Recreation Advisory Group

Author/Position: Zander McDougall, Manager Communities

Purpose

To seek Council approval for the membership of the St Arnaud Recreation Advisory Group and approve the amended Terms of Reference to reflect the membership of 10 community/group members.

Summary

St Arnaud Recreation Advisory Group is a Council advisory group, that is in place to provide Council with advice and recommendations on the implementation of relevant master plans, recreation strategic plans and other relevant Council plans as required. The updated terms will reference the Sport and Recreation Strategy 2023-33 as a key driver to committees' objectives. Each appointed person shall be appointed to serve a 24 month term until 31 April 2026.

The Terms of Reference are reviewed every two years.

Recommendation

That Council

a) appoints the following people (or their proxy) to the St Arnaud Recreation Advisory Group:

- Sharlene Bertalli (St Arnaud Football Club)
- Kim Birthisel (St Arnaud Football Club, Canteen Committee)
- Nicole Amos (St Arnaud Netball Club Inc)
- Jason Smith (St Arnaud Cricket Club)
- Kaye Boyd (St Arnaud Harness Racing Club)
- Tom Hamilton (St Arnaud Hockey Club)
- Peter Knights (community)
- Jackie Peacock (community)
- Tara Lowe (community)
- Annette Driscoll (community)

b) approves the reviewed Terms of Reference.

RESOLUTION

That Council

a) appoints the following people (or their proxy) to the St Arnaud Recreation Advisory Group:

- Sharlene Bertalli (St Arnaud Football Club)
- Kim Birthisel (St Arnaud Football Club, Canteen Committee)
- Nicole Amos (St Arnaud Netball Club Inc)
- Jason Smith (St Arnaud Cricket Club)
- Kaye Boyd (St Arnaud Harness Racing Club)
- Tom Hamilton (St Arnaud Hockey Club)
- Peter Knights (community)
- Jackie Peacock (community)
- Tara Lowe (community)
- Annette Driscoll (community)

b) approves the reviewed Terms of Reference.

Moved: Cr Karen Hyslop

Seconded: Cr Eddy Ostarcevic

Carried

Background/Rationale

Council appointed the St Arnaud Recreation Advisory Group in 2017 to provide Council with advice and recommendations on the implementation of relevant master plans and recreation strategic plans and considering other relevant Council plans as required for active recreation reserves, namely the Lord Nelson Park Precinct Plan. The group consists of representatives of the community and organisations relevant to a recreational focus.

On Monday, 6 July 2020 Council endorsed the Activate 2020-30 Strategy. The strategy is a 10 year regional strategic plan enabling a coordinated and collaborative approach aimed at increasing participation in sport and active recreation for liveability, health and wellbeing of the Central Highlands and Grampians Pyrenees region.

Key strategic areas of the Activate 2020-2030 Strategy include:

1. working together
2. activating places and spaces
3. creating quality spaces and places
4. community cohesion through sport and active recreation

Strategic documents will guide work delivered by Council in consultation with the advisory group to implement activation, support and infrastructure outcomes during the course of the terms associated with the appointment of the group.

Legislation, Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

Council Plan 2021-25 – Enhance Lifestyles and Community

Sport and Recreation Strategy 2023-33

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25

Options

Option 1

That Council

a) appoints the following people (or their proxy) to the St Arnaud Recreation Advisory Group:

- Sharlene Bertalli (St Arnaud Football Club)
- Kim Birthisel (St Arnaud Football Club, Canteen Committee)
- Nicole Amos (St Arnaud Netball Club Inc)
- Jason Smith (St Arnaud Cricket Club)
- Kaye Boyd (St Arnaud Harness Racing Club)
- Tom Hamilton (St Arnaud Hockey Club)
- Peter Knights (community)
- Jackie Peacock (community)
- Tara Lowe (community)
- Annette Driscoll (community)

b) approves the reviewed Terms of Reference. **[recommended]**

Option 2

That Council does not appoint the members as listed or approve the reviewed Terms of Reference. **[not recommended]**

Implications

The subject matter has not raised any sustainability issues (economic, social, environmental or climate change) or heritage/cultural, amenity, human rights/gender equality, privacy, risk management, budgetary and asset management implications.

Procurement

No procurement requirements apply for the subject of this report.

Community Engagement

Lord Nelson Park and King George Park user groups have been consulted during the process to appoint St Arnaud Recreation Advisory Group members.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The subject matter of this report does not raise any implications regarding innovation or improvements.

Collaboration

No collaboration with other councils, governments or statutory bodies was required for the subject of this report.

Officer's Declaration of Interest

All officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Zander McDougall, Manager Communities

In providing this advice as the author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Attachments

1. Terms of Reference St Arnaud [9.1.4.1 - 5 pages]

Terms of Reference



St Arnaud Recreation Advisory Group

Responsible director:	Strategy, Prosperity and Engagement
Responsible officer:	Manager Communities
	Open Space and Recreation Project Officer
Functional area:	Communities
Adopted by Council:	6 May 2024
Review date:	6 May 2026
Expiry date:	6 May 2028

Objective

- To engage with the community and other stakeholder on the implementations of the requirements for recreation in St Arnaud.
- To focus on Lord Nelson Park and King George Park and the relative recommendations from the Sports and Recreation Strategy for St Arnaud.
- To work with the community to address the need to increase the focus on participation and activation of spaces post COVID-19, to ensure the sporting clubs develop strategies that build their capacity to thrive into the future

Background

Council appointed the St Arnaud Recreation Advisory Group (the Advisory Group) in 2017 to provide Council with advice and recommendations on the implementation of relevant master plans and recreation strategic plans giving consideration of other relevant Council Plans as required for active recreation reserves, namely Lord Nelson Park Precinct Plan. The Advisory Group consists of representatives of the community and organisations relevant to a recreational focus.

On 6 July 2020 Council endorsed the Activate 2020–2030 Strategy. The strategy is a 10 year regional strategic plan enabling a coordinated and collaborative approach aimed at increasing participation in sport and active recreation for liveability, health and wellbeing of the Central Highlands and Grampians Pyrenees region.

Key strategic areas of the Activate 2020-2030 Strategy include:

1. Working Together
2. Activating Places and Spaces
3. Creating quality spaces and places
4. Community cohesion through sport and active recreation

The strategy will guide work delivered by council in consultation with the Advisory Group.

Purpose of the Advisory Group

- To represent the community and sporting groups in delivering their aspirations for a healthy environment through infrastructure and participation in activities that support the growth of an active community.
- To provide council with advice and recommendations: - On the implementation of the Lord Nelson Park Precinct Plan and open space, sport and recreation strategies with consideration of other relevant Council plans as required. - That aligned with Council's long-term policy for facility usage and development and achieving strategic outcomes from the Activate 2020-2030 Strategy.
- To investigate and to co-opt expertise as needed.

- To review the Lord Nelson Park Precinct Plan and work towards the delivery of the recommendations and strategies to achieve the best outcomes for the community by:
 - Undertaking a review of recent and past consultation, engagement and planning activities and documentation to form an understanding of current issues, gaps and opportunities relevant to the community, and in particular the users of Lord Nelson Park and King George Park.
 - Developing documentation and evidence to support the consultation that has already taken place to enable Lord Nelson Park and King George Park to be developed to reach their full potential for the current and future needs of the community.
 - Delivering the required documentation to support infrastructure investment to transform existing aged infrastructure into integrated and well-coordinated community precincts ensuring that Lord Nelson Park and King George Park community infrastructure:
 - is suitably and strategically located
 - meets existing and future community needs including increased access to participation and programming opportunities, innovative design, function, universal design, environmental sustainability, futureproofing and relationship to nearby facilities
 - provides a plan for delivery in a well-coordinated and sequenced manner
 - provides the best value for money and community outcomes for potential funding partners
 - addresses the interface and connection between land use
 - leverages required funding from appropriate public and private sources
 - collaborate with council on achieving strategic outcomes from the Activate 2020-2030 plan

Membership

The Advisory Group will be comprised of the following members:

- one councillor
- up to ten community members as delegated representatives (or proxies) from Lord Nelson Park and King George Park user groups or general community
- one council staff member (who will be the minute taker and have no voting rights) - Council officers will be determined by the Chief Executive Officer.

Council:

- will aim for a gender balance of representation
- will aim for one or more members aged under 25 years
- must consider applications/nominations from all user groups.

Council will seek to appoint people with experience, knowledge and understanding of local issues with the capacity to provide recommendations to Council on the suitability of Lord Nelson Park and King George Park as a recreational facility. Accordingly, the following criteria will be used to evaluate appointments to the Advisory Group:

1. Possess sound knowledge of the local area and recent involvement in the local community.
2. An ability to represent issues impacting the local community in relation to the need for a recreational facility and to work in consultation with the Advisory Group to develop strategies to address this.
3. Demonstrate relevant experience in the management of recreational facilities.
4. Previous experience in working with committees or groups will be well regarded but is not essential.

The selection process will be as follows:

- Expressions of interest will be sought widely in the community including media.
- Should there be more applicants than required to fill vacancies, Council may seek further information from the applicants in determining their suitability for appointment to the Advisory Group.

Term

The term of the Advisory Group is expected to be 24 months.

Community members will apply for selection and user groups can nominate representatives who can be appointed to the Group for the 24 month term.

Authority/roles and responsibilities

The Group has no powers conferred to it by the Council. The committee is to operate in line with the purpose and terms of reference.

The Advisory Group will provide recommendations based on the following key areas and in terms of the precinct plan:

- Ongoing sustainability of Lord Nelson Park and King George Park as recreation facilities and how it will continue to meet the needs of the community.
- Infrastructure – Prioritised needs and costs associated with relevant development if recommended, to include ongoing operational costs and responsible parties.
- Maintenance - Prioritised needs with relevant recommendations for precinct requirements.
- Stakeholder or key organisational support — Provide relative evidence from user groups, peak sporting bodies, and community groups that support recommended project activities. Support grant and funding submission through respectful group discussion.
- Limitations of the site in sustaining use associated with recreational activities.
- Accessibility considerations for people with disabilities, gender equality and diversity.
- Risks – Assessment, review and management strategies.
- Cultural heritage values to be considered.
- Participation and activation outcomes will be considered in line with the Activate 2020-2030 Strategy and aligned with the organisation's objectives for sustainability.

Scope and deliverables

The Lord Nelson Park Precinct Plan key objectives were to:

- Undertake a review of recent and past consultation, engagement and planning activities and documentation to form an understanding of current issues, gaps and opportunities relevant to the community, and in particular the users of Lord Nelson Park and King George Park.
- Having regard to recent past consultation, consult with the Stawell community including existing and future user groups to inform the development of the Lord Nelson Park Precinct Plan.
- Develop documentation and evidence to support the consultation that has already taken place to enable Lord Nelson Park and King George Park to be developed to reach its full potential for the current and future needs of the community.
- Deliver the required documentation to support infrastructure investment to transform existing aged infrastructure into an integrated and well-coordinated community precinct ensuring that Lord Nelson Park and King George Park community infrastructure:
 - is suitably and strategically located
 - meets existing and future community needs including increased access to participation and programming opportunities, innovative design, function, universal design, environmental sustainability, futureproofing and relationship to nearby facilities
 - provides a plan for delivery in a well-coordinated and sequenced manner
 - provides the best value for money and community outcomes for potential funding partners.
 - addresses the interface and connection between land use
 - leverages required funding from appropriate public and private sources.

The Lord Nelson Park Precinct Plan has been established under the Northern Grampians Shire Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013-22 key principles and key strategy framework as follows:

- a. Principles:
 - Increased opportunities and participation for all.
 - A diverse range of open space, sport and recreation choices.
 - Great places for people to recreate - Building the health and wellbeing of the Northern Grampians Shire community.
 - Responsive to identified open space, sport and recreation needs of the community.
 - Inspiring and empowering people to recreate - Delivering economic outcomes for the Northern Grampians Shire community through sport and recreation.
- b. Strategy Framework:
 - Facilities: What we will do to provide safe, liveable, sustainable and usable assets to improve the quality of life for residents, considering community opportunities and needs.

- Programs: What we will do to provide safe, accessible and usable programs to improve the quality of life for residents.
- Services: What we will do to provide safe, accessible and usable services to improve the quality of life for residents.

Resources and constraints

The Advisory Group will:

- work with council to prioritise capital works projects to assist Council in applications for funding to support the capital development of the reserves
- work with council on an annual basis to make recommendations to council for maintenance works allocated through Council budget.

Meetings

A councillor will chair the Advisory Group meetings to ensure that advice provided by the Advisory Group is presented directly to the level of authority in council where decisions are made.

- the councillor has voting rights
- council officers do not have voting rights
- general community members and user group members elected to the Advisory Group will have voting rights.
- invited members from government and non-government agencies will not have voting rights
- conflict of interest of any member of the Advisory Group must be declared
- from time to time the Advisory Group may decide that it would be beneficial for council officers from other programs to also attend to address specific areas of interest. These officers will not have voting rights.

Council will provide assistance and support to the Advisory Group with the resources available to enable the Advisory Group to effectively undertake its role. To assist members of the Advisory Group, council will provide the following support:

- secretariat services such as minute taking and agenda distribution
- meeting agendas and information papers for agenda items prior to the meeting.

Meetings will be held at least twice per year.

Quorum: to allow for vacancies that occur during the term of the Advisory Group, a quorum will be half of the operational membership plus 1 (6).

Proxies:

1. An Advisory Group member may appoint another person as his or her proxy to vote and speak on his or her behalf at a general meeting.
2. The appointment of a proxy must be in writing and signed by the group member making the appointment.
3. The Advisory Group member appointing the proxy may give specific directions as to how the proxy is to vote on his or her behalf, otherwise, the proxy may vote on behalf of the member in any matter as they see fit.

If required, the Advisory Group can agree to meetings out of the schedule to respond to a particular issue or task. A schedule of meeting dates and times for the forthcoming 12 months will be decided at the first meeting.

Reporting responsibilities and communication

Meeting minutes will be recorded and provided to members of the Group. Copies of the minutes will also be provided to councillors for information purposes.

Any recommendations to Council will be submitted through Council meeting schedules and protocols.

Timeframes and review

An interim review of the Advisory Group operations and Terms of Reference will be done at 12 months if required.

Council Plan objective/strategy

The Terms of Reference are aligned with council's Council Plan goals, objectives and strategies through Enhanced Lifestyle and Community, Wellness and Welfare and Creating an Enriching Place to Live.

Legislation and Standards

Council Plan 2021-25
Stawell Parks Precinct Plan
Space Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013-22
Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25

Stakeholders

The Terms of Reference directly affect councillors, council's Community Strengthening Team and members, and must be consulted during the development or revision of the Terms of Reference.

Definitions

Terms of Reference describe the purpose and structure of a project, committee, sub-committee, group, meeting, negotiation, or any similar collection of people who have agreed to work together to accomplish a shared goal; and

they provide a documented basis for making future decisions and for developing a common understanding of the scope among stakeholders.

*The terms of reference are often referred to as the **charter**, e.g. committee charter.*

Communication and implementation

The Terms of Reference will be communicated to stakeholders through reporting to the Stawell Recreation Advisory Group and inclusion in meeting minutes.

Review history

Date	Review Details	Action
4 December 2017	Draft	Present to Council for approval
2 December 2019	Draft	Present to Council for approval
1 November 2021	Draft	Present to Council for approval
6 May 2024	Draft	Present to Council for approval

9.1.5. Appointment of Stawell Recreation Advisory Group

Author/Position: Zander McDougall, Manager Communities

Purpose

To seek Council approval for the membership of the Stawell Recreation Advisory Group and to amend the Terms of Reference to reflect the membership of 10 community/group members.

Summary

Stawell Recreation Advisory Group is a Council advisory group, that is in place to provide Council with advice and recommendations on the implementation of relevant master plans, recreation strategic plans and other relevant Council plans as required. The updated terms will reference the Sport and Recreation Strategy 2023-33 as a key driver to committees' objectives. Each appointed person shall be appointed to serve a 24 month term until 31 April 2026.

The Terms of Reference are reviewed every two years.

Recommendation

That Council

a) appoints the following people (or their proxy) to the Stawell Recreation Advisory Group:

- Reg Smith (Stawell CFA)
- Ian O'Donnell (CKS Swifts Football Netball Club Inc.)
- Stephen Walker (Stawell Football Netball Club Inc.)
- Robert Lembo (Stawell Pioneers Soccer Club)
- Jessie Newton (Stawell Interchurch Netball Association)
- Brian Barber (Stawell Athletic Club)
- Drew Christian (Stawell Amateur Athletic Club)
- Marc Brilliant (Grampians Cricket Association)
- Malcolm Raggar (Stawell Tennis Club)
- Richard Hackwill (community)
-

b) approves the reviewed Terms of Reference.

RESOLUTION

That Council

a) appoints the following people (or their proxy) to the Stawell Recreation Advisory Group:

- Reg Smith (Stawell CFA)
- Ian O'Donnell (CKS Swifts Football Netball Club Inc.)
- Stephen Walker (Stawell Football Netball Club Inc.)
- Robert Lembo (Stawell Pioneers Soccer Club)
- Jessie Newton (Stawell Interchurch Netball Association)
- Brian Barber (Stawell Athletic Club)
- Drew Christian (Stawell Amateur Athletic Club)
- Marc Brilliant (Grampians Cricket Association)
- Malcolm Raggar (Stawell Tennis Club)
- Richard Hackwill (community)
-

b) approves the reviewed Terms of Reference.

Moved: Cr Murray Emerson

Seconded: Cr Kevin Erwin

Carried

Background/Rationale

Council appointed the Stawell Recreation Advisory Group in 2017 to provide Council with advice and recommendations on the implementation of relevant master plans, recreation strategic plans and other relevant Council plans as required for active recreation reserves, namely Central Park and North Park in Stawell. The group consists of representatives of the community and organisations relevant to a recreational focus.

On Monday, 6 July 2020 Council endorsed the Activate 2020–2030 Strategy. The strategy is a 10 year regional strategic plan enabling a coordinated and collaborative approach aimed at increasing participation in sport and active recreation for liveability, health and wellbeing of the Central Highlands and Grampians Pyrenees region.

Key strategic areas of the Activate 2020-2030 Strategy include:

1. Working together
2. Activating places and spaces
3. Creating quality spaces and places
4. Community cohesion through sport and active recreation

Strategic documents will guide work delivered by Council in consultation with the advisory group to implement activation, support and infrastructure outcomes during the course of the terms associated with the appointment of the group.

Legislation, Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

Sport and Recreation Strategy 2023-33

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25

Council Plan 2021-25 – Enhance Lifestyles and Community

Options

Option 1

That Council

a) appoints the following people (or their proxy) to the Stawell Recreation Advisory Group:

- Reg Smith (Stawell CFA)
- Ian O'Donnell (CKS Swifts Football Netball Club Inc.)
- Stephen Walker (Stawell Football Netball Club Inc.)
- Robert Lembo (Stawell Pioneers Soccer Club)
- Jessie Newton (Stawell Interchurch Netball Association)
- Brian Barber (Stawell Athletic Club)
- Drew Christian (Stawell Amateur Athletic Club)
- Marc Brilliant (Grampians Cricket Association)
- Malcolm Raggar (Stawell Tennis Club)
- Richard Hackwill (community)

b) approves the reviewed Terms of Reference. **[recommended]**

Option 2

That Council does not appoint the members as listed or adopt the reviewed Terms of Reference. **[not recommended]**

Implications

The subject matter has not raised any sustainability issues (economic, social, environmental or climate change) or heritage/cultural, amenity, human rights/gender equality, privacy, risk management, budgetary and asset management implications.

Procurement

No procurement requirements apply for the subject of this report.

Community Engagement

Central Park and North Park user groups have been consulted during the process to appoint Stawell Recreation Advisory Group members.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The subject matter of this report does not raise any implications regarding innovation or improvements.

Collaboration

No collaboration with other councils, governments or statutory bodies was required for the subject of this report.

Officer's Declaration of Interest

All officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Zander McDougall, Manager Communities

In providing this advice as the author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Attachments

1. Terms of Reference Stawell [9.1.5.1 - 5 pages]

Terms of Reference



Stawell Recreation Advisory Group

Responsible director:	Strategy, Prosperity and Engagement
Responsible officer:	Manager Communities
Functional area:	Open Space and Recreation Project Officer
Adopted by Council:	Communities
Review date:	6 May 2024
Expiry date:	6 May 2026
	6 May 2028

Objective

- To engage with the community and other stakeholder on the implementations of the requirements for recreation in Stawell.
- To focus on Central Park and North Park and the relative recommendations from the Sports and Recreation Strategy for Stawell.
- To work with the community to address the need to increase the focus on participation and activation of spaces post COVID-19, to ensure the sporting clubs develop strategies that build their capacity to thrive into the future.

Background

Council appointed the Stawell Recreation Advisory Group (the Advisory Group) in 2017 to provide Council with advice and recommendations on the implementation of relevant master plans and recreation strategic plans giving consideration of other relevant Council Plans as required for active recreation reserves, namely Central Park and North Park in Stawell. The Advisory Group consists of representatives of the community and organisations relevant to a recreational focus.

On 6 July 2020 Council endorsed the Activate 2020–2030 Strategy. The strategy is a 10 year regional strategic plan enabling a coordinated and collaborative approach aimed at increasing participation in sport and active recreation for liveability, health and wellbeing of the Central Highlands and Grampians Pyrenees region.

Key strategic areas of the Activate 2020-2030 Strategy include:

1. Working Together
2. Activating Places and Spaces
3. Creating quality spaces and places
4. Community cohesion through sport and active recreation

The strategy will guide work delivered by council in consultation with the advisory group.

Purpose of the Advisory Group

- To represent the community and sporting groups in delivering their aspirations for a healthy environment through infrastructure and participation in activities that support the growth of an active community.
- To provide council with advice and recommendations: - On the implementation of the Stawell Parks Precinct Plan, North Park Master Plan and Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategies with consideration of other relevant council plans as required. - That aligned with council's long-term policy for facility usage and development and achieving strategic outcomes from the Activate 2020-2030 Strategy.

- To investigate and to co-opt expertise as needed.
- To review the Stawell Parks Precinct Plan and North Park Master Plan and work towards the delivery of the recommendations and strategies to achieve the best outcomes for the community by:
 - Undertaking a review of recent and past consultation, engagement and planning activities and documentation to form an understanding of current issues, gaps and opportunities relevant to the community, and in particular the users of Central Park and North Park.
 - Developing documentation and evidence to support the consultation that has already taken place to enable Central Park and North Park to be developed to reach their full potential for the current and future needs of the community.
 - Delivering the required documentation to support infrastructure investment to transform existing aged infrastructure into integrated and well-coordinated community precincts ensuring that Central Park and North Park community infrastructure:
 - is suitably and strategically located
 - meets existing and future community needs including increased access to participation and programming opportunities, innovative design, function, universal design, environmental sustainability, futureproofing and relationship to nearby facilities
 - provides a plan for delivery in a well-coordinated and sequenced manner
 - provides the best value for money and community outcomes for potential funding partners - Addresses the interface and connection between land use
 - leverages required funding from appropriate public and private sources
 - collaborate with council on achieving strategic outcomes from the Activate 2020-2030 plan

Membership

The Advisory Group will be comprised of the following members:

- one councillor
- up to ten community members as delegated representatives (or proxies) from Central Park and North Park user groups or general community
- one council staff member (who will be the minute taker and have no voting rights) - Council officers will be determined by the Chief Executive Officer.

Council:

- will aim for a gender balance of representation
- will aim for one or more members aged under 25 years
- must consider applications/nominations from all user groups.

Council will seek to appoint people with experience, knowledge and understanding of local issues with the capacity to provide recommendations to Council on the suitability of Central Park and North Park as a recreational facility. Accordingly, the following criteria will be used to evaluate appointments to the Advisory Group:

1. Possess sound knowledge of the local area and recent involvement in the local community.
2. An ability to represent issues impacting the local community in relation to the need for a recreational facility and to work in consultation with the Advisory Group to develop strategies to address this.
3. Demonstrate relevant experience in the management of recreational facilities.
4. Previous experience in working with committees or groups will be well regarded but is not essential.

The selection process will be as follows:

- Expressions of interest will be sought widely in the community including media.
- Should there be more applicants than required to fill vacancies, Council may seek further information from the applicants in determining their suitability for appointment to the Advisory Group.

Term

The term of the Advisory Group is expected to be 24 months.

Community members will apply for selection and user groups can nominate representatives who can be appointed to the Advisory Group for the 24 month term.

Authority/roles and responsibilities

The Group has no powers conferred to it by the Council. The committee is to operate in line with the purpose and terms of reference.

The Advisory Group will provide recommendations based on the following key areas and in terms of the precinct plan:

- Ongoing sustainability of Central Park and North Park as recreation facilities and how it will continue to meet the needs of the community.
- Infrastructure – Prioritised needs and costs associated with relevant development if recommended, to include ongoing operational costs and responsible parties
- Maintenance - Prioritised needs with relevant recommendations for precinct requirements
- Stakeholder or key organisational support - Provide relative evidence from user groups, peak sporting bodies and community groups that support recommended project activities. Support for grant and funding submission through respectful group discussion.
- Limitations of the site in sustaining use associated with recreational activities
- Accessibility considerations for people with disabilities, gender equality and diversity
- Risks – Assessment, review and management strategies
- Cultural heritage values to be considered.
- Participation and Activation outcomes to be considered in line with the Activate 2020-2030 Strategy and aligned with organisations objectives for sustainability

Scope and deliverables

The Stawell Parks Precinct Plan and North Park Master Plan's key objectives were to:

- Undertake a review of recent and past consultation, engagement and planning activities and documentation to form an understanding of current issues, gaps and opportunities relevant to the community, and in particular the users of Central Park and North Park.
- Having regard to recent past consultation, consult with the Stawell community including existing and future user groups to inform the development of the Stawell Parks Precinct Plan and North Park Master Plan.
- Develop documentation and evidence to support the consultation that has already taken place to enable Central Park and North Park to be developed to reach its full potential for the current and future needs of the community.
- Deliver the required documentation to support infrastructure investment to transform existing aged infrastructure into an integrated and well-coordinated community precinct ensuring that Central Park and North Park community infrastructure:
 - is suitably and strategically located
 - meets existing and future community needs including increased access to participation and programming opportunities, innovative design, function, universal design, environmental sustainability, futureproofing and relationship to nearby facilities
 - provides a plan for delivery in a well-coordinated and sequenced manner
 - provides the best value for money and community outcomes for potential funding partners.
 - addresses the interface and connection between land use
 - leverages required funding from appropriate public and private sources.

The Stawell Parks Precinct Plan and North Park Master Plan have been established under the Northern Grampians Shire Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013 - 2022 key principles and key strategy framework as follows.

- a. Principles:
 - Increased opportunities and participation for all.
 - A diverse range of open space, sport and recreation choices.
 - Great places for people to recreate - Building the health and wellbeing of the Northern Grampians Shire community.
 - Responsive to identified open space, sport and recreation needs of the community.
 - Inspiring and empowering people to recreate - Delivering economic outcomes for the Northern Grampians Shire community through sport and recreation.

b. Strategy Framework:

- Facilities: What we will do to provide safe, liveable, sustainable and usable assets to improve the quality of life for residents, considering community opportunities and needs.
- Programs: What we will do to provide safe, accessible and usable programs to improve the quality of life for residents.
- Services: What we will do to provide safe, accessible and usable services to improve the quality of life for residents.

Resources and constraints

The Advisory Group will:

- work with council to prioritise capital works projects to assist Council in applications for funding to support the capital development of the reserves
- work with council on an annual basis to make recommendations to council for maintenance works allocated through Council budget.

Meetings

A councillor will chair the Advisory Group meetings to ensure that advice provided by the Advisory Group is presented directly to the level of authority in council where decisions are made.

- the councillor has voting rights
- council officers do not have voting rights
- general community members and user group members elected to the Advisory Group will have voting rights.
- invited members from government and non-government agencies will not have voting rights
- conflict of interest of any member of the Advisory Group must be declared
- from time to time the Advisory Group may decide that it would be beneficial for council officers from other programs to also attend to address specific areas of interest. These officers will not have voting rights.

Council will provide assistance and support to the Advisory Group with the resources available to enable the Advisory Group to effectively undertake its role. To assist members of the Advisory Group, Council undertakes to provide the following support:

- secretariat services such as minute taking and agenda distribution
- meeting agendas and information papers for agenda items prior to the meeting.

Meetings will be held at least twice per year.

Quorum: to allow for vacancies that occur during the term of the Advisory Group, a quorum will be half of the operational membership plus 1 (6).

Proxies:

1. An Advisory Group member may appoint another person as his or her proxy to vote and speak on his or her behalf at a general meeting.
2. The appointment of a proxy must be in writing and signed by the group member making the appointment.
3. The Advisory Group member appointing the proxy may give specific directions as to how the proxy is to vote on his or her behalf, otherwise, the proxy may vote on behalf of the member in any matter as they see fit.

If required, the Advisory Group can agree to meetings out of the schedule to respond to a particular issue or task. A schedule of meeting dates and times for the forthcoming 12 months will be decided at the first meeting.

Reporting responsibilities and communication

Meeting minutes will be recorded and provided to members of the Advisory Group. Copies of the minutes will also be provided to councillors for information purposes.

Any recommendations to Council will be submitted through Council meeting schedules and protocols.

Timeframes and review

An interim review of the Advisory Group operations and Terms of Reference will be done at 12 months if required.

Council Plan objective/strategy

The Terms of Reference are aligned with Council's Council Plan goals, objectives and strategies through Enhanced Lifestyle and Community, Wellness and Welfare and Creating an Enriching Place to Live.

Legislation and Standards

Council Plan 2021-25
Stawell Parks Precinct Plan
Open Space Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013-22
Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25

Stakeholders

The Terms of Reference directly affect councillors, council's Community Strengthening Team and members, and must be consulted during the development or revision of the Terms of Reference.

Definitions

Terms of Reference *describe the purpose and structure of a project, committee, sub-committee, group, meeting, negotiation, or any similar collection of people who have agreed to work together to accomplish a shared goal; and*

they provide a documented basis for making future decisions and for developing a common understanding of the scope among stakeholders.

*The terms of reference are often referred to as the **charter**, e.g. committee charter.*

Communication and implementation

The Terms of Reference will be communicated to stakeholders through reporting to the Stawell Recreation Advisory Group and inclusion in meeting minutes.

Review history

Date	Review Details	Action
4 December 2017	Draft	Present to Council for approval
2 December 2019	Draft	Present to Council for approval
1 November 2021	Draft	Present to Council for approval
6 May 2024	Draft	Present to Council for approval

9.1.6. Integrated Early Years Project Update

Author/Position: Simon Coutts, Contract Project Manager

Purpose

To decide on a pathway forward for the Government's Best Start, Best Life reforms in St Arnaud.

Summary

In 2022, Northern Grampians Shire Council was selected by the Victorian Government as one of the first local government areas to have the 'Best Start, Best Life' reforms rolled out. Council was successful in receiving funding for a 66-place modular building. At the November 2023 Council meeting a decision was made to rule out Market Square (adjoining the existing Early Learning Centre (ELC)) as an option for the new modular kindergarten buildings. Council established a Stakeholder Reference Group in 2014, comprising a diverse range of stakeholder representatives, including three community members. The group was established to serve as a conduit for community input, ensuring that the project's progress remains informed by the perspectives and insights of the community and other key stakeholders. In February 2024, the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) notified Council that a decision on the site for the modular buildings would need to be made by May 2024 to enable the new buildings to be operational by January 2025.

In response to the information presented by VSBA and other stakeholders, the following options were discussed with the Stakeholder Reference Group:

1. Delivery of 66 new kindergarten places by January 2025 at either:
 - a) the St Arnaud Primary School - North site or
 - b) Stadium site

Verses

2. Engage widely on both the future service model, followed by the site.

Risks and benefits of the above were discussed and detailed in this report.

Recommendation

That Council endorses the St Arnaud Primary School North site (option 1a) as outlined in the report as the preferred location for the Victorian Government's Best Start, Best Life, modular building location subject to the following conditions:

Prior to construction, the Victorian School Building Authority and Department of Education

- a) **gain Council endorsement of a traffic management plan to support the Pre-Prep and future Early Learning Centre service centre, co-located on Lot 5 (Council Administered) and Lot 6 (Department of Education Administered)**
- b) **obtain formal consent from the St Arnaud State Primary School for a future expansion of an Early Learning Centre into the school site (Lot 7 – Crown (DE Administered), should additional land be required beyond the Crown Land managed by Council (Lot 5 (Council Administered and Lot 6 (Department of Education Administered))**
- c) **continue to work with Council to advise on the orientation and amenities of the Best Start, Best Life, modular building to minimise the need to retrofit any works to accommodate a future Early Learning Centre building**
- d) **permits Council to provide additional early years services within the Pre-Prep modulars, should positions not be filled for Pre-Prep.**

RESOLUTION

That Council endorses the St Arnaud Primary School North site (option 1a) as outlined in the report as the preferred location for the Victorian Government's Best Start, Best Life, modular building location subject to the following conditions:

Prior to construction, the Victorian School Building Authority and Department of Education

- a) gain Council endorsement of a traffic management plan to support the Pre-Prep and future Early Learning Centre service centre, co-located on Lot 5 (Council Administered) and Lot 6 (Department of Education Administered)
- b) obtain formal consent from the St Arnaud State Primary School for a future expansion of an Early Learning Centre into the school site (Lot 7 – Crown (DE Administered), should additional land be required beyond the Crown Land managed by Council (Lot 5 (Council Administered and Lot 6 (Department of Education Administered))
- c) continue to work with Council to advise on the orientation and amenities of the Best Start, Best Life, modular building to minimise the need to retrofit any works to accommodate a future Early Learning Centre building
- d) permits Council to provide additional early years services within the Pre-Prep modulars, should positions not be filled for Pre-Prep.

Moved: Cr Eddy Ostarcevic

Seconded: Cr Karen Hyslop

Carried

Background/Rationale

In June 2022, the Victorian Government announced the Best Start, Best Life early childhood education reforms. The reforms aim to provide all Victorian children access to quality kinder before they start primary school. The reforms include:

- Free Kinder for all three and four year olds at participating services in Victoria.
- Transitioning Four Year Old Kindergarten to 30 hours of Pre-Prep, gradually from 2025.
- Establishing 50 government owned and operated Early Learning Centres.
- Ongoing rollout of Three Year Old Kindergartens across Victoria between 2025 and 2032.

In 2022, Northern Grampians Shire Council was selected by the Victorian State Government as one of the first local government areas to have the 'Best Start, Best Life' reforms rolled out. Stawell and St Arnaud were identified as needing extra infrastructure to accommodate for increasing kindergarten hours, with new buildings to be granted by the state government. In response, Council applied for a grant for a two room modular kindergarten project under the Building Blocks Capacity Grants stream for both Stawell and St Arnaud. In 2023 a 66 place kindergarten was delivered in Stawell, co-located at the Taylors Gully Children's Centre.

Council engaged with the St Arnaud community regarding site options for the 66-place modular buildings in 2023. The process resulted in a resolution by Council in October 2023 to:

1. expand the current Early Learning Centre (ELC) review to recognise the critical shortage of places available to families for long day care in St Arnaud and surrounding areas within the Northern Grampians Shire Council boundaries.
2. identify the current and future service requirements across long day care and embedded Pre-Prep that specifically address the current waiting list and projections into the next decade.
3. that the Northern Grampians Shire Council immediately commence the process of identifying a greenfield site for the development of a "fit for purpose" integrated childcare facility in St Arnaud into the future with attention to expanded capacity through growth.
4. consult the community and undertake other relevant investigations to provide councillors with details of the need, cost and any relevant information to the development.
5. fast track the delivery of an outcome to meet the current needs that also recognises the growing demand in this sector within a five-year timeframe.

A decision was made at the November Council Meeting 2023 to rule out Market Square (adjoining the existing ELC) as an option for the new modular kindergarten buildings.

In line with the October 2023 resolution, Council restarted the process to investigate both a future integrated early years' service and site. This included establishing a Stakeholder Reference Group comprising a diverse range of stakeholder representatives, including three community members. The group was established to serve as a conduit for community input, ensuring that the project's progress remains informed by the perspectives and insights of the community and other key stakeholders.

As part of the project restart, Council intended to start with an investigation and analysis of current and future demand and needs, followed by identification of an integrated service model based on a robust process of community and stakeholder engagement. The intention was to identify a site that was able to accommodate for both the modular buildings and agreed future integrated ELC and to decide on both the site and future ELC model at the August 2024, in time for the new modular buildings to be operational by January 2025.

In February 2024, the VSBA notified Council that a decision on the site for the modular buildings would need to be made by May 2024 to enable the new buildings to be operational by January 2025.

A site selection criterion for the 66 place modular kindergarten was used by the VSBA to assess site options which included the land:

- being immediately available to Department of Education (DE) or Council
- having a low likelihood of triggering an assessment under Native Title (RSA, LUAA)
- being capable of accommodating for a future integrated ELC (3,500m² extra)
- being highly likely to be available to Council for a future ELC development

- having manageable site constraints including traffic management, flooding, native vegetation and impact on existing users.

Stakeholder Reference Group

Council engaged with the Stakeholder Reference Group in April 2024 following receipt of the VSBA’s request for a decision by May 2024. The Stakeholder Reference Group was briefed on the site selection criteria and timeframes required to enable the new kindergarten buildings to be operational by January 2025, verses timeframes required to investigate and engage on a future integrated early years service model to help inform the site selection.

The VSBA scheduled roll out of infrastructure includes an additional 12 councils in 2026, 12 more in 2027 and 15 in 2028. Northern Grampians Shire was chosen based on the vulnerability of our communities and the need to increase children’s play-based learning each week and their literacy and numeracy, and self regulation skills.

At the Stakeholder Reference Group’s April meeting, it was noted that whilst it is unknown as to what would happen should Council not nominate the site in May, the Victorian Government’s Best Start, Best Life Kindergarten Infrastructure Strategy’ states that ‘every new government primary school has a kindergarten on site or next door’ and that they are ‘also building or expanding kindergartens at some existing schools. We do this when it is the best way to meet high local demand for kindergarten places. Whilst Council believes that the likelihood of the buildings being taken away from Council altogether is considered ‘highly unlikely’, it is possible and the roll out in St Arnaud will be delayed, and the number of buildings could be reduced to one.

The north location of the state primary school is the only site that the VSBA identified that can have these buildings operational by January 2025. The site also adjoins a ‘greenfield site for the development of a “fit for purpose” integrated childcare facility in St Arnaud into the future with attention to expanded capacity through growth’.

An assessment of all potential sites was undertaken by the VSBA, who presented the findings to the Stakeholder Reference Group at the 23 April 2024 meeting.

Victorian Schools Building Authority site investigation findings:

1. Department of Education (DE) Primary School South

Land ownership: Lot 7 – Crown (DE administered) Lot 1 – DE Freehold

Key opportunities	Key challenges
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lot 1 – Kindergarten located on freehold land that can be built on without restriction. 2. The kinder site is relatively flat. 3. Opportunity for north/ northwest facing kindergarten/ELC building and playground. 4. Car parking for the kinder can be located on-site within the site boundary. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traffic access safety concerns. 2. Significant trees. 3. Heritage plaque. 4. Prelim advice high BAL requirement. 5. High Replacement costs of DE infrastructure (hard courts). 6. ELC car parking dispensation required. 7. Option a and b – ELC – site slope.



Figure 1: Primary School Site – South 3 x layouts

2. Department of Education (DE) Primary School North

Primary School Site – North 1 x layout

Land ownership: Lot 7 – Crown (DE Administered) Lot 6 – Crown -Easement (DE administered) Lot 5 – Crown (Council administered)

Key opportunities	Key challenges
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potential exemption to native title (LUAA) for DE land due to existing use of land. Dja Dja Wurrang to confirm. 2. ELC - Utilises Crown Land (Council Managed), eliminating Council requirement to consult to negotiate with DE on land and associated legal agreements. 3. Minimises impact on school site infrastructure and reduces ELC council project costs of replacement of infrastructure on school. 4. Prelim fire advice: improved location for BAL/BMO (relative to alternative options). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ELC is confined to Lot 5, which is managed by the Crown Land Council. 2. Native title exemption pending confirmation for modular kinder. 3. Native title advice on ELC pending. 4. ELC car parking dispensation required.



ELC Footprint

ZONE	AREA
ELC Building	1043.03 m ²
ELC Playspace	770.84 m ²
ELC Carpark	183.62 m ²
ELC Area	1997.49 m²
Total ELC Site	2368.76 m² Excluding Easement
	2753.16 m² Including Easement

Kinder Footprint

ZONE	AREA
Kinder Building	566 m ²
Kinder Playspace	492.67 m ²
Kinder Carpark	487.87 m ²
Kinder Area	1546.54 m²

Figure 2: Primary School Site - North

3. CFA Running Track: 2 x layouts

Land ownership: Crown Land (DECCA administered)

Key opportunities	Key challenges
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Site access for the car park from Alma Street to the north of the site is safer than from Dundas Street. 2. Play space can utilise existing park land. 3. Site steps up into a flat site (would require site cut). 4. Proximity to the town centre. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Native Title Process –Council-driven consultation with DECCA and Traditional Landowners for the non-DE managed site (potentially 6 Months +). 2. Consultation with CFA outstanding. 3. ELC car parking dispensation required. 4. Preliminary advice high BAL requirement. 5. Site cut required. 6. Significant trees removal required. 7. Landowner consent (DECCA) not confirmed.



Figure 3: CFA Running Track

4. Stadium Site, Navarre Road

Land ownership: Crown Land (DE administered)

Key opportunities	Key challenges
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relatively flat, gentle fall across the site. 2. Not in a Bushfire Management Overlay, BAL assessment is still required. 3. No traffic issues with Beaconsfield and Raglan Streets. 4. Should be sufficient space to retain existing trees. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Native Title Process – DE-led consultation with Traditional Landowners (legal advice could not confirm the likelihood of exemption (potentially 6 Months +)). 2. ELC car parking dispensation required.



Figure 4: Stadium Site, Navarre Road

Due to several key challenges on the primary school South site and CFA site, both were considered unviable options narrowing the focus to the primary school North and Stadium site for future consideration.

As stated earlier, VSBA reported that to ensure the modular buildings are operational by January 2025 the only option available is the state primary school North site.

Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education

The SRG also heard from the Executive Director, Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education who expressed their desire to see the two room modular kindergarten on a neutral site due to concerns relating to educational choice, employment and economic activity should the kindergarten be located on the state school site.

In response to the information presented the following options were discussed with the Stakeholder Reference Group:

1. Delivery of 66 new kindergarten places by January 2025 at either:
 - a) the St Arnaud Primary School – North site or
 - b) Stadium site

Verses

2. Engage widely on both the future service model, followed by the site.

Risks and benefits of the above were discussed, including:

Option 1 - Council endorses the St Arnaud Primary School North site in May for the 66 place modular buildings.

Risk	Benefits
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A future ELC development may require additional space, beyond the Crown Land Parcel managed by Council, encroaching into the state school site. 2. That pre-prep may still not be available 1st term 2025 if not exempt from Native Title (LUAA). 3. Community reputational damage – limited community involvement re: site (Stakeholder Reference Group only). 4. Public concern regarding the potential loss of space used for car parking on the Crown Land Parcel managed by Council. 5. Traffic management. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The modular buildings are likely to be operational by January 2025, creating the potential for 30 hours of Pre-Prep by 1st-2nd term 2025 start (new two room, 66 place building). 2. The adjoining Council managed Crown Land may be developed for a future co-located ELC. 3. The St Arnaud Primary School has indicated that there is the potential for future expansion into the school site, should additional land be required (subject to School Council endorsement). 4. Create new space for integrated services including playgroup, MCH by 1st-2nd term 2025. 5. Aligned with 'Best Start Best Life' model of co-locating on schools. 6. Site endorsement and model decision made in this Council term.

Option 2 - Council endorses the Stadium, Navarre Road site in May for the 66 place modular buildings.

Risk	Benefits
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Native Title (LUAA) is highly likely to be triggered, resulting in a delay in delivery of the modular buildings. 2. The modular buildings may not be available if the VSBA timeline is not met. 3. The community may not support development on the site. Community engagement undertaken in 2022/23 as part of the St Arnaud Framework Plan showed that the site value by the community as public open space. 4. Community reputational damage – limited community involvement re: site (SRG only). 5. Risk of no ELC being funded and double drop off continues. 6. Not fully aligned with 'Best Start Best Life' model of co-locating on schools. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plenty of land available for a future integrated ELC. 2. Site endorsement and model decision made in this Council term. 3. The modular buildings are likely to be operational by January 2025, creating the potential for 30 hrs. of pre-prep by 1st-2nd term 2025 start (New two room, 66 place building) 4. Create new space for integrated services including playgroup, MCH by approximately 2026/27 (assuming the modulars are still available). 5. Create new space for integrated services including playgroup, by approximately 2026/27 (assuming the modulars are still available).

Option 3: Council continues with the original project plan and investigates a future integrated early years' service model followed by a decision on the site.

Risk	Benefits
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Modular buildings will not operational 2025. 2. Modular buildings may no longer be available by the time Council confirms the site. 3. Delay freeing up space in existing daycare (potential to reduce waiting list). 4. Delay potential for 30 hours of Pre-Prep by (delay new two room, 66 place building) 5. Delay new space for integrated services including playgroup and Maternal Child and Health. 6. State may proceed without Council site endorsement – site may not accommodate future expansion. 7. Delivery reputational damage. 8. Relationship with state government - potential to future funding 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rigorous ('not hurried) process that enables the community to be more involved in the decision. 2. Greater community engagement on model to inform site. 3. Fully understand land area, services and size of an ELC to support St Arnaud now and into the future.

The Stakeholder Reference Group has provided their insight and feedback on whether Council should nominate the site now or take a longer time to understand the servicing model needs of the community to better inform a site location.

The Stakeholder Reference Group raised valid and important considerations around selecting a site and the potential implication for a future integrated model. Stakeholder Reference Group feedback was varied on the options available to Council, however there was slightly more support for Option 1 then Options 2 or 3, on the basis that:

- there is an immediate community need for these services
- a delayed decision on the modular kindergarten buildings is undesirable
- a future adjoining ELC development is possible.

Not without risk, the recommendation is that Council decides on the North site location at the St Arnaud Primary School, to enable the VSBA to continue their investigations and build the modulars for operation in January 2025, subject to several Council conditions aimed at reserving the opportunity for a future 'fit for purpose' co-located ELC.

Legislation, Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

Local Government Act 2020

Council Plan 2021-25 – Enhance Lifestyle and Community

Options

Option 1

That Council endorses the St Arnaud Primary School North site (option 1a) as outlined in the report as the preferred location for the Victorian Government's Best Start, Best Life, modular building location subject to the following conditions:

Prior to construction, the Victorian School Building Authority and Department of Education

- a) gain Council approval of a traffic management plan to support the Pre-Prep and future integrated service centre
- b) obtain formal consent from the St Arnaud State Primary School for a future expansion of an Early Learning Centre into the school site (Lot 7 – Crown (Department of Education Administered), should additional land be required beyond the Crown Land managed by Council (Lot 5 (Council Administered and Lot 6(Department of Education Administered))

- c) continue to work with Council to advise on the orientation and amenities of the Best Start, Best Life, modular building to minimise the need to retrofit any works to accommodate a future Early Learning Centre building
- d) permits Council to provide additional early years services within the Pre-Prep modulators, should positions not be filled for Pre-Prep. **[recommended]**

Option 2

That Council nominates the St Arnaud Stadium, Navarre Road site (option 1b) as outlined in the report, as the preferred location for the Victorian Government's Best Start, Best Life, modular building location. **[not recommended]**

Option 3

That Council nominates a preferred location following an investigation of a future 'fit for purpose' integrated early years model, as per the October 2023 Council resolution. **[not recommended]**

Procurement

No procurement requirements apply to this report.

Community Engagement

Council staff have engaged with the Stakeholder Reference Group and held an open-to-public information event to gain further insight from the St Arnaud community. The engagement from the Stakeholder Reference Group has been thorough and insightful, involving a wide variety of people representing the early years sector. Membership on the group includes:

- Cr Eddy Ostarcevic - Northern Grampians Shire Council
- Cr Karen Hyslop - Northern Grampians Shire Council
- Trinity Johns - Principal - St Patrick's Primary School
- Jo Martin - Executive Officer - By Five Innovation and Equity Hub
- Russell Steele - St Arnaud Community Action Network (SCAN)
- Melissa Mitchell - Principal - St Arnaud Primary School
- Debbie Moerkerk - Early Childhood Improvement Manager (DET)
- Russell Marland – Community Member - Principal of Stawell Primary School and a resident of St Arnaud.
- Emily Gosden - Community Member - Teacher at St Arnaud Primary School and has two children that attend the ELC.
- Ailsa Sanderson - Community Member - Chartered accountant and has one child that attends the ELC.

A public information session was well advertised and attracted seven additional community members (excluding Stakeholder Reference Group members in attendance).

A summary of the insight and feedback from the reference group and community is shown in the table below. There were mixed options ranging from wanting it on a mutually independent site so as not to benefit any school from potential future enrolments to resolving uncertainties and details around site conditions and constraints. However, there appeared to be more community and reference group members in favour of working with the VSBA to nominate a location and commence the building of the Pre-Prep modulators as soon as possible to avoid delays.

Summary of community insight/feedback

Summary of the operating model queries received from the St Arnaud community in April 2024
Is the current problem a workforce availability issue? Will there be staff available for the new buildings in January 2025?
What will the benefit be for current parents with children if the modulators are operational January 2025? Will it help with long day care?
What is the current unmet demand for 3 year old and Pre-Prep?
If the modulators are built sooner, that means a longer time 3 year and Pre-Prep will be in separate buildings and locations from long day care

Concerned about quality education rather than filling spaces. Will the modulars improve outcomes for children and parents?
There are concerns about interim arrangements while we wait for a HUB to be built. What happens with the two locations?
Need to know more about the operating hours and services to be offered January 2025 to know if it is a good idea to nominate a site now.
Council can't fill jobs now, what's going to change in January 2025?
I need to be able to plan my work around care, I need more certainty about what will be available, sooner rather than later.
There are 600 HUBS around Australia, they are all different and that is up to Council and the community to decide how it looks.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

This decision will not preclude the opportunity to further investigate the ongoing service needs of the early years community in St Arnaud and to build, at a later stage an integrated service centre, should the business case be supported, and funding made available.

Collaboration

Council has been working collectively with the Stakeholder Reference Group and VSBA in preparing this recommendation.

Officer's Declaration of Interest

All officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Simon Coutts, Contract Project Manager

In providing this advice as the author, I have no disclosable interest in this report.

Attachments

Nil

9.2. Boost Economic Growth

Nil

9.3. Providing Sustainable Infrastructure

9.3.1. Tree and Nature Strip Management Policy and Plan

Author/Position: Heath Pohl, Acting Manager Operations

Purpose

The aim of the policy is to provide a framework for making structured, consistent, and environmentally sound management decisions, for all Council owned or managed street and roadside trees, open space trees, and nature strips.

Summary

The *Tree and Nature Strip Management Policy and Plan* are documents which provide the process and structure on how Northern Grampians Shire Council manages its trees in street, parks, Council managed areas and rural roadsides. They also provide the structure for the management of urban nature strips and what is allowed in the management of these.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the *Tree and Nature Strip Management Policy and Plan*.

RESOLUTION

That Council adopts the *Tree and Nature Strip Management Policy and Plan*.

Moved: Cr Kevin Erwin

Seconded: Cr Murray Emerson

Carried

Background/Rationale

Northern Grampians Shire Council is committed to the efficient and effective management of trees and nature strips on Council owned or managed land, including street and open space trees. Good planning and appropriate maintenance are vital for safe and manageable street and roadside trees that will provide aesthetic, material, environmental and ecological benefits to the community.

Urban trees provide significant benefits to the community however they can conflict with other essential infrastructure. Trees are just one component within a network of assets Council has management responsibility for. Integrating their management aspects is essential to maximise benefits and minimise conflicts.

Nature strips play an important role in the aesthetic, environmental and social health of the municipality. Nature strips complement and enhance the streetscape by providing a green zone between the carriageway, pedestrian footpath and the adjacent property.

The scope of the *Tree and Nature Strip Management Policy* is to:

- establish the Northern Grampians Shire Council's commitment and future strategic direction for tree planting, protection, management, and maintenance for its streets and open spaces.
- address open space and urban tree and nature strip management and maintenance issues faced by the Council.
- provide a rationale for decision-making to ensure consistency in the management of open space, urban trees, and nature strips as per the Council's Tree and Nature Strip Management Plan.

The scope of the Tree and Nature Strip Management Plan provides the detail and processes for the following:

- areas of responsibility
- tree management
- risk identification and mitigation
- tree selection and planting
- tree removal
- significant tree protection
- rural roadside tree maintenance
- infrastructure protection
- electric line clearance
- tree maintenance
- environmental and community imperatives
- pest and disease control
- nature strip management guidelines

The Policy and plan outlines our processes and how we manage and provide a framework for making structured, consistent, and environmentally sound management decisions, for all Council owned or managed street and roadside trees, open space trees, and nature strips

Legislation, Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

Local Government Act 2020

Council Plan 2021-25 – Provide Sustainable Infrastructure

Electrical Line Management Plan

Road Management Plan

Options

Option 1

That Council adopts the *Tree and Nature Strip Management Policy and Plan*. **[recommended]**

Option 2

That Council does not adopt the *Tree and Nature Strip Management Policy and Plan*. **[not recommended]**

Implications

Any identified sustainability issues (economic, social, environmental or climate change) or heritage/cultural, amenity, human rights/gender equality, privacy, risk management, budgetary and asset management implications have been addressed in this report.

Procurement

No procurement requirements apply for the subject of this report.

Community Engagement

No community engagement was required for the subject of this report.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The subject matter of this report does not raise any implications regarding innovation or improvements.

Collaboration

No collaboration with other councils, governments or statutory bodies was required for the subject of this report.

Officer's Declaration of Interest

All officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Heath Pohl, Acting Manager Operations

In providing this advice as the author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Attachments

1. Tree and Nature Strip Management Policy [9.3.1.1 - 5 pages]
2. Tree and Nature Strip Management Plan [9.3.1.2 - 32 pages]

Tree and Nature Strip Management Policy



May 2024







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Tree and Nature Strip Management Policy



Council Policy

Responsible director	Director Infrastructure and Amenity
Responsible officer	Manager Operations
Functional area	Parks and Gardens
Date adopted by Council	July 2018
Review date	May 2028

Purpose

The aim of the policy is to provide a framework for making structured, consistent, and environmentally sound management decisions, for all Council owned or managed street and roadside trees, open space trees, and nature strips.

Background

Northern Grampians Shire Council is committed to the efficient and effective management of trees and nature strips on Council-owned or managed land including street and open space trees. Good planning and appropriate maintenance are vital for safe and manageable street and roadside trees that will provide aesthetic, material, environmental and ecological benefits to the community.

Urban trees, including street trees, and nature strips offer major benefits to the community. It is Council's role to manage these trees in a safe, effective, and efficient manner.

Street trees also grow amongst people and property and as such pose management challenges as a result of community expectations for amenity, functionality, and safety. The impact of the artificial growing environment and the community requirements of street trees is that street trees require intensive management.

This policy and *Tree and Nature Strip Management Plan* provide a framework for the management of the Council's Street and urban roadside trees and nature strips in a consistent manner across the shire.

Rural roadside trees need to be managed to maintain appropriate road envelope clearances for vehicle access. These requirements are determined and governed by Council's *Road Management Plan 2021*.

Scope

The scope of this policy is to:

- establish the Northern Grampians Shire Council's commitment and future strategic direction for tree planting, protection, management, and maintenance for its streets and open spaces.
- address open space and urban tree and nature strip management and maintenance issues faced by the Council.
- provide a rationale for decision-making to ensure consistency in the management of open space, urban trees, and nature strips as per the Council's *Tree and Nature Strip Management Plan*.

Tree and Nature Strip Management Policy

Stakeholders affected by this policy, but not limited to:

- Community
- Council
- Parks and Gardens

Responsibilities:

- Director Infrastructure and Amenity is responsible for the policy.
- Manager Operations is responsible for the implementation and review of the policy.
- Coordinator Parks and Facilities for execution and performance of the policy.

Policy Objective

- Council Plan - Enhance Lifestyle and Community
- Council Plan - Provide Sustainable Infrastructure

Policy

The Northern Grampians Shire Council *Tree and Nature Strip Management Plan* supports the *Tree and Nature Strip Management Policy* by providing guidance on how Northern Grampians Shire Council will undertake urban tree management and maintenance.

Street trees help to create softness and beauty in otherwise harsh streetscapes. As such, they add significantly to the enjoyment of our urban environment and to the value of properties. By applying appropriate levels of resources and best practice management, the Council will develop streetscapes of attractive, healthy, and safe trees for the benefit of the entire community, both now and into the future.

The objective of the plan is to:

- acknowledge the important role trees play in our lives and environment.
- provide a framework for the protection and enhancement of street, roadside and open space trees.
- provide a clearly defined and consistent approach to the way the Council manages the tree and nature strip issues.
- assist council in determining priorities for tree programs.
- provide the information for what the requirements are for Nature Strip Management.

The Tree and Nature Strip Management Plan will provide principles and procedures for following issues:

- Tree Management
- Risk Identification and Mitigation
- Tree Selection and Planting
- Tree Removal
- Significant Tree Protection
- Infrastructure Protection
- Electric Line Clearance
- Tree Maintenance
- Environmental and Community Imperatives
- Pest and Disease Control

Further to tree management on the Council managed nature strips, council will maintain nature strips adjoining or within:

- public reserve areas such as parks and gardens
- council facilities such as public buildings and recreation grounds

Parks and Garden staff will maintain above mentioned nature strips as per the annual maintenance program. The annual maintenance program will be prepared as per adopted budget and available resources.

Review

This policy and related management plan will be reviewed every four years.

Communication and implementation

Tree and Nature Strip Management Policy

This policy review had been undertaken in line with the Council's policy development and approval procedures. The policy will be communicated to stakeholders through the EDRMS and Council's website.

References

- *Tree and Nature Strip Management Plan 2024*
- *Road Management Plan 2021*
- *Electrical Line Clearance Management Plan 24-25*

Compliance

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Gender Equality Act 2020*
- *Road Management Act 2004*
- *Electricity Safety Act 1998*
- *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2015*
- *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

Privacy and Data Protection compliance

This policy is not impacted by the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and the *Victorian Protective Data Security (VPDSS) Standards*

Gender Equality compliance

As required under Part 3 of the *Gender Equality Act 2020* officers have considered the gender impact and deem that the assessment is not applicable to this policy.

Charter of Human Rights compliance

It is considered that this policy does not impact on any [human rights](#) identified in the *Charter of Human Rights & Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Tree and Nature Strip Management Policy

Definitions

Policy A formal statement by the organisation of its intentions and principles that establishes the frameworks for action. A policy does not have a procedural content.

Management Plan A management plan contains procedures, rules and controls needed to implement a policy.

Review history

Date	Review details	Action
1 June 2015	4 June 2018	This policy and related management plan will be reviewed in three years.
6 August 2018	Reviewed – Changes made in format and review period set for 4 years. Adopted by Council.	To be reviewed in July 2022.
June 2022	Reviewed – Minor changes made to align with the policy, development and approval framework procedure for October 2021. Additional compliance and references added.	To be reviewed July 2026
April 2024	Reviewed. – Change of title and Minor Changes made to align with the Plan. Dates adjusted to match current documents.	To be reviewed May 2028

Tree and Nature Strip Management Plan



May 2024



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1. Introduction

Northern Grampians Shire Council is committed to the efficient and effective management of trees and nature strips on Council owned or managed land including street and open space trees. Good planning and appropriate maintenance are vital for safe and manageable street and roadside trees that will provide aesthetic, material, environmental and ecological benefits to the community.

It is clear that urban trees, including street and open space trees, offer major benefits to the community. It is Council's role to manage these trees in a safe, effective and efficient manner to provide maximum aesthetic, physical and psychological benefits to the community.

2. Objective

This management plan supports the Tree & Nature Strip Management Policy by providing guidance on how Northern Grampians Shire Council (NGSC) will undertake tree management and maintenance, along with the requirements of Nature strip management.

Street trees help to create softness and beauty in otherwise harsh streetscapes. As such they add significantly to the enjoyment of our urban environment and to the value of properties. By applying appropriate levels of resources and best practice management, the Northern Grampian Shire Council will develop streetscapes of attractive, healthy and safe trees for the benefit of the entire community, both now and in the future.

The objective of this plan is to:

- Acknowledge the important role trees play in our lives and environment,
- Provide a framework for the protection and enhancement of street, roadside and open space,
- Provide a clearly defined and consistent approach to the way the NGSC manages the tree issues,
- Assist the NGSC in determining priorities for the tree programs and works.
- Provide the information for what the requirements are for Nature Strip Management

The Tree Management Plan will provide principles and procedures for following issues,

- Tree Management
- Risk Identification and Mitigation
- Tree Selection and Planting
- Tree Removal
- Significant Tree Protection
- Rural Roadside Tree Maintenance
- Infrastructure Protection
- Electric Line Clearance
- Tree Maintenance
- Environmental and Community Imperatives
- Pest and Disease Control

3. Areas of Responsibility

This management plan covers the urban areas within the following towns

- Stawell
- St Arnaud
- Great Western

- Halls Gap
- Glenorchy
- Marnoo
- Navarre
- Stuart Mill

4. Tree Management

Tree provides significant benefits to the community however they can conflict with other essential infrastructure. Trees are just one component within a network of assets Council has management responsibility for. Integrating their management aspects is essential to maximise benefits and minimise conflicts.

Trees have a finite life, their genetic potential and the external factors that impact on them determine how well they perform. In the case of street trees, the growing conditions are usually significantly altered from those encountered in their natural growing environment.

Street trees also grow amongst people and property and as such pose management challenges because of community expectations for amenity, functionality and safety. The impact of the artificial growing environment and the community requirements of street trees is that street trees require intensive management.

4.1 Tree Protection

Trees are dynamic living organisms that require specific environmental conditions to maintain life, health and value as a community asset. Trees consist of crowns, stems and roots and damage sustained to one part will compromise the function of the tree. If trees are to be adequately retained and protected, these requirements must be considered and met during all stages of development.

Trees will be protected from construction works and other activities that threaten their health and stability. All construction, works, events and development activities in proximity to Council trees and trees shown on any endorsed plans to be retained must abide by the following requirements:

- Removal of trees will not occur unless approved by the Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, or delegate.
- Trees may not be pruned in any form and branches or roots may not be removed, unless authorised by the Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, or delegate. Any pruning undertaken on Swan Hill Rural City Council trees must conform to *AS 4373 Pruning of Amenity Trees* and only be undertaken by adequately accredited and insured personnel.
- Northern Grampians Shire Council trees shall be protected from construction and works activities in accordance with Australian Standard *AS 4970 Protection of trees on development sites*.
- Care will be always taken to ensure no damage is sustained to tree stems, crowns and roots.
- Any exemptions to these requirements must be approved by Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, or delegate.

Tree Protection Zones

A Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) may be requested to be established in accordance with Australian Standard *AS 4970 Protection of trees on development sites* for the duration of any works in proximity to a Northern Grampians Shire Council tree or tree shown on an endorsed plan to be retained.

Root pruning

Roots are responsible for the uptake of water and nutrients and for anchoring and supporting the tree in the ground. Root pruning is generally discouraged as the long-term impacts are not always predictable.

Any root pruning must be approved by Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, or delegate.

Where root pruning is unavoidable, all cuts will be clean cut using sharp tools such as secateurs, pruners, handsaws or specialised equipment.

Under no circumstances can roots be ripped or pulled by machinery.

Events

Parks and public open spaces provide the perfect venue and backdrop to a diverse array of community events and activities. Trees provide valuable amenity and much needed shade, especially over the warmer months, however, can sustain damage from activities that occur around them.

Common ways that trees can be injured during events include;

Compaction of the soil profile in which the space between soil particles is reduced, limiting the amount of air and water available to tree roots. If occupation beneath trees is frequent enough to damage the lawn, then it is likely that tree roots are also being damaged. Compaction is especially problematic on silty soils or during wet weather. If occupancy of vehicles or other equipment beneath trees cannot be avoided, there are many products available that will distribute loads and therefore reduce the amount of soil compaction sustained.

Mechanical damage and injury to trees from vehicles, conflicts with equipment, unauthorised pruning and from tethering or fixing equipment and objects to trees.

Less common is the spill of chemicals or liquids into the soil or the scorching of tree canopies due to the proximity of outdoor heaters and exhausts.

In addition to the tree protection criteria listed above, the following must be applied to all events and activities held in proximity to trees;

1. There should be no vehicular movement or placement of sheds/large infrastructure beneath the dripline of a public tree except where ground-protection, such as track mats or similar, has been implemented.
2. Equipment, decorations and signage must not be tied to, tethered to, nailed to, suspended from or placed within three crowns, branches or stems.
3. Care will be always taken to avoid damage to tree crowns, branches and stems.
4. Trees must not be pruned in any form to facilitate access or activities unless permission from Council has been sought prior to the event.
5. Outdoor heaters and exhausts must be placed no less than 2 metres from any part of a tree.
6. Refueling, cleaning of equipment and emptying of liquid waste may not occur under the dripline of any tree.

Tree Protection Management Plans

In instances where works or activities by contractors and other external parties cannot be undertaken within the parameters outlined in the abovementioned tree protection requirements, a Tree Protection Management Plan (TPMP) may be requested to be prepared and implemented prior to the commencement of the project.

1. The Tree Protection Management Plan (TPMP) must be prepared in accordance with Australian Standard AS 4970 *Protection of trees on development sites*.
2. The TPMP will assess the impacts of activities on public trees, recommend mitigation efforts to minimise identified impacts and identify methodologies to guide works and activities through all stages of a project.
3. A project arborist may be required to oversee all works near trees for the duration of works.
4. The TPMP must be endorsed by Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, or delegate prior to commencement of the works.
5. The Principal Contractor will be responsible for the implementation of the TPMP by all contractors and personnel onsite.
6. Any exemptions to these requirements must be approved by Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, or delegate.

5. Risk Identification and Mitigation

Trees have an inherent risk which must be managed effectively. The risk associated with the trees is a combination of the condition of the tree and the use or “target” in the vicinity of the tree. Management of the risk needs to take both factors into account.

A formal risk assessment of all situations where trees are existed needs to be undertaken to accurately identify the risks, determine appropriate actions and assign priorities. Risk assessments/potential should be the overriding factor in determining priority for works and allocating resources. Works by external contractors and landowners can have a significant impact on the risk potential of Council trees. Control over or awareness of works in the vicinity of Council trees is vital to ensure risk minimisation.

Council will only do a risk assessment, when a potential risk is reported to the Council by community or other external parties. (Appendix C). The

6. Tree Selection and Planting

The selection of appropriate trees for urban street planting will be critical for successful establishment and well managed streetscape. Council’s Parks & Garden team will ensure that the species selected for planting are rigorously assessed to ensure the establishment of the right tree for the right location. The trees selected for the planting will be from the preferred species list (Appendix B).

A detailed tree selection process is attached to this document. (Appendix A)
Tree species selection will consider the following requirements,

- The surrounding composition of the vegetation and any local environmental or aesthetic considerations.
- The purpose of the road and any impact the trees might have on the road or any other assets.
- The impact of the tree planting on statutory and regulatory requirements with regard to service utilities and other built infrastructure present above or below ground.
- The possible impacts on the safety of the public.
- Utilising the best available arboriculture standards, including ease of maintenance, longevity, growth rate and appearance.
- Any other matters which might be pertinent to the site or local conditions including soil and weather conditions.

Residents are not to plant trees in the road verge or in community open space. Unauthorised planting of inappropriate tree or plant species may be removed from the road verge and or

community open space.

6.1 Tree Planting Consultation Process

Wherever tree planting is proposed adjoining landowners should be notified and consulted about the species selected for the street. The following consultation process will be implemented in relation to street tree planting process:

- The nearest ten properties will be notified by a letter drop. If there are multiple units at the one property, they will all be notified.
- All councillors will be notified by email.
- All persons notified will be allowed seven days to respond.
- When objections have been received, the Parks & Garden Team Leader should contact the objector/s and attempt to allay the concerns or provide details about the specie selection process. If the objection remains and the selected specie remains the Parks and Gardens Team Leader's outcome, the matter will be referred to Council.

7. Tree Removal

Removal of trees from nature strips and open space is potentially the greatest cause of conflict in the management of urban trees. Understandably, customers become very attached to a tree that has been living and growing near their home no matter what age the tree is. Prudent tree management requires the assumption that every tree, no matter how insignificant it may appear, has some value to someone.

It sometimes becomes necessary to remove trees, either because of a problem with the tree itself, or to facilitate development or installation of infrastructure. Experience has shown that the concern associated with the removal of trees can be minimised through proper consultation with customers and demonstration of respect for the importance of trees by Council and the communication of these views to the community.

There is a need for the Parks and Gardens Team to efficiently process requests of this nature and to take appropriate action that addresses needs and protects Council interests in risk management.

The reason for these requests can be numerous. The most common requests are:

- Tree threatening to cause significant property damage. (Either to private or Council owned property).
- Tree causing significant interference to services or mains ie. Power lines, water, sewer, kerb or pavement.
- Tree causing sight distance problems for pedestrians and/or motorists. Can be at intersections, driveways or footpaths etc.
- Tree being storm damaged or having failed in part due to shedding limbs.
- Tree is dying, diseased or dead.
- There are also occasions when the Parks and Gardens Team need to act on trees (without customer requests) for the same reasons above, as well as the following.
- Self-sown or sucker growth;
- Trees that have not grown true to type;
- Horizontal and vertical clearances.
- Trees that have reached the end of their useful life.
- This would enable the removal of inappropriate trees before requests are made or any damage has occurred to person or property.

The Parks and Gardens Team have authority to remove trees under the following circumstances,

7.1 Trees Threatening to Cause Significant Property Damage

A tree in this situation would usually be large enough to overhang or reach private property if the tree failed in part or completely. The assessment of the tree however should allow for history of the individual tree and species in general determining the likelihood of failure. There would need to be evidence of the tree failing or shedding limbs previously or the same species demonstrating a history of limb failure.

Instability in the ground would necessitate removal. This could be caused by poor root development or interruption by excavation to the root system or ground movement due to extreme seasonal conditions and is usually determined by witnessing ground or tree movement or recent changes to ground surface.

Removal of a tree that threatens property should only be considered if pruning is not viable.

- if sufficient pruning to remove risk is carried out but destroys the aesthetic amenity.
- If pruning creates an unacceptable balance of crown.
- If pruning creates ongoing maintenance problems with managing secondary growth.
- If pruning exposes the remaining crown to risk of failure.

7.2 Trees Causing Significant Interference to Services or Mains

7.2.1 Power Lines

Council has a responsibility to maintain clearance of trees from power lines in the St Arnaud and Stawell declared urban areas under Electricity Safety Act 1998 and in accordance with the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020* (see also Northern Grampians Shire Council Line Clearance Management Plan).

In most instances where conflict occurs between trees and overhead power lines, regular formative pruning allows acceptable co-existence. In some instances, however, particularly if an unsuitable species has more recently been planted under power lines, severe pruning of the tree would leave it with little or no crown and unacceptable visually. The cost/benefit ration in relation to performing the work annually would be unacceptable and would have little benefit by way of shade and aesthetics.

Some species do not recover well from pruning at non target zones and the resultant secondary growth can often lead to failure. Trees falling into this category should be removed.

7.2.2 Water Mains

Interruption to water mains and services is less of a problem as the tree roots must physically alter the alignment of a pipe to rupture it. Most problems caused in this way can be solved by root pruning. Extensive root disturbance sufficient to fracture a water main, however, may require more extensive root pruning. The tree should be removed only if the tree is destabilized by such pruning, or the reoccurrence of the pruning outweigh the cost/benefit of the tree's existence. This situation would be infrequent.

Root invasion of private sewer lines is more common and does not always require or warrant the removal of the tree. Usually, once a tree root has invaded a sewer line, they become a regular maintenance problem as little root growth has to be made to re-invade the pipes after clearing.

One solution can be to chemically treat the sewer with a root inhibitor using commercial contractors. This process is quite expensive but gives a guarantee of 3 years of no root invasion.

Removal of trees for sewer blocks should only occur when the tree is isolated from like species ie. not part of a planned, uniform planting and will have little effect on visual amenity.

7.2.3 Footpaths & Kerb and Channel

Root disturbance to footpath or kerb and channel should generally be treated as follows. In most cases root pruning when concrete repairs are made are sufficient to alleviate this. There are circumstances, however, where such pruning will either destabilize or threaten the health of the tree and in these circumstances the tree should be removed. This would usually relate to trees in narrow naturestrips where pruning would have to be done too close to the trunk of tree.

7.3 Tree Causing Sight Distance Problems for Pedestrians or Motorist

These can usually be rectified by pruning. However, in some cases where an intersection treatment has altered traffic flow or a tree has grown to a dimension where pruning cannot meet site distance requirements, the tree may be removed.

Other instances may relate to

- Sucker growth or self-sown; and
- Trees less than 10 years old

If sight distances cannot be maintained, then the tree may need to be removed.

7.4 Trees that have been damaged due to Storms or High Winds

These can usually be repaired by pruning. In some cases, the damage may be significant enough to threaten remaining crown structure by increased exposure to elements or by fracturing other limbs. A complete assessment would need to be made of the trees' crown to determine the trees' viability. Also, limb shedding of trees in conditions other than storms is an indication of a change in health or circumstances of the trees environment that necessitated the limb shedding. The same treatment should apply to storm damaged trees and in extreme cases the trees removal may be warranted.

As in all tree assessments these types of assessments can be critical as such a dramatic change to a trees structure is usually an indication of other forces impacting on the tree. If the tree is not removed its condition should be monitored as the loss of structure could lead to further deterioration of the tree.

7.5 Tree is Diseased, Dying or Dead

A tree that is diseased beyond effective control and is clearly dying should be removed to minimise spread of diseases if in proximity to other host plants. Obviously dying or dead trees should be removed as soon as possible, preferably before they become a risk to person or property and in particular in urban constructed street environments where a loss of amenity exists.

7.6 Self-Sown or Sucker Growth

These may need to be removed as usually problems exist with poor siting. ie. inhibiting sight

distances, obstructing drains, shoulders, clearances etc. or damage to kerbing, footpath, or services if in urban environment.

7.7 Trees Not Growing True to Type

These can fall into the category of 7.1 or they can be species under cultivation that for a variety of reasons are clearly not going to be viable. Examples of this are trees that due to poor root development (mainly due to inadequate propagation practices) are unstable or causing root related damage that is not manageable by pruning. Another common fault is the development of severe bifurcation's (twin, competing stems at an acute angle to one another) due to genetically poor stock that because of these deformities are going to have a high risk of limb failure which would leave remaining crown structure of tree unviable.

7.8 Horizontal or Vertical Clearances

Council has a responsibility to provide adequate horizontal and vertical clearances of trees from roadways in a variety of road classification situations. These clearances can often be met by pruning, but in some cases, pruning is neither practical nor adequate and trees must be removed. Often these conditions would relate to 7.1 and 7.2.

7.9 Emergency Tree Removals

Request for emergency tree removals to allow urgent repairs to water or sewerage services may be approved by a Council Officer other than the Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, or Parks and Gardens Team leader where:

- The Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, or Parks & Gardens Team Leader or delegate is not available to assess the tree; and
- The tree poses an immediate danger to the public; or
- All alternatives to removal are explored; or
- The tree is not more than 5 metres tall or 2 metres wide. Removal of larger trees will require the further approval of the authorised officer.

7.10 Tree Removal Practices

Any removal of trees should always be carried out by competent employees or contractors utilising safe and appropriate methods and equipment in line with any Occupational Health and Safety or other regulations.

7.11 Removal of Waste Material & Stumps

Any foliage and light limbs should be removed from site to an approved landfill site. Material should preferably be chipped but in isolated cases it may be impractical due to small volume of material being processed.

Stumps in constructed streets and roads should preferably be removed by stump grinding machines. This reduces disturbance to surrounding soil and finished grades and is usually more cost efficient. After stump is removed by either method any excess spoil or waste material should be removed from site and soil/surface finish should be restored consistent with prior surrounding conditions.

In constructed streets/nature strips this may require the addition of suitable topsoil and sowing with lawn seed.

7.12 Tree Removal Consultation Process

Wherever tree removing takes place adjoining landowners should be notified of the reason for the removal and if possible, notified of the timing of the removal, particularly if there may be restrictions to access to their property due to the removal works, use of machinery etc.

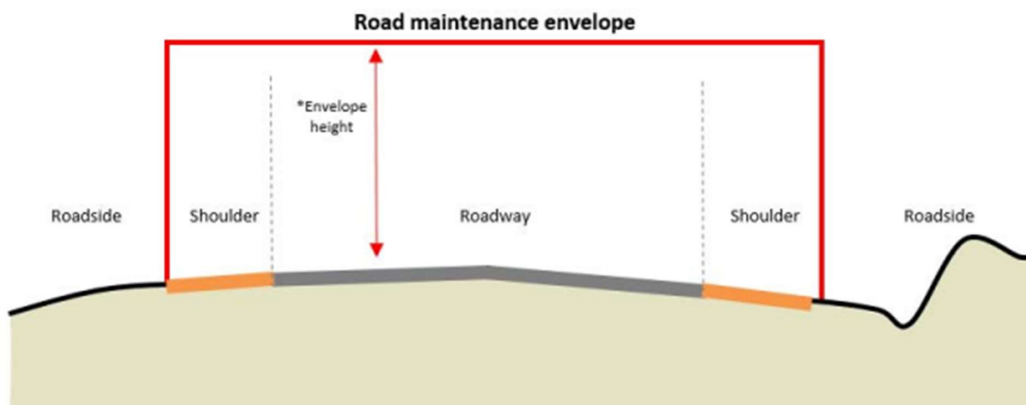
Except for emergency removals (as described above), the following consultation process will be implemented in relation to street trees:

- The nearest ten properties will be notified by a letter drop. If there are multiple units at the one property, they will all be notified.
- All councillors will be notified by email.
- All persons notified will be allowed seven days to respond.
- Where the Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, Parks and Gardens Team leader or delegate has recommended tree removal, but objections have been received, the Officer should contact the objector/s and attempt to allay the concerns or pursue alternatives to removal. If the objection remains and removal remains the Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, Parks and Gardens or delegates preferred outcome, the matter will be referred to Council.

8. Rural roads Tree Clearance and Maintenance

On the Rural Road Network which includes all classes of sealed, gravel and unsealed road types Council will maintain the vegetation within the road maintenance envelope. The road maintenance envelope extends over the roadway and shoulder as defined in the Road Management Act 2004 and includes a vertical clearance height of 6m above formation. The Road maintenance envelope is as detailed in figure 1.

Figure 1: Road maintenance envelope



Council as the road authority must avoid native vegetation removal where practical. Any vegetation removal must be within the minimum extent necessary.

Roads are to be maintained of vegetation removal to the extent of Councils capabilities and in line with Council Road Management Plan. (Appendix F)

Vegetation removal is identified by the Road inspector, Council officers and/or response to stakeholder request. These work are further assessed by the Council Arborist. Any removals and pruning which is greater than a third of the tree is recorded as part of the Exemption agreement we have with the relevant authorities.

9. Significant Tree Register

9.1 Significant Trees

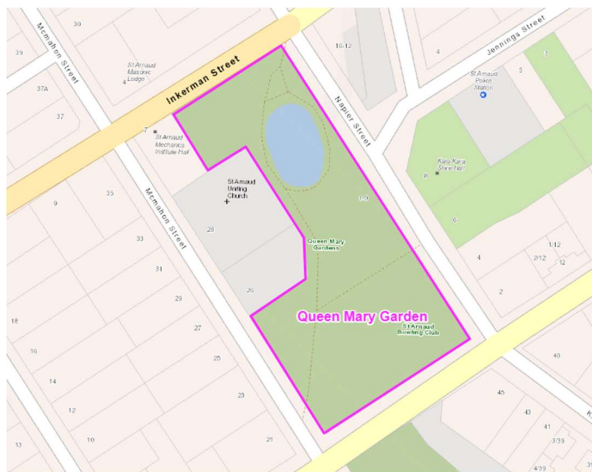
There is number of trees within the Northern Grampians Shire Council that may have significance within the area. These trees can be registered with the Heritage Victoria or the National Trust and classified as local, regional or state significance. Under NGSC current planning scheme there is no formal protection or recognition for a Significant Tree registered.

A process of nomination and registration may be best undertaken by a panel of people with a wide range of expertise and viewpoints; this should assist in creating community stewardship of these trees. Community awareness of significant trees and the implications of having a Significant Tree Register are important. It will be the Community in most cases that identifies what trees are significant and what best helps to protect them.

While there is no formal recognition, NGSC acknowledges that we have one tree which is registered in the Victorian Heritage Database and the National Trust as Regionally Significant. (Detailed in Table 1).

Table 1: Significant Tree

Area or Street	Tree
Queen Mary Gardens	Bunya Pine (<i>araucaria bidwillii</i>)



9.2 High Amenity Value Tree

Trees of *High Amenity Value* are designated so by Council as established mature trees or an avenue or grouping of trees those contribute to significantly to the amenity of a public space managed by Council. (Detailed in Table 2) This plan does outline we do have a range of trees that we class with *high amenity value* and will continue to be protected and maintained at a high level to preserve their community values.

Table 2: High Amenity Value Trees

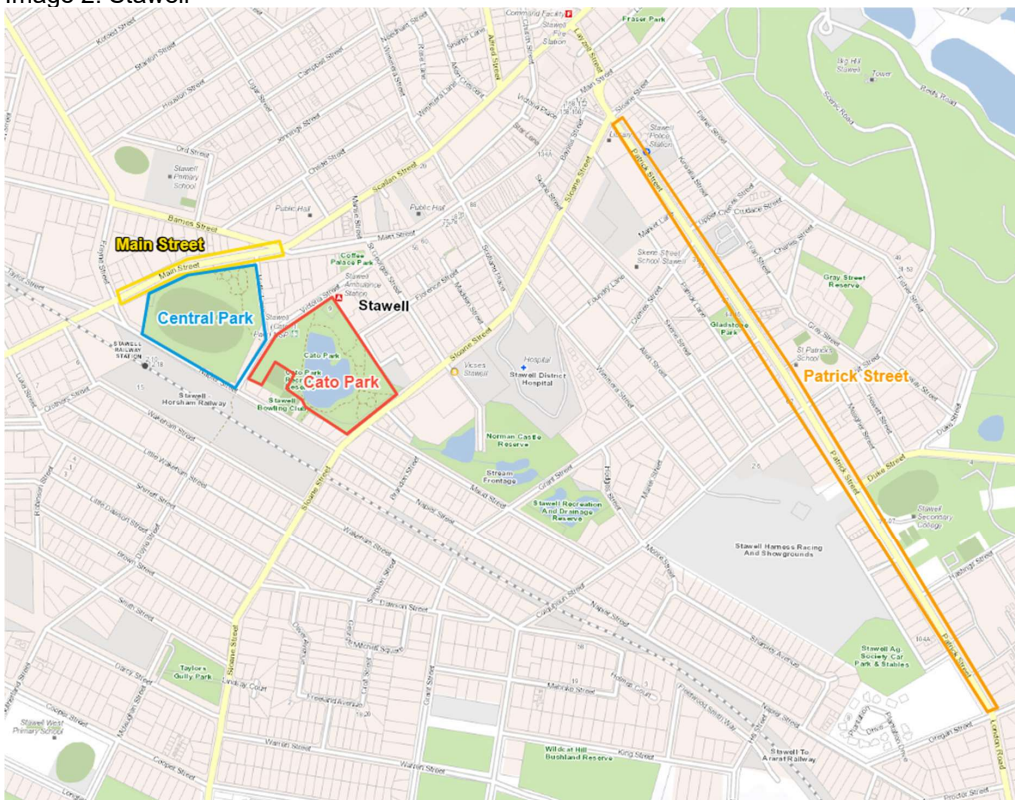
St Arnaud (Image 1)	
Area or Street	Tree
Pioneer Park, St Arnaud	Assorted Substantial trees
King George Park, St Arnaud	Canary Island Pines, Holm Oaks and other assorted substantial trees
Kings Ave, St Arnaud	Pin Oaks, and assorted Ashes and Oaks
Queen Mary Gardens, St Arnaud	Bunya Pine, White Oak, English Oak, and assorted other substantial trees
St Arnaud Town Hall/Market Square St Arnaud	Bunya Pine, Moreton Bay Fig, Yellow Gums
Golden St, St Arnaud	Dutch Elms

Image 1: St Arnaud



Stawell (image 2)	
Area or Street	Tree
Patrick Street, Stawell	Prunus Crimson Spire, Chinese Elms
Main St Stawell, outside Central Park	Golden Elms
Cato Park, Stawell	Assorted Substantial trees
Central Park, Stawell	Assorted Substantial trees

Image 2: Stawell



Great Western (image 3)	
Area or Street	Tree
Great Western Memorial Park	Pines

Image 3: Great Western



NGSC manages many noteworthy trees captured in this document. Significant trees and trees with high amenity value, older trees or larger trees need the greatest protection owing to the potential for a major public risk event and/or property damage. Some of these trees may be over mature and nearing the end of their Natural life. In recognition that these trees contribute to the cultural and environmental heritage benefits, their inability to recover from even minor damage or disturbance, the Northern Grampians Shire Council, will afford these trees extra attention to manage their mortality and prolong their presence as long as practicable.

When working near or around significant trees or trees with high amenity value, a tree protection zone needs to be created. This can be developed by contractors or authorities that may be required to work near significant trees and will need to be approved by the Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, or delegate, alternatively a qualified arboriculture specialist can be engaged to provide the necessary requirements to ensure protection of significant trees.

Many authorities and private contractors have responsibility for or are involved in conducting works adjacent to Council trees, particularly in streets. All parties involved need to give due consideration to other assets that they are likely to impact upon. A guideline for working near Council trees has been developed and will be provided to the contractors who work around Council trees. (Appendix D).

10. Infrastructure Protection

Infrastructure is regularly subject to damage from adjacent trees. When any tree planting is proposed in the vicinity of above and below ground infrastructure, careful consideration of species selection, soil type, planting technique, available root space and the appropriateness of root control measures are needed to ensure damage is avoided or minimised. In the vicinity will generally mean within the expected mature “drip line” of a tree or at least a radius from the centre of the trunk equal to 10 times the mature trunk diameter, whichever is greater.

Infrastructure within land outside of the control of Council can also be affected by trees. Tree planting and growth from Council trees should not place any undue burden in the form of risk or maintenance on adjacent land or property.

Any person or organisation wishing to plant trees, shrubs or undertake any landscaping within the road reserve, open space or other land under the control of Council must have permission in writing from Council.

Any trees or shrubs planted without Council permission and not in conformance with Council's tree selection and planting principles will be removed accordance with Council's tree removal procedure.

10.1 Council Response

The response by Council to damage caused by trees will vary according to the nature and extent of the damage. The most reported types of damage and Council's response to each are outlined below.

10.1.1 Footpaths, Road, Road Underground Drainage and Kerb and Channel

As Council is responsible for both the tree and the road reserve structures, the procedure for dealing with damage issues is relatively straightforward.

Council's response to this type of damage is:

- Damage is inspected by the Engineering Staff or representative
- When the repair priority is sufficiently high for work to take place, the damaged section is to be removed and the offending roots exposed
- Roots up to 50mm diameter may be cut with a clean, sharp implement and removed by the on-site employees or Contractor staff.
- Roots with a diameter greater than 50mm may not be cut unless authorised by the Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, Parks and Gardens Team leader or delegate.
- If roots which have caused or are likely to cause damage, can't be cut without affecting the stability or health of the tree, options such as realignment of the structure are to be considered by the Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, Parks and Gardens Team leader or delegate.
- The level of expenditure committed to redesign is to be reflected by the condition and significance of the tree.
- If no other option is deemed practical, the tree may be removed in accordance with the Tree Removal Procedure.

10.1.2 Vehicle Crossovers and Fences

Although vehicle crossovers traverse Council land, their maintenance and repair is the responsibility of the owner of the property the crossover serves. The issue of liability for damage to these structures must be addressed prior to the commencement of repairs.

Council's response to this type of damage is:

- The damage is inspected by the Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, Parks and Gardens Team leader or delegate, who will conduct sufficient investigation to determine with a high degree of confidence whether they believe the damage was caused by a Council owned tree or not. It will be worthwhile to provide photographic evidence.
- The Officer's findings will be reported to the Governance Officer, who will then accept or deny liability on behalf of Council.
- Where the cause of damage is denied as Council responsibility, the owner will need to provide additional evidence to be referred to Council's Insurer.
- Where Council confirms liability, the Parks & Gardens Officer will look to prevent further damage by root pruning, placement of root barrier or as a last resort, tree removal. Tree removal is to be in accordance with the Tree Removal Procedure.
- In the case of a crossover, if roots, which have caused or are likely to cause damage, cannot be cut without affecting the stability or health of the tree, the Parks & Gardens Officer may discuss with Works Officer, and subsequently the owner, options such as realignment of the crossover. The level of expenditure committed to redesign is to be reflected by the condition and significance of the tree.
- Discussions should take place with the owner, as to (a) whether any action needs take place (e.g. minor cracking), (b) in the case of a crossover whether grinding will alleviate the problem or (c) the extent of the damaged section of crossover or fence which requires repair.

10.1.3 Household Stormwater and Sewerage Services

Although household stormwater pipes may traverse Council land, their maintenance and repair are the responsibility of the owner of the property. Similarly, household sewerage pipes will be the owner's responsibility out to the Inspection Opening at the Sewer Main. In many cases the infiltration of roots into the pipes will be caused by substandard pipework. Council will generally deny any liability for these cases. The only remaining issue would be where roots have externally distorted the pipe. The issue of liability for damage to these pipes must be addressed at the time where such fault is found and prior to the commencement of repairs, to allow adequate investigation.

Council's response to this type of damage is:

- The damage is inspected by the Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, Parks and Gardens Team leader or delegate, who will conduct sufficient investigation to determine with a high degree of confidence whether they believe the damage was caused by a Council owned tree or not and whether faults in the pipe have contributed. It will be worthwhile to provide photographic evidence.
- The Officer's findings will be reported to the Governance Officer, who will then accept or deny liability on behalf of Council.
- Where the cause of damage is denied as Council responsibility, the owner will need to provide additional evidence to be referred to Council's Insurer.
- Where Council confirms liability, the Parks & Gardens Officer will look to prevent further damage by root pruning, placement of root barrier or as a last resort, tree removal. Tree removal is to be in accordance with the Tree Removal Procedure.
- Discussions should take place with the owner, as to the extent of the damaged section of

pipe, which requires repair.

10.1.4 Dwellings and Other Damage

Claims against Council for damage to dwelling and built structures (excluding fences) on private property and other damage caused by fallen trees or limbs should be immediately referred to Council's Governance Officer for assessment.

11. Electric Line Clearance

Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) is responsible for ensuring electrical safety. Northern Grampians Shire Council has a statutory obligation under the Electricity Safety Act 1998, Authorised version no.081 for maintain public trees clear of overhead Declared Area.

Refer to the Council's "Electric Line Clearance Management Plan" for details on how this is managed and declared area maps. Maintaining overhead electric line clearances for all trees in this area is the responsibility of the local distribution company (i.e. Powercor). Council's street tree planting, species selection and pruning practises aim to minimise conflicts with overhead electric lines.

12. Tree Maintenance

Council has the responsibility to provide adequate maintenance on trees within urban streets, open space and park lands in the townships. Maintenance of clearances (e.g. for pedestrians, vehicles, buildings & signage) and traffic sight distances is critical. The correct maintenance regime on young and developing trees has the potential to significantly reduce the future risk and cost associated with mature trees.

Root growth of trees can be less than is desirable owing to the constraints of the root zone environment. Damage to infrastructure from tree roots may require measures to be taken that are not in the best interest of the tree. A variety of procedures to control and/or enhance root growth need to be investigated and trailed.

Where trees have been lopped or damaged without the permission of Council the offending party will be charged by Council the full cost for restoration of the tree.

12.1 Pruning

Pruning is an essential component of the management of Council's tree asset. Once trees are established, pruning is the key maintenance process to keep individual trees in a safe and visually appealing condition. As a rule, the pruning of trees should be minimised, as all pruning cuts are potentially injurious, and trees look more appealing when left to form their natural shape. Trees should only be pruned to achieve specific goals.

Council trees should be pruned to:

- Maintain public safety through the removal of structurally unsound limbs
- Maintain tree health through the removal of dead or diseased material
- Maintain prescribed clearances from services
- Maintain prescribed clearances from roads, footpaths and driveways
- Ensure traffic safety and visibility of road signs
- Maintain tree form through the removal of misshapen limbs
- Minimise future work requirements through the removal of potential problems at an early stage

Council trees should be pruned in accordance with the Australian Standard for Tree Pruning,

AS4373 *Pruning of Amenity Trees*. Pruning should be carried out on a programmed basis, with each tree being visited and pruned as necessary at least once every three years. In addition, individual trees may be pruned as necessary in response to customer requests from residents, Council staff or other parties.

Pruning of Council owned trees by anyone other than Council staff or Council engaged contractors are not permitted.

Trees should be pruned to maintain the following clearances:

- Power lines as per Electric Line Clearance Management Plan
- Over Footpaths 2.5m to the lowest foliage or limb
- Over Driveways 3.0m to the lowest foliage or limb
- Over Roadways 3.5m to the lowest foliage or limb at kerb and 4.5m over main trafficable Carriageway (excludes parking areas)
- Traffic Sight Lines vehicles approaching an intersection or a driveway, should be visible to a pedestrian or the driver of a vehicle from the following distances,

Speed Limit (Km/h)	Distance (m)
40	60
50	80
60	105
80	165

12.2 Property Lines

An ideal landscape is one in which street trees and trees in private property combine to form an interwoven canopy, which softens the hard lines of property boundaries, footpaths and roads. Countering this ideal is the legal right of property owners to remove limbs that grow into their properties from adjoining public land or properties.

Where a branch from a street tree is growing over private property and causing concern to the property owner, Council will seek to alleviate the problem through judicious pruning and negotiation with the property owner. Pruning back to the property boundary in a manner that will adversely affect the form of the tree should only be performed as a last resort.

Similarly, Council will generally only request cutting back of trees and shrubs from adjoining private properties in relation to retaining safe travel along footpaths and roads.

12.3 Shading

Trees will only be pruned to alleviate shading of private properties only if:

- The pruning will have a genuine long-lasting benefit; and
- The form of the tree will not be adversely affected.

12.4 Root Barrier Installation & Root Pruning

Root barriers are placed within the root zone to control the growth of root systems into locations where they cause safety or structural issues. Root barriers have their best effect when installed at the time of tree planting. The expense of placing root barriers will mean that they are only located where they are likely to be effective and the cost is warranted when weighed against the likelihood and future cost of damage. Retro fitting of root barriers is less effective, likely to be more extensive/ expensive and will usually be associated with root pruning, which incorporates other health issues for the tree. For these reasons, it is usually avoided for all but exceptional

circumstances.

Root pruning is generally only performed where a specific problem with nearby infrastructure exists. Root pruning cuts provide an entry point for disease. Major root pruning can also affect the overall stability of the tree. Issues of such a major nature that the tree requires removal are to follow the Tree Removal Process.

13. Environmental and Community Imperatives

Residents generally have an interest and often strong view on tree issues that are close to their properties. Consultation with residents can create a much better understanding of tree issues and a wider acceptance of the role and works undertaken by the Council. It should therefore be an integral part of tree management practices for the Northern Grampians Shire Council.

Large trees are the most effective sinks of old carbon, and their protection and further planting is important in overcoming greenhouse effects. Equally, planting of young trees is important to provide a method of trapping new carbon emissions. Recycling of materials from tree maintenance operations such as woodchip, leaves, timber can reduce cost and will reduce dependence upon landfill.

14. Pest and Disease Control

Trees are subject to a range of pests and diseases. The concept of eradication is not practical in most cases, many are part of a natural balanced system and harm minimisation should be seen as the best approach. Acceptable “thresholds” need to be determined for each problem.

Pest and disease do not recognise boundaries, so a co-operative approach required between land owners/managers. Where pests and diseases have the potential to affect Council’s tree asset or significant trees Council should assist residents and other land managers in being aware of potential problems, control options and determining the best control method.

15. Urban Nature Strip Management Guidelines

Nature strips play an important role in the aesthetic, environmental and social health of the municipality. Nature strips complement and enhance the streetscape by providing a green zone between carriageway, pedestrian footpath and the adjacent property.

15.1 What is a Nature Strip?

The term commonly refers to an area of land between the property boundary and the road kerb or edge of the road/back of table drain in an urban street. Generally, this land is managed by Council as part of the road reserve, but it’s often maintained by residents. The typical treatment is grass with street trees planted as per the Tree Management Plan.

15.2 Maintenance of Nature Strip

The nature strip is public land and forms part of the road reserve. While Council is the responsible authority, it does not undertake any renovation or maintenance (including mowing and watering) of nature strips unless the condition of the nature strip is a potential fire hazard, pedestrian trip or fall hazard or other hazardous condition, or interferes with the drain.

Council relies on the goodwill and established community expectations that residents will mow and / or otherwise maintain the nature strip to present a neat and tidy streetscape.

15.3 Acceptable Condition of Nature Strips

A nature strip should be maintained to a reasonable level of appearance. This usually translates to the regular mowing of grass throughout of the year, to keep the nature strip aesthetically pleasing and conforming to the overall streetscape of our urban areas.

15.4 Nature Strip Council Responsibility

Council will maintain nature strips adjoining or within,

- Public reserve areas such as parks or garden
- Council facilities such as public buildings, recreation grounds

Parks and Garden will maintain above mentioned nature strips as per the annual maintenance program. The annual maintenance program will be prepared as per adopted budget and available resources.

15.5 Failure to Maintain a Nature Strip

Where a resident fails to maintain a nature strip in accordance with these guidelines and:

- Interferes with drainage,
- The condition of the nature strip is a traffic or pedestrian hazard or,
- It does not provide appropriate pedestrian access or,
- It becomes a safety or fire hazard or,
- It becomes unsightly or impacts unfavourably & significantly on the local amenity.

Northern Grampian Shire will arrange for maintenances or reinstatement of the nature strip. However, the frequency of mowing a particular neglected nature strip is limited to a maximum of two per year. Normally this kind of mowing activity will be programmed prior to the declared fire season and Easter or Christmas to present a tidy town for visitors and the community.

15.6 Repair of Nature Strip Damage

Council and utility authorities that supply water, gas, electricity and telecommunications, may from time to time require access to the nature strip to perform maintenance work. The service authority is responsible for repair and reinstatement of the nature strip upon work completion. The nature strip is damaged because of building works on private property, the builder or property owner is responsible for repair and reinstatement of the nature strip.

15.7 Items Not Permitted on the Nature Strip

In addition to any item which an Authorised Officer of the Northern Grampians Shire Council considers may constitute a risk, items that must not be installed or which are not permitted as part of the nature strip include,

- Shredded plant products such as wood chips and bark
- Rocks or pebbles greater than 7 mm diameter
- Blue Stone pitchers, railway sleepers or retaining walls
- Hard surfaces such as concrete, pavers, asphalt or stepping stones are not permitted in residential areas.
- Irrigation systems
- Letter Boxes, which must be on private property

- Temporary or permanent electrical wiring, including tree lightings
- Metal stakes or star pickets

15.8 Alternative Nature Strip Treatment

15.8.1 Grassed Nature Strip

Grassed nature strips are the most common form of nature strip treatment throughout the Northern Grampians Shire Council. The use of suitable grasses provides a low maintenance treatment which requires periodic mowing to maintain.

15.8.2 Permeable Surface Treatment using fine gravel

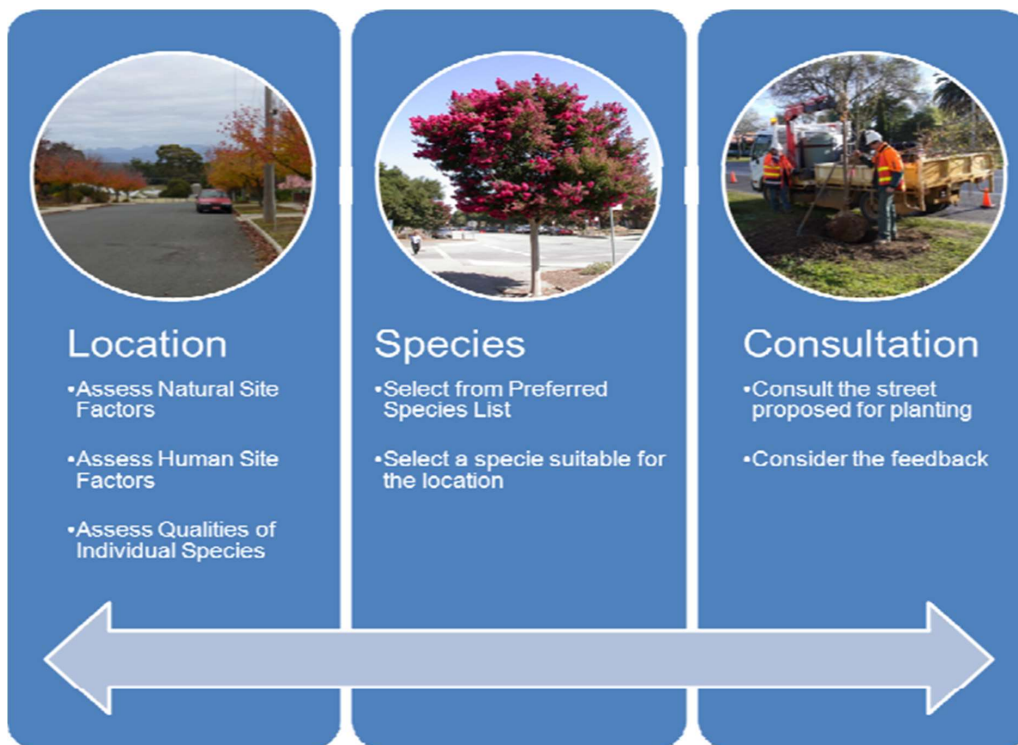
An alternative to grass is a permeable surface treatment such as granitic sand or stones less than 7mm. This is a low maintenance treatment however it will require periodic weeding and maintenance. Permeable surface treatment such as granitic sand will only be approved by Council Officers after consideration of Slip & trip risk associated with the site or adjoining footpath.

Please contact Council's Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, Parks and Gardens Team leader or delegate on 5358 8700 to discuss about the alternative options for the nature strip.

APPENDIX A - Tree Selection Process

The street tree species will be selected for planting depending on their suitability for the site. A number of factors will be considered before selecting a species for a particular site from the preferred species list (Appendix B).

Tree Selection Framework



Natural Site Factors	Descriptors
Soil Type	Soil condition of the site including base material depth and slope
Aspect	Sun exposure: North/South/East/West
Slope	Steep / Moderate / Minor
Rain Exposure	Rain Shadow: yes/no
Nearby remnant vegetation	Adjacent, nearby, not like to be affected
Water table	High, moderate, depth, deep water table
Space available to plant	Nature strip width suitable : yes/no
Human Site Factors	Descriptors
Nearby Services	Overhead power lines, in ground services, street furniture
Street Lighting	Impact upon: crossings, intersections and other facilities
Impervious Surface	Surrounding, nearby, no impact
Traffic Condition	Sight distance, road category

Heritage location	Recognised heritage area
Local Character	Contribution to the unique characteristics – environmental, visual & cultural – that define the identity of a place
Qualities of individual Species	Descriptors
Root/branch/fruit behaviour	Potential for damage and liability claims
Mature height/width	Height and width of the specie
Water Requirements	High/medium/low
Longevity	Long/medium/ short lived
Conformity of street aesthetic	Yes/no
Weather tolerance	Yes/no

APPENDIX B - Preferred Tree Species

These specie selections are for street tree plantings. For parks, reserves and other amenity landscaped areas, the species selection list is more varied. This preferred species list will be reviewed annually.

Species for under power lines

- Lagerstroemia "Souix" (crepe myrtle)
- Lagerstroemia "Tuscarora" (crepe myrtle)
- Callistemon species
- Prunus cerasifera "Nigra" (power lines)
- Eucalyptus leucoxylon "Euky Dwarf"
- Pyrus calleryana "Edgewood" (ornamental pear)
- Pyrus betulaefolia "South worth dancer" (ornamental pear)
- Eucalyptus torquata
- Magnolia Species

Species for larger nature strips (no powerlines)

- Pyrus calleryana "Bradford" (ornamental pear)
- Pyrus calleryana "Capitol" (ornamental pear)
- Pyrus calleryana "Chanticleer" (ornamental pear)
- Pyrus Ussuriensis (Manchurian pear)
- Ulmus parvifolia (chinese elm)
- Quercus species (oak) only in streets to maintain existing avenues of oaks
- Angophora costata
- Eucalyptus leucoxylon ssp megalocarpa
- Eucalyptus Caesar "Silver Princess"
- Corymbia maculata

- Pistacia Chinensis "Chinese Pistachio"

APPENDIX C - Tree Assessment Templates

This is conducted through Council's online Auditing program and we have to assessment templates.

- Single Urban tree assessment Image 1
- Area Urban tree assessment Image 2

Image 1

Single urban tree assessment

Single urban tree assessment

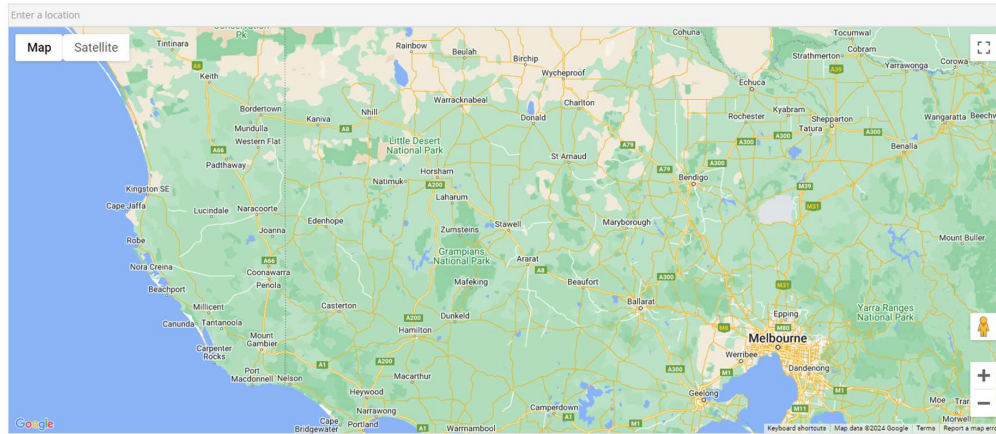
Merit request *

Is this inspection the result of a customer request via Merit CRM?

Yes No

General tree assessment

Location search *



Tree location

Latitude	Longitude	Number	Road Name	Suburb
----------	-----------	--------	-----------	--------

Location type *

- Residential nature strip
- CBD
- Carpark
- Facility surrounds
- Recreation reserve
- Road reserve
- Walking path
- Other

Operational zone *

- Stawell
- St Arnaud

Age *

- Juvenile
- Semi mature
- Mature

Tree vigor *

- Low
- Medium
- High

Remaining life *

- 0
- 0 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 10 +

Species *

Height *

Crown width *

Tree inspection

Crown *

- Something to report
- Nothing to report

Branches *

- Something to report
- Nothing to report

Trunk *

- Something to report
- Nothing to report

Roots *

- Something to report
- Nothing to report

Inspector details

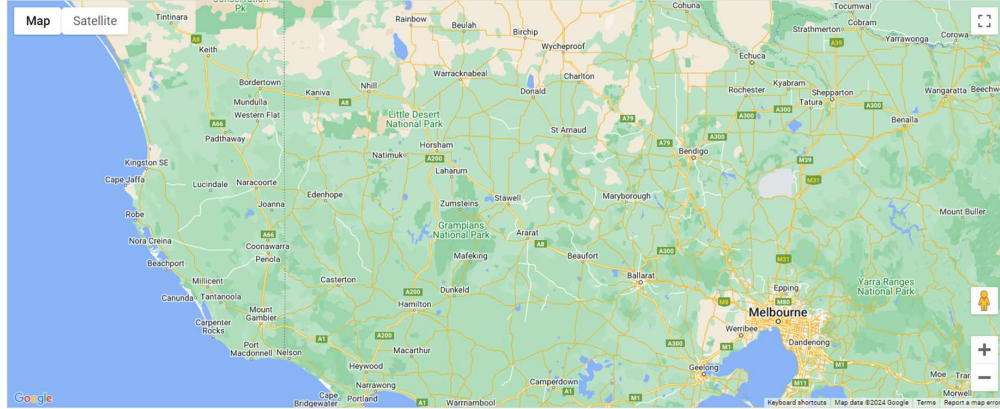
Inspector signature

Image 2 Area urban tree assessment

Area inspected *

Location *

Enter a location



List

Latitude	Longitude	Number	Road Name	Suburb
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Operational zone *

- Stawell
 St Arnaud

Are there any tree issues to report

- Yes No

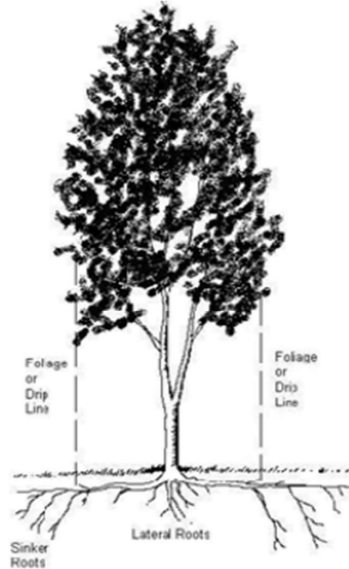
General comments *

Paragraph **B** *I*

Inspector signature *

APPENDIX D - Guidelines for Work near Council Trees

It is recommended that the following information become the basis for the data sheet given to the public as Guidelines for Work near Council Trees.



Depiction of Drip Line

- No tree root with a diameter greater than 60mm may be cut without the approval of the Parks & Gardens Team Leader.
- **NO TREE MAY BE REMOVED WITHOUT COUNCIL CONSENT.** The issuing of any other permit does not override this requirement.
- No tree may be pruned, or branches removed by anyone other than someone authorised by the Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, Parks and Gardens Team leader or delegate, except in an emergency, or with Council's written consent.
- The stockpiling of materials, debris and soil within the drip line IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. Materials and equipment to be used on site should be stored on site.

- No mechanical excavation may take place within the drip line of a Council tree. The drip line is defined as the outer most ends of the branches and foliage. (Refer to the Depiction) This distance from the trunk can be identified by (a) assessing the point where the long horizontal branches end and measuring back to the tree's trunk or (b) in the case of tall, narrow trees, the drip line is to be taken as one third the tree's height or 1.5 metres whichever is the greater.
- Installation of pipes shall be performed using boring techniques at a minimum depth of 600mm. Approval must first be obtained from Council's Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, Parks and Gardens Team leader or delegate. Where boring is not possible, excavation is to be by hand with care taken not to damage tree roots.
- No vehicles, plant or skips are to be placed/ parked on the nature strip without the express consent of Council's Local Laws Department.
- All works must be undertaken with caution in proximity to Council trees and any damage is to be promptly reported to the Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, Parks and Gardens Team leader or delegate.
- The individual proposing or implementing the work will be responsible for arranging a site meeting with Council's Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, Parks and Gardens Team leader or delegate to discuss any impact the work will have on Council trees.
- If you require any further information relating to these matters, please contact Council's Operations Manager, Coordinator Parks and Facility Maintenance, Parks and Gardens Team leader or delegate on 5358 8700.

A COPY OF THIS SHEET IS TO BE GIVEN TO THE ON SITE SUPERVISOR TO ENSURE ALL CONDITIONS ARE COMPLIED WITH. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL NOT REMOVE THE PERMIT HOLDER'S RESPONSIBILITY.

APPENDIX E - Tree Removal Checklist

Image 1

Single urban tree assessment

Single urban tree assessment

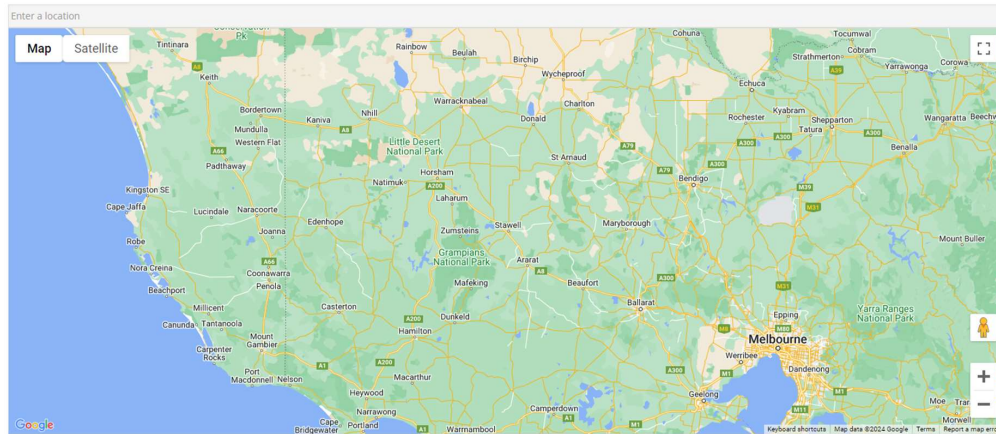
Merit request *

Is this inspection the result of a customer request via Merit CRM?

Yes No

General tree assessment

Location search *



Tree location

Latitude	Longitude	Number	Road Name	Suburb
----------	-----------	--------	-----------	--------

Location type *

- Residential nature strip
- CBD
- Carpark
- Facility surrounds
- Recreation reserve
- Road reserve
- Walking path
- Other

Operational zone *

- Stawell
- St Arnaud

Age *

- Juvenile
- Semi mature
- Mature

Tree vigor *

- Low
- Medium
- High

Remaining life *

- 0
- 0 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 10 +

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Species *

Height *

Crown width *

Tree inspection

Crown *

- Something to report
- Nothing to report

Branches *

- Something to report
- Nothing to report

Trunk *

- Something to report
- Nothing to report

Roots *

- Something to report
- Nothing to report

Inspector details

Inspector signature

APPENDIX F

[Road Management Plan \(ngshire.vic.gov.au\)](http://ngshire.vic.gov.au)

9.3.2. Waste and Recycling Exemption Policy

Author/Position: David George, Manager Community Safety and Amenity

Purpose

To seek Council approval for the updated *Waste and Recycling Exemption Policy*.

Summary

The *Waste and Recycling Exemption Policy* has been reviewed to ensure that it remains current and in line with Council's goals and processes.

Minor changes have been made to the policy to ensure it complies with current organisational and legislative requirements, including Gender Equality compliance.

No major changes have been made to the policy.

Recommendation

That Council approves the *Waste and Recycling Exemption Policy*.

RESOLUTION

That Council approves the *Waste and Recycling Exemption Policy*.

Moved: Cr Karen Hyslop

Seconded: Cr Trevor Gready

Carried

Background/Rationale

Council's *Waste and Recycling Exemption Policy* was first adopted in 2007 and is reviewed in line with the development of Council's waste and recycling collection contracts.

Council provides a range of waste services where fees and charges are applied and the policy recognises the exceptional circumstances which can grant an exemption from Council's waste and recycling services and associated fees, allowing customers to obtain their own waste and recycling collection services outside council's provided, while ensuring that waste and recycling is still being managed appropriately across the region.

The policy allows exemption from Council waste and recycling services or fees and charges as follows:

1. Commercial and Industrial Premises – exemption from Council's kerbside waste and recycling service
2. Properties exempt from Council rates – exemption from Council's kerbside waste and recycling service
3. Registered charities exemption from transfer station fees and charges

Conditions apply to each exemption and can be viewed in the policy.

Where exempt businesses or entities are found to be unlawfully disposing of waste, Council may cancel the exemption.

The policy will be monitored annually and will be reviewed in four years or prior to awarding the kerbside waste and recycling collection contract, to ensure it remains current and in line with Council's goals and processes.

Legislation, Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

Local Government Act 2020

Council Plan 2021-25 – Providing Sustainable Infrastructure

Options

Option 1

That Council approves the *Waste and Recycling Exemption Policy*. **[recommended]**

Option 2

That Council does not approve the *Waste and Recycling Exemption Policy*. **[not recommended]**

Implications

The subject matter has not raised any sustainability issues (economic, social, environmental or climate change) or heritage/cultural, amenity, human rights/gender equality, privacy, risk management, budgetary and asset management implications.

Procurement

No procurement requirements apply for the subject of this report.

Community Engagement

No community engagement was required for the subject of this report.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The subject matter of this report does not raise any implications regarding innovation or improvements.

Collaboration

No collaboration with other councils, governments or statutory bodies was required for the subject of this report.

Officer's Declaration of Interest

All officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

David George, Manager Community Safety and Amenity

In providing this advice as the author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Attachments

1. Waste and Recycling Exemption Policy [9.3.2.1 - 5 pages]

Waste and Recycling Exemption Policy



February 2024





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Waste and Recycling Exemption Policy



Council Policy

Responsible director

Director Infrastructure and Amenity

Responsible officer

Strategic Waste Projects Officer

Functional area

Environment and Community Safety

Date adopted by Council

Review date

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a formalised and consistent approach to granting an exemption from Council's waste and recycling services or associated fees and charges.

Background

Council's Waste and Recycling Exemption Policy was first adopted in 2007, to be reviewed following the development of Council's waste and recycling collection contracts that commenced 1 July 2013, and from every five years after depending on contract renewal schedule.

Council provides a range of waste services where fees and charges are applied. There is a demonstrated need for the existing policy to be amended to incorporate Council's kerbside and transfer station services.

Policy

Council's Waste Management Strategy aims to reduce waste to landfill and increase resource recovery,

- Diverting 50% of Food Organics and Garden Organics from landfill,
- Reducing per person waste by 5%,
- Reducing transfer station general waste by 15%, and
- Increasing recyclables by 20%.

This can only be achieved through consistent, robust, and dependable delivery of kerbside collection services. Services which are applied consistently across the community, ensuring customers know what to expect from their waste and recycling service and interact with the service favourably and consistently, allowing for efficient and effective management of waste and recycling. To do this Council has established areas within the municipality that compulsorily receive waste and recycling kerbside collection services. This policy allows for flexibility to customers to be exempt from these compulsory services, meeting customers preferences in exemption circumstances.

This policy recognises the exemption circumstances which can grant an exemption from Council's waste and recycling services and associated fees, allowing customers to obtain their own waste and recycling collection services outside council's provided, while ensuring that waste and recycling is still being managed appropriately across the region.

1. Commercial and Industrial Premises - exemption from Council's kerbside waste and recycling service

To be eligible for the exemption from Council's kerbside waste and/or recycling service and the associated charges, applicants must be operating a business and provide Council with current ABN, and business registration details. Exemptions will not be granted from Council's recycling service charge unless the applicant provides evidence that a recycling collection, which is separate from the business's waste collection, is being undertaken.

To be considered for an exemption under this policy, applicants must provide a copy of a current tax invoice for the waste and/or recycling collection from a commercial collection contractor identifying that they are providing a collection service (waste, recycling or both) to that premises. A tax invoice for the financial year that the premises makes their initial application for the exemption is required. Exemptions cannot be applied for retrospectively. The commercial collection must occur from the premises for which the exemption is being applied for.

Where an exemption is granted, applicants must return the Council supplied bin(s) to a Council Depot, by appointment, prior to any exemption being formally processed. Furthermore, applications for an exemption will only be commenced in the financial year in which they are lodged and exemptions cannot be obtained retrospectively.

Once an exemption is granted under this clause it will remain in place, and does not require annual updating, while the business management remains the same. The exemption is not transferable. Sale of the business, subletting, leasing or substantial change of business operations will void the existing exemption.

Council may cancel this exemption for administrative purposes, or for change of contractual commitments. Council must advise the exemption holder in writing of the cancellation three months in advance.

Business proprietors, who have been granted an exemption under this policy, that are identified as unlawfully disposing of the business waste, through public waste bins, dumping waste or using bins not associated to the business will have their exemption cancelled. These actions will be considered when any further application for exemption under this policy is made.

2. Properties exempt from Council rates – exemption from Council's kerbside waste and recycling service

To be eligible for an exemption under this policy the property must be classified by Council as a property that is exempt from Council rates (previously identified as non-rateable properties). Council has identified a number of properties across the municipality that are exempt from paying Council rates. These properties are generally identified as properties owned or operated by community groups, associations or organisations that have a direct community benefit.

To be considered for an exemption under this policy, applicants must provide a statutory declaration from the organisation involved stating that the waste and recyclable materials will be managed by a commercial contractor or responsibly by the applicant. The exemption is only applicable for the property listed on the application and must be a property identified by Council as being exempt from Council rates. The application will be valid for the duration of kerbside waste and recycling collection contract and is not transferable to other properties or parties.

3. Registered Charities exemption from transfer station fees and charges

To be eligible for an exemption under this policy an organisation must be registered with the Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission (ACNC) as a charity. Only charities conducting community clean up events, in municipal places for the benefit of the community, are able to apply for the exemption from payment of transfer station gate fees, when depositing waste and material collected as part of the community clean up event.

A municipal place means a place, which is owned or occupied by the Council, or a place, including roads, where the care and management has been vested in Council, or any other land where the owner or manager has obtained approval from Council for the *General Local Law 2022* or part thereof to be applicable to that land, and the place is open to, or accessible to members of the public regardless of whether or not a fee is payable to enter.

Only windblown litter, which is defined as small items of litter that may have travelled by the wind, such as food and beverage containers, paper, cardboard, bottles, cans, and wrappers can be collected and deposited at the transfer station at no cost. Larger household, business and farm items such as but not limited to scrap metal, furniture, white goods and tyres are not included as part of the exemption.

The type and location of these larger items should be either reported to Council by calling 03 5358 8700 or contacting the appropriate land manager.

To be considered for an exemption under this policy applications for an exemption from transfer station gate fees must be made in writing to Council two weeks prior to the event. Exemptions cannot be obtained retrospectively.

Charities conducting a commercial/charitable business such as an opportunity shop, are not able to claim the exemption from transfer station fees and charges for waste, recyclable and reuse materials that are generated, directly or indirectly, as a result of the business operations.

Council Plan Objective/Strategy

The policy is consistent with the Council Plan and we will implement a waste reduction action plan and promote better use and re-use of valuable resources by:

- Implementing measures to reduce waste to landfill
- Implementing the Waste Action Plan 2020-30
- Promoting the Container Deposit Scheme

Legislation and Standards

Local Government Act 1989, Part 8 Rates and Charges on Rateable Land

Responsibilities

The responsible Director Infrastructure and Amenities. The Waste Officer is responsible for the policy's implementation.

Stakeholders

This policy relates to commercial and industrial properties, registered charities within the municipality, and properties where Council has determined not to apply rates due to the nature of the organisation using the property.

Council officers are responsible for the implementation and management of policy.

Review

Applications for the exemption will be processed throughout the life of the policy.

The policy will be monitored annually and will be reviewed in 4 years or prior to awarding the kerbside waste and recycling collection contract, to ensure it remains current and in line with Council's goals and processes.

Communication and implementation

The policy is available on the council's website and copies can be provided by contacting council on 03 5358 8700.

The policy will be promoted to eligible properties through the media and by officers of the Business Services team, Waste Officer and Rates Officers.

References

Circular Economy Vision 2020-30

Council staff able to assist with the understanding of the policy and its implementation:

- Waste Officer
- Waste and Emergency Services Officer
- Rates Officers
- Coordinator Environment and Community Safety
- Manager Community Safety and Amenity

Privacy and Data Protection compliance

All Council policies must consider the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and the *Victorian Protective Data Security (VPDSS) Framework* which adopts a risk-based approach to protective data security. Policies must include, where relevant, identified security risks and governance arrangements in place to protect security across the domains of information, personnel, ICT and physical.

Gender Equality compliance

Council has considered if gender equality principles, workplace gender equality of rights, opportunities, responsibilities and outcomes and the promotion of gender equality in the development of this policy. These have been determined to be not relevant to this policy.

Charter of Human Rights compliance

It is considered that this policy does not impact on any human rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights & Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Definitions

Charity: for the purpose of this policy refers to an organisation registered with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) as a charity.

Property exempt from Council rates- a property where Council has determined not to apply rates due to the nature of the organisation using the property (previously referred to as Non rateable property)

Review history

Date	Review details	Action
2 June 2014	Report to Council	Adopted
5 September 2016	Report to Council	Adopted
1 July 2019	Report to Council	Adopted

9.3.3. Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funds Phase 4 - Tranche 2 Projects Approval

Author/Position: Jeevan Pinto, Manager Infrastructure

Purpose

To designate projects for the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4.

Summary

The Federal Government announced a further extension to the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program for Phase 4. Phase 4 provides a further \$750 million to the program. The federal funding is aimed to stimulate growth, create jobs and deliver benefits to local communities.

Eligible local road projects are projects that involve the construction or maintenance of roads managed by local governments. Eligible community infrastructure projects are projects that involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements to council-owned assets that are generally accessible to the public.

Under the program, Northern Grampians Shire Council is eligible for \$2,929,711 worth of projects to be physically completed by June 2025.

In September 2023, Tranche 1 of Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Phase 4 funding, totalling \$2,235,036, was allocated to various projects. However, a balance of \$694,675 remained due to the necessity of conducting additional design and scoping for potential projects. Following extensive deliberation, Council staff have now shortlisted projects for Tranche 2. These projects are slated for completion by June 2025 and have undergone rigorous assessment regarding design, scope, and prioritisation. This next phase reflects a strategic approach to resource allocation, ensuring that selected projects align closely with community needs and long-term development goals.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the proposed projects for the federally funded Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4 Tranche 2:

- North Park Stawell Traffic Treatment
- North Park Stawell Playground
- Stawell Airport Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) System
- Lake Road Roundabout renewal
- Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre Outdoor Pool Covers
- Market Square Stage 4 - Restrooms

RESOLUTION

That Council adopts the proposed projects for the federally funded Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4 Tranche 2:

- North Park Stawell Traffic Treatment
- North Park Stawell Playground
- Stawell Airport Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) System
- Lake Road Roundabout renewal
- Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre Outdoor Pool Covers
- Market Square Stage 4 - Restrooms

Moved: Cr Eddy Ostarcevic

Seconded: Cr Karen Hyslop

Carried

Background/Rationale

The Federal Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts, announced Phase 4 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. The program is designed to further support local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia, supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies. This funding is aimed to stimulate growth and create jobs in local communities.

Phase 4 provides a further \$750 million to the program and is provided in two allocations:

- Part A - \$500 million to councils across Australia to spend on local roads and community infrastructure projects.
- Part B - \$250 million to rural councils across Australia to be spent exclusively on roads.

Including Phase 4, the total Australian Government investment in the program is \$3.2 billion.

Under Phase 4, Northern Grampians Shire Council's allocation is \$2,929,711. Including Phase 4, the total funding Northern Grampians Shire Council is set to receive is \$10.042 million from the LRCI program.

Phase 4 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure opened on 1 July 2023 and project nominations are open. Projects are expected to be complete by the 30 June 2025.

The program supports a broad range of eligible projects so councils can fund the infrastructure that they need, support businesses, and create employment opportunities across their communities.

The formula used to determine the Phase 4 allocations comprises of two parts. Part A allocation was calculated using the existing Local Roads and Community Infrastructure formula (based on the Roads to Recovery Program (R2R) and the local road component of the Financial Assistance Grants Program). Part B allocation used the same formula excluding urban areas as identified on the Australian Classification of Local Governments (ACLG).

Co-contributions are not required under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, although, Council may choose to invest its own funds on eligible projects where necessary.

Eligible local road projects are projects that involve the construction or maintenance of roads managed by local governments.

This could include projects involving any of the following associated with a road:

- traffic signs
- traffic control equipment
- street lighting equipment
- a bridge or tunnel
- a facility off the road used by heavy vehicles in connection with travel on the road (for example, a rest area or weigh station)
- facilities off the road that support the visitor economy
- road and footpath maintenance, where additional to normal capital works schedules

Eligible community infrastructure projects are projects that involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements to Council owned assets (including natural assets) that are generally accessible to the public. These projects must deliver benefits to the community, such as improved accessibility, visual amenity, and/or safety.

Examples of eligible works include:

- Closed Circuit TV (CCTV)
- bicycle and walking paths
- painting or improvements to community facilities
- repairing and replacing fencing
- improved accessibility of community facilities and areas

- landscaping improvements, such as tree planting and beautification of roundabouts
- picnic shelters or barbeque facilities at community parks
- playgrounds and skate parks (including all ability playgrounds)
- noise and vibration mitigation measures
- off-road car parks (such as those at sporting grounds or parks)

Projects must be additional to Council's 2023/24 work plan. Projects brought forward from post 2023/24 work plans will be considered additional.

Projects under Phase 1 were adopted in August 2020 and have subsequently been completed. Phase 1 projects included:

- Lord Nelson Park Multipurpose Sporting Facility Redevelopment, Roadworks
- Stawell Park Precinct Program, Perimeter Fencing
- Stawell Park Precinct Program, Hard Surface Surrounds
- St Arnaud Civic Precinct, Market Square - Junior Play Area
- St Arnaud Civic Precinct, Market Square - Nature Play
- Halls Gap Action Plan, Heath Street Upgrades
- Revitalising St Arnaud to increase Public Activity, Streetscape
- Revitalising St Arnaud to increase Public Activity, Road Rehabilitation

Projects under Phase 2 were adopted in February 2021 and have subsequently been completed. Phase 2 projects included:

- St Arnaud Tennis Club
- North Park Building Surrounds
- Landsborough Road Bridge Upgrade
- Willaring Road Culvert
- Sloane Street Stawell Roundabout Rehabilitation
- Grampians Road Halls Gap Pedestrian Crossing
- Footpath works on Newton and Bowen Street
- Drainage works on Patrick Street and McLaughlin Street
- Three final road sealing projects

Projects under Phase 3 were adopted in June 2021 and reviewed in June 2022. Most projects are complete with exception to the Central Park Female Friendly changeroom project. Phase 3 projects included:

- Market Square Performance Shelter
- Lord Nelson Park Oval Lighting
- North Park Skate Park
- Central Park Female Friendly Changerooms
- Stawell Library Refurbishment
- Gertrude Street Kerb and Channel

Projects under Phase 4 Tranche 1 were adopted in September 2023 and are in the delivery phase. The projects adopted include:

- Navarre Recreation Reserve Facility Upgrades
- Street Lighting LED Conversion
- Lord Nelson Park (former changeroom site) Drainage and Pedestrian Improvements
- Stawell Town Hall Stage Accessibility Lift
- Fenwick Street, Deep Lead Road Sealing
- Wallaloo East Road Seal Widening
- Kellys Beach Road, Lake Fyans Road Sealing
- Clyde Street, St Arnaud Footpath
- Raglan Street, St Arnaud Footpath
- Smith Street, Stawell Footpath
- Sundial Avenue and Bellfield Crescent, Halls Gap Kerb and Channel Renewal
- McLennan Street, Marnoo Drainage

Projects for Phase 4 Tranche 2, were shortlisted from Council's draft 10 Year Capital Program, considering the eligibility criteria and capacity to deliver within the set timeframes.

The proposed projects for the federally funded Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4 Tranche 2 are:

- North Park Stawell Traffic Treatment
- North Park Stawell Playground
- Stawell Airport Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) System
- Lake Road Roundabout renewal
- Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre Outdoor Pool Covers
- Market Square Stage 4 - Restrooms

The proposed projects and the delivery of them are in addition to projects already proposed for 2023/24 and 2024/25 Council Budget. Therefore, additional project management provisions unallocated within budget have been considered and allowed for within the proposed project allocation.

Adopting the proposed projects will enable Council officers to submit a works schedule in accordance with the Grant Agreement and commence project delivery.

Legislation, Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

Local Government Act 2020

Council Plan 2021-25 – Providing Sustainable Infrastructure

Asset Plan 2022-32

Lord Nelson Park Precinct Plan 2014

North Park Master Plan 2022

Stawell Airport Master Plan 2014

Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre Master Plan

Options

Option 1

That Council adopts the proposed projects for the federally funded Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4 Tranche 2:

- North Park Stawell Traffic Treatment
- North Park Stawell Playground
- Stawell Airport Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) System
- Lake Road Roundabout renewal
- Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre Outdoor Pool Covers
- Market Square Stage 4 - Restrooms **[recommended]**

Option 2

That Council adopts an alternative list of projects for the federally funded Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4 Tranche 2. **[not recommended]**

Implications

The subject matter has not raised any sustainability issues (economic, social, environmental or climate change) or heritage/cultural, amenity, human rights/gender equality, privacy, risk management, budgetary and asset management implications.

Procurement

No procurement requirements apply to this report.

Community Engagement

Projects considered within this report all stem from previous Council planning and strategic work which have undergone extensive community engagement in their creation. Projects are well supported in accordance with Council Objectives.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Each individual project creates opportunities for innovative thinking and room for improvement in its delivery.

Collaboration

Council officers coordinated with the funding body to confirm the eligibility of projects and confirmed funding partnerships in this report's development.

Officer's Declaration of Interest

All officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Jeevan Pinto, Manager Infrastructure

In providing this advice as the author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Attachments

Nil

9.4. Improve Organisational Effectiveness

9.4.1. Event Policy

Author/Position: Jana Turkalj, Events Officer

Purpose

For Council to adopt the reviewed *Event Policy*.

Summary

On 6 September 2021 Council adopted the current *Event Policy* and on 30 November 2023, the Northern Grampians Shire Council's Event Strategy 2023-33.

The proposed *Event Policy* incorporates three key strategic categories that will be focused on (as reflected in the Event Strategy 2023-33):

1. Mature major events – existing events that are commercially viable for the foreseeable future that Council could partner with.
2. Nascent events – events in their early years (less than 5 years old) that Council could help nurture.
3. Community events – for example race days, agriculture shows (and more) that Council could support.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the reviewed *Event Policy*.

RESOLUTION

That Council adopts the reviewed *Event Policy*, subject to the inclusion of new events in one of the three tranches recommended in the policy.

Moved: Cr Eddy Ostarcevic

Seconded: Cr Kevin Erwin

Carried

Background/Rationale

The *Event Policy* has been reviewed and updated to now incorporate the Event Strategy, particularly focussing on the type of events Council will be targeting to partner with, nurture and support with the underlying themes being – 1. improving connectivity and 2. economic benefit.

Legislation, Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

Gender Equality Act 2020

Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

Environmental Protection Act 1970

Local Government Act 1989

Local Government Act 2020

Food Act 1984

Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Liquor Control Reform Act 1998

Transport Act 1983

Building Act 1993

Building Regulations 2018

Road Management Act 2004

Northern Grampians Shire Council General Local Law 2022

Council Plan 2021-25 – Improve Organisational Effectiveness

Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan 2021-31

Event Strategy 2023-33

Options

Option 1

That Council adopts the reviewed *Event Policy*. **[recommended]**

Option 2

That Council does not adopt the reviewed *Event Policy*. **[not recommended]**

Implications

Any identified sustainability issues (economic, social, environmental or climate change) or heritage/cultural, amenity, human rights/gender equality, privacy, risk management, budgetary and asset management implications have been addressed in this report.

Procurement

Nil

Community Engagement

No community engagement was required for this report.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Council must pursue innovation and continuous improvement; state whether the subject matter of the report raises any innovation or improvements.

Collaboration

No collaboration with other councils, governments or statutory bodies was required for the subject of this report.

Officer's Declaration of Interest

All officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Jana Turkalj, Events Officer.

In providing this advice as the author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Attachments

1. Event Policy [9.4.1.1 - 7 pages]

Event Policy



May 2024



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Event Policy



Council Policy

Responsible director	Director Strategy Prosperity and Engagement
Responsible officer	Events Officer
Functional area	Economic Development and Community Futures
Date adopted by Council	May 2024
Review date	May 2028

Purpose

This policy provides event organisers, community groups and Council staff with an understanding of Northern Grampians Shire Council's direction and objectives regarding the delivery and support of community, tourism and Council events. The policy aims to clarify the roles and responsibilities of all parties and ensure events held within the Shire are compliant with council's requirements.

Background

The Event Policy provides the framework for how council will support and deliver events within the Shire. This policy has been reviewed and updated following the adoption of the Northern Grampians Shire Council's *Event Strategy 2023-33*.

Scope

This policy applies to commercial and not-for-profit event organisers who stage events within the Northern Grampians Shire for the enjoyment of the community and to grow the visitor offering.

Council recognises the need for safe and successful events and seeks to support groups and organisations to develop and deliver a range of events.

Policy Objective

Council recognises the role events play in uplifting our community's economic wellbeing and quality of life within our community. The following strategic objectives will guide the future planning, development and management of events:

Objective 1: Community safety and capacity building

- Facilitate and work with organisers to ensure events are compliant with council and other authorities requirements for delivering community events
- Plan and deliver a program of event planning tools and resources that respond to identified needs of local event organisers that educates and empowers the community to run and deliver a range of quality community events that are safe and sustainable.

Objective 2: Community and economic benefit

Encourage and support community events that:

- build community capacity
- foster local talent and recognises artistic and cultural strengths within the municipality
- attract youth and supports cultural diversity.

Provide community connection, access for all, inclusion, and improving mental wellbeing

- increase participation in and collaboration of the arts in the Northern Grampians Shire
- build an inclusive creative community through participation
- activate town centres and rural communities
- support existing and new business and industry networks to enhance business innovation, creativity, best practice, collaborations and partnerships.

Objective 3: Visitation and economic impact

Attract and support events that:

- ensure our visitor economy offers diverse, unique, high quality and enriching experiences, that are dispersed across Northern Grampians Shire that play to, our standout strengths
- promote Northern Grampians Shire as an iconic destination
- increase visitor length of stay and local spend
- seek to partner with leading organisations and professional event managers that can deliver social, economic or environmental benefits to the community through events or partnerships
- maintain and build on the mix of wine and food, art, cultural, sporting and entertainment events that celebrate local heritage whilst responding to growth and change across the Shire.
- protects, enhances and celebrates our natural, cultural and heritage assets.

Objective 4: Professional and Best Practice Event Management

- Ensure best practice standards are identified and supported by community event organisers.
- Ensure best practices and internal processes are identified and met for council run events.

Council's Role

The role of Council in the delivery and support of events is identified by:

Event Support for Community and Tourism Events

- Provide in-kind support via advice, information and planning tools to community groups and event organisers.
- Provide financial support through council's annual event grants programs and sponsorship opportunities.
- Provide support and guidance to event organisers to achieve compliance and legislative requirements.
- Marketing and promotional support may be provided in the way of but not limited to listing an event on council's event calendar.

Event Attraction

Council will be proactive and strategic in its approach to attract tourism events to the Shire that drive increased visitation from outside the region that ultimately leads to economic growth and experiences that offer social, cultural and commercial benefits to the community.

There will be focus in three event categories -

1. Mature major events – existing events that are commercially viable for the foreseeable future that Council could partner with.
2. Nascent events – events in their early years (less than five years old) that Council could help nurture.

3. Community events – for example race days, agriculture shows (and more) that Council could support.

Council Managed Events

From time to time, council may look to organise, promote and manage the operational aspects of events held within the Shire, such as civic ceremonies or large tourism events with substantial economic benefit to the community.

Compliance

Council will support, to the greatest extent possible the coordination and facilitation of permits and approvals, for events triggered under the Northern Grampians Planning Scheme, *Building Act 1993* and the Northern Grampians Shire Council *General Local Law 2022*, for example. Event organisers will be supported in determining if the event triggers permits or approvals and if so, Council will support where possible, event organisers in achieving permit and approval conditions. For example, Council may support events by way of traffic signage and waste management services.

All events held within the Northern Grampians Shire are strongly encouraged to operate under best practice event management.

- As defined under the Northern Grampians Shire Council's *General Local Law 2022* a Local Laws Approval Application form is required for any event:
 - taking place on council owned or council managed land and facilities.
 - that has an impact on the broader community and/or the environment e.g. water usage, transport, noise, food and beverage and energy.
 - that has received grants or sponsorship from the Council.

Event organisers must register their event with council through council's event application process as defined under the Northern Grampians Shire Council's *General Local Law 2022*. Based on the nature and complexity of the event, council will advise on the degree of required documents and compliance factors.

Event organisers are required to submit an event application that identifies the major components of their event, including but not limited to:

1. Event details, including venue, date, time
2. Site Map
3. Waste Management Plan
4. Emergency Management Plan
5. Risk Assessment
6. Operations Plan
7. Building Permit
8. Food Permit
9. Liquor Licence and a Liquor Consumption in a Public Place Permit (where alcohol will be consumed or provided on council land or in a council facility)
10. Traffic Management
11. Evidence of insurance held - Public Liability Insurance (of at least \$20 million) for the duration of the event is a must

Should council have concerns with the organiser's event management capability or feels that it does not reflect council's objectives and/or community needs, council reserves the right to refuse to promote the event.

Legislation, Standards and Compliance

Gender Equality Act 2020

Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

Environmental Protection Act 1970

Local Government Act 1989

Local Government Act 2020

Food Act 1984

Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Liquor Control Reform Act 1998

Transport Act 1983

Building Act 1993

Building Regulations 2018

Road Management Act 2004

Northern Grampians Shire Council General Local Law 2022

Responsibilities

The functional area of Economic Development is responsible for ensuring that the Event Policy is implemented, and the Events Officer is responsible for the policy to be reviewed every two years.

Review

Regular review of this policy is necessary and to be undertaken every two years to ensure that it remains current with the council's goals, processes, aims and requirements, a means by which to reduce Council's exposure to risk. Triggers for an earlier assessment include legislative changes and the introduction of new systems or procedures.

Communication and implementation

This policy will be communicated to staff through the Electronic Document Records Management System and referred to in induction and/or training. The policy will be available to the community on the Council's website.

References

Northern Grampians Shire Council Community Vision 2041

Northern Grampians Shire Council Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan 2021-31

Northern Grampians Shire Council Art and Culture Strategy 2020-24

Northern Grampians Shire Council Events Strategy 2023-33

Privacy and Data Protection compliance

This policy has considered the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and the *Victorian Protective Data Security (VPDSS) Framework*, which adopts a risk-based approach to protective data security.

Gender Equality Act 2020

Councils must consider where relevant gender equality principles, workplace gender equality of rights, opportunities, responsibilities and outcomes and the promotion of gender equality in the policies, programs and services it delivers.

Charter of Human Rights compliance

It is considered that this policy does not impact on any [human rights](#) identified in the *Charter of Human Rights & Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Definitions

Policy	provide support and guidance to event organisers and define council's support role for events held with the Northern Grampians Shire.
Council	means the Northern Grampians Shire Council (NGSC), being a body corporate constituted as a municipal Council under the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> .
Event	means a gathering of people, for a one off or infrequent occurrence to be held within the Northern Grampians Shire on public land (outdoors) or public buildings (indoors) where people gather for a specific purpose and time with more people than are generally found in that location. Examples include but are not limited to festivals, shows, sporting events, exhibitions, markets, entertainment, conferences, civic and religious ceremonies.
Event Approval Application	means the application required by all event organisers planning an event in NGS that may be held on public land or buildings or other land where the event requires permit approval process. Successful completion of the event application is required for the event to be granted an Event Permit under the <i>Northern Grampians Shire Council General Local Law 2022</i> .
Permit	means an official document providing approval/authorisation to hold an event including but not limited to: Planning permit/place of public entertainment (POPE) Permit or temporary food premises permit Liquor consumption in a Public Place Event Permit under council's <i>General Local Law 2022</i> for events held on municipal land

Event Types

Community Event	means an event managed and delivered by a not-for-profit organisation for the purpose of education, fundraising, social, fun and entertainment value, civic and ceremonial events for the local community, but may attract patrons from outside the region. These events are generally run by volunteers.
Council Run Event	means an event that forms part of an annual events program run by council and is predominately for the Northern Grampians Shire community; however, it can include events that also cater for a greater level of outside (non-resident) visitors. These events may also partner with a third party that may/may not have received in-kind or financial support from the council through funding programs.
Private Event	means an event that is either ticketed or targeted to a selected audience or is attended by invitation only and may/or may not be held on council land/building.

Event Policy

Tourism Event

means an event held within the Northern Grampians Shire that attracts over 500 patrons from outside Northern Grampians. These have a minimum of 500 forecast participants per day and may be multi-day events involving several locations.

Review history

Date	Review details	Action
27 July 2021	Policy drafted updated, schedule to presented to ELT	
6 September 2021	Reported to Council for adoption	
April 2024	Updated following the adoption of the Event Strategy 2023-33	

9.4.2. S6 Instrument of Delegation Update

Author/Position: Kerrie Gibson, Acting Coordinator Governance

Purpose

That Council resolves to adopt the updated S6 Instrument of Delegation.

Summary

To consider recent changes made to the S6 Instrument of Delegation, which allows Council to delegate its powers and duties to members of Council staff.

Recommendation

S6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to members of Council staff

In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation, Council resolves that:

1. There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that instrument.
2. The instrument comes into force immediately the instrument is signed.
3. On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to members of Council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked.
4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instrument must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

RESOLUTION

S6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to members of Council staff

In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation, Council resolves that:

1. There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that instrument.
2. The instrument comes into force immediately the instrument is signed.
3. On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to members of Council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked.
4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instrument must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

Moved: Cr Kevin Erwin

Seconded: Cr Trevor Gready

Carried

Background/Rationale

Council is required to keep all delegations and authorisations up to date. The S6 Instrument of Delegation has recently been updated and requires Council's approval for the following changes:

S6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to Members of Council Staff

1. The inclusion of the new position title – Director Corporate Services. This position has replaced the Director Corporate and Community Services title in various powers provided under the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003 and Cemeteries and Crematoria Regulations 2015*.
2. The inclusion of the new position title – Senior Community Safety Officer. This position has replaced the Team Leader Community Safety position title in the delegation of provision s 41A(1) under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

The amendments are noted in red throughout the attached S6 Instrument of Delegation, which is attached to the report.

Legislation, Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

Local Government Act 2020

Council Plan 2021-25 – Improve Organisational Effectiveness

Options

Option 1

That Council agrees to the delegation of powers as set out in the S6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to Members of Council Staff and authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign the Instrument.

[recommended]

Option 2

That Council rejects the recommendation and seeks additional information. **[not recommended]**

Implications

The subject matter has not raised any sustainability issues (economic, social, environmental or climate change) or heritage/cultural, amenity, human rights/gender equality, privacy, risk management, budgetary and asset management implications.

Procurement

No procurement requirements apply for the subject of this report.

Community Engagement

No community engagement was required for the subject of this report.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The subject matter of this report does not raise any implications regarding innovation or improvements.

Collaboration

No collaboration with other councils, governments, or statutory bodies was required for the subject of this report.

Officer's Declaration of Interest

All officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Kerrie Gibson, Acting Coordinator Governance

In providing this advice as the author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Attachments

1. S 6 Instrument of Delegation Council to members of staff [9.4.2.1 - 71 pages]

S6 Instrument of Delegation – Members of Staff

Northern Grampians Shire Council

Instrument of Delegation

to

Members of Council Staff

Instrument of Delegation

In exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached Schedule, the Council:

1. delegates each duty and/or function and/or power described in column 1 of the Schedule (and summarised in column 2 of the Schedule) to the member of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the office or position described opposite each such duty and/or function and/or power in column 3 of the Schedule;
2. records that references in the Schedule are as follows:

"BI" means	: Building Inspector
"CTO" means	: Cemetery Trust Officer
"CTS" means	: Cemetery Trust Secretariat
"CECS" means	: Coordinator Environment and Community Safety
"CEO" means	: Chief Executive Officer
"CES" means	: Coordinator Engineering Services
"CSD" means	: Coordinator Sustainable Development
"EHO" means	: Environmental Health Officer
"DCS" means	: Director Corporate Services
"DIA" means	: Director Infrastructure and Amenity
"DSPE" means	: Director Strategy, Prosperity and Engagement
"GE" means	: Graduate Engineer
"IE" means	: Infrastructure Engineer
"MBS" means	: Municipal Building Surveyor
"MCSA" means	: Manager Community Safety and Amenity
"MG" means	: Manager Governance
"MI" means	: Manager Infrastructure
"MO" means	: Manager Operations
"P" means	: Strategic Planner and Statutory Planning Officer
"PSP" means	: Principal Statutory Planner
"TLPS" means	: Team Leader Permit Support
"SCSO" means	: Senior Community Safety Officer

3. declares that:
 - 3.1 this Instrument of Delegation is authorised by "**a resolution**" of Council passed on 4 March 2024; and
 - 3.2 the delegation:
 - 3.2.1 comes into force immediately after Mayor and Chief Executive Officer signatures are applied;
 - 3.2.2 remains in force until varied or revoked;
 - 3.2.3 is subject to any conditions and limitations set out in sub-paragraph 3.3, and the Schedule; and
 - 3.2.4 must be exercised in accordance with any guidelines or policies which Council from time to time adopts; and
 - 3.3 the delegate must not determine the issue, take the action or do the act or thing:
 - 3.3.1 if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action or thing which Council has previously designated as an issue, action, act or thing which must be the subject of a Resolution of Council;
 - 3.3.2 if the determining of the issue, taking of the action or doing of the act or thing would or would be likely to involve a decision which is inconsistent with a
 - (a) policy; or

(b) strategy

adopted by Council;

3.3.3 if the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing cannot be the subject of a lawful delegation; or

3.3.4 the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing is already the subject of an exclusive delegation to another member of Council staff or delegated committee.

.....

Mayor/Councillor

.....

Chief Executive Officer/Senior Officer

.....

Date

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CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA ACT 2003

[##The provisions of this Act apply to Council appointed as a cemetery trust under s 5 of this Act, and also apply to Council appointed to manage a public cemetery under s 8(1)(a)(ii) as though it were a cemetery trust (see s 53)

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
PROVISION	THINGS DELEGATED	DELEGATE	CONDITIONS & LIMITATIONS
s 8(1)(a)(ii)	Power to manage one or more public cemeteries	CEO, DCS, MG	
s 12(1)	Function to properly and efficiently manage and maintain each public cemetery for which responsible and carry out any other function conferred under this Act	CEO, DCS, MG	Where Council is a Class B cemetery trust
s 12(2)	Duty to have regard to the matters set out in paragraphs (a)-(c) in exercising its functions	CEO, DCS, MG	Where Council is a Class B cemetery trust
s 12A(1)	Function to do the activities set out in paragraphs (a) – (n)	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 12A(2)	Duty to have regard to matters set out in paragraphs (a)-(e) in exercising its functions	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 13	Duty to do anything necessary or convenient to enable it to carry out its functions	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 14	Power to manage multiple public cemeteries as if they are one cemetery	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 15(4)	Duty to keep records of delegations	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 17(1)	Power to employ any persons necessary	CEO, DCS	
s 17(2)	Power to engage any professional, technical or other assistance considered necessary	CEO, DCS, MG	
s 17(3)	Power to determine the terms and conditions of employment or engagement	CEO, DCS	Subject to any guidelines or directions of the Secretary
s 18(3)	Duty to comply with a direction from the Secretary	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	

s 18B(1) & (2)	Duty to establish governance committees within 12 months of becoming a Class A cemetery trust and power to establish other governance committees from time to time	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18C	Power to determine the membership of the governance committee	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18D	Power to determine procedure of governance committee	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18D(1)(a)	Duty to appoint community advisory committee for the purpose of liaising with communities	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18D(1)(b)	Power to appoint any additional community advisory committees	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18D(2)	Duty to establish a community advisory committee under s 18D(1)(a) within 12 months of becoming a Class A cemetery trust.	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18D(3)	Duty to include a report on the activities of the community advisory committees in its report of operations under Part 7 of the Financial Management Act 1994	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18F(2)	Duty to give preference to a person who is not a funeral director of a stonemason (or a similar position) when appointing a person to a community advisory committee	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18H(1)	Duty to hold an annual meeting before 30 December in each calendar year	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18I	Duty to publish a public notice of annual meeting in a newspaper, a reasonable time before the date of the annual meeting	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18J	Duty to provide leadership, assistance and advice in relation to operational and governance matters relating to cemeteries (including the matters set out in s 18J(2))	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18L(1)	Duty to employ a person as the chief executive officer (by whatever title called) of the Class A cemetery trust	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18N(1)	Duty to prepare an annual plan for each financial year that specifies the items set out in paragraphs (a)-(d)	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18N(3)	Duty to give a copy of the proposed annual plan to the Secretary on or before 30 September each year for the Secretary's approval	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust

s 18N(5)	Duty to make amendments as required by the Secretary and deliver the completed plan to the Secretary within 3 months	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18N(7)	Duty to ensure that an approved annual plan is available to members of the public on request	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18O(1)	Duty to prepare a strategic plan and submit the plan to the Secretary for approval	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18O(4)	Duty to advise the Secretary if the trust wishes to exercise its functions in a manner inconsistent with its approved strategic plan	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18O(5)	Duty to ensure that an approved strategic plan is available to members of the public on request	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 18Q(1)	Duty to pay an annual levy on gross earnings as reported in the annual financial statements for the previous financial year.	N/A	Where Council is a Class A cemetery trust
s 19	Power to carry out or permit the carrying out of works	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO, MG, CTS	
s 20(1)	Duty to set aside areas for the interment of human remains	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
s 20(2)	Power to set aside areas for the purposes of managing a public cemetery	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
s 20(3)	Power to set aside areas for those things in paragraphs (a) – (e)	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
s 24(2)	Power to apply to the Secretary for approval to alter the existing distribution of land	CEO, DIA, DCS	
s 36	Power to grant licences to enter and use part of the land or building in a public cemetery in accordance with s 36	CEO, DCS	Subject to the approval of the Minister
s 37	Power to grant leases over land in a public cemetery in accordance with s 37	CEO, DCS	Subject to the Minister approving the purpose
s 40	Duty to notify Secretary of fees and charges fixed under s 39	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	

s 47	Power to pay a contribution toward the cost of the construction and maintenance of any private street adjoining or abutting a cemetery	CEO, DIA, DCS	Provided the street was constructed pursuant to the Local Government Act 2020
s 52	Duty to submit a report to the Secretary in relation to any public cemetery for which the cemetery trust is responsible for each financial year in respect of which it manages that cemetery	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 57(1)	Duty to submit a report to the Secretary every financial year in respect of powers and functions under the Act	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	Report must contain the particulars listed in s.57(2)
s 59	Duty to keep records for each public cemetery	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS, CTO	
s 60(1)	Duty to make information in records available to the public for historical or research purposes	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS, CTO	
s 60(2)	Power to charge fees for providing information	CEO, DCS	
s 64(4)	Duty to comply with a direction from the Secretary under s 64(3)	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 64B(d)	Power to permit interments at a reopened cemetery	CEO, DCS	
s 66(1)	Power to apply to the Minister for approval to convert the cemetery, or part of it, to a historic cemetery park	CEO, DCS	The application must include the requirements listed in s.66(2)(a)–(d)
s 69	Duty to take reasonable steps to notify of conversion to historic cemetery park	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 70(1)	Duty to prepare plan of existing places of interment and make a record of any inscriptions on memorials which are to be removed	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS, CTO	
s 70(2)	Duty to make plans of existing place of interment available to the public	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS, CTO	
s 71(1)	Power to remove any memorials or other structures in an area to which an approval to convert applies	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
s 71(2)	Power to dispose of any memorial or other structure removed	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
s 72(2)	Duty to comply with request received under s72	CEO, DCS	

s 73(1)	Power to grant a right of interment	CEO, DCS, CTS	
s 73(2)	Power to impose conditions on the right of interment	CEO, DCS, CTS	
s 74(3)	Duty to offer a perpetual right of interment	CEO, DCS	
s 75	Power to grant the rights of interment set out in s 75 (a) and (b)	CEO, DCS	
s 76(3)	Duty to allocate a piece of interment if an unallocated right is granted	CEO, DCS	
s 77(4)	Power to authorise and impose terms and conditions on the removal of cremated human remains or body parts from the place of interment on application	CEO, DCS, CTS	
s 80(1)	Function of receiving notification and payment of transfer of right of interment	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 80(2)	Function of recording transfer of right of interment	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS, CTO	
s 82(2)	Duty to pay refund on the surrender of an unexercised right of interment	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 83(2)	Duty to pay refund on the surrender of an unexercised right of interment (sole holder)	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 83(3)	Power to remove any memorial and grant another right of interment for a surrendered right of interment	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO, CTS	
s 84(1)	Function of receiving notice of surrendering an entitlement to a right of interment	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 84F(2)(d)	Function of receiving notice of decision to vary or force the surrender of a right of interment under s 84C(2), (3) or (5)	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS, CTO	
s 84H(4)	Power to exercise the rights of a holder of a right of interment	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 84I(4)	Power to exercise the rights of a holder of a right of interment	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	

s 84I(5)	Duty to pay refund to the previous holder or holders of the right of interment	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 84I(6)(a)	Power to remove any memorial on the place of interment	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
s 84I(6)(b)	Power to grant right of interment under s 73	CEO, DCS	
s 85(1)	Duty to notify holder of 25 year right of interment of expiration at least 12 months before expiry	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS, CTO	The notice must be in writing and contain the requirements listed in s 85(2)
s 85(2)(b)	Duty to notify holder of 25 year right of interment of expiration of right at least 12 months before expiry	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS, CTO	Does not apply where right of interment relates to remains of a deceased veteran
s 85(2)(c)	Power to leave interred cremated remains undistributed in perpetuity and convert right of interment to perpetual right of interment or; remove interred remains and re-inter at another location within cemetery grounds and remove any memorial at that place and re-establish at new or equivalent location	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	May only be exercised where right of interment relates to cremated human remains of a deceased identified veteran, if right of interment is not extended or converted to a perpetual right of interment
s 86(1)	Power to remove and dispose of cremated human remains and remove any memorial if no action taken by right holder within time specified	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
s 86(2)	Power to leave interred cremated human remains undisturbed or convert the right of interment to a perpetual right of interment	CEO, DIA, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 86(3)(a)	Power to leave interred cremated human remains undisturbed in perpetuity and convert the right of interment to a perpetual right of interment	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 86(3)(b)	Power to remove interred cremated human remains and take further action in accordance with s 86(3)(b)	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
s 86(4)	Power to take action under s 86(4) relating to removing and re-intering cremated human remains	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
s 86(5)	Duty to provide notification before taking action under s 86(4)	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 86A	Duty to maintain place of interment and any memorial at place of interment, if action taken under s.86(3)	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	

s 87(3)	Duty, if requested, to extend the right for a further 25 years or convert the right to a perpetual right of interment	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 88	Function to receive applications to carry out a lift and reposition procedure at a place of interment	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 91(1)	Power to cancel a right of interment in accordance with this section	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 91(3)	Duty to publish notice of intention to cancel right of interment	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS, CTO	
s 92	Power to pay refund or grant a right of interment in respect of another place of interment to the previous holder of the cancelled right of interment	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 98(1)	Function of receiving application to establish or alter a memorial or place of interment	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 99	Power to approve or refuse an application made under s 98, or to cancel an approval	CEO, DCS	
s 99(4)	Duty to make a decision on an application under s 98 within 45 days after receipt of the application or within 45 days of receiving further information where requested	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 100(1)	Power to require a person to remove memorials or places of interment	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 100(2)	Power to remove and dispose a memorial or place of interment or remedy a person's failure to comply with s 100(1)	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
s 100(3)	Power to recover costs of taking action under s 100(2)	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 101	Function of receiving applications to establish or alter a building for ceremonies in the cemetery	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 102(1)	Power to approve or refuse (if satisfied of the matters in (b) and (c) an application under s 101	CEO, DIA, DCS	
s 102(2) & (3)	Power to set terms and conditions in respect of, or to cancel, an approval granted under s 102(1)	CEO, DCS, MG	

s 103(1)	Power to require a person to remove a building for ceremonies	CEO, DCS	
s 103(2)	Power to remove and dispose of a building for ceremonies or remedy the failure to comply with s 103(1)	CEO, DIA, DCS	
s 103(3)	Power to recover costs of taking action under s 103(2)	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 106(1)	Power to require the holder of the right of interment of the requirement to make the memorial or place of interment safe and proper or carry out specified repairs	CEO, DCS, MO	
s 106(2)	Power to require the holder of the right of interment to provide for an examination	CEO, DIA, DCS	
s 106(3)	Power to open and examine the place of interment if s 106(2) not complied with	CEO, DIA, DCS	
s 106(4)	Power to repair or – with the approval of the Secretary - take down, remove and dispose any memorial or place of interment if notice under s 106(1) is not complied with	CEO, DIA, DCS	
s 107(1)	Power to require person responsible to make the building for ceremonies safe and proper or carry out specified repairs	CEO, DIA, DCS	
s 107(2)	Power to repair or take down, remove and dispose any building for ceremonies if notice under s 107(1) is not complied with	CEO, DIA, DCS	
s 108	Power to recover costs and expenses	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 109(1)(a)	Power to open, examine and repair a place of interment	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	Where the holder of right of interment or responsible person cannot be found
s 109(1)(b)	Power to repair a memorial or, with the Secretary's consent, take down, remove and dispose of a memorial	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	Where the holder of right of interment or responsible person cannot be found
s 109(2)	Power to repair the building for ceremonies or, with the consent of the Secretary, take down, remove and dispose of a building for ceremonies	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	Where the holder of right of interment or responsible person cannot be found

s 110(1)	Power to maintain, repair or restore a memorial or place of interment from other funds if unable to find right of interment holder with consent of the Secretary	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
s 110(1A)	Power to maintain, repair or restore the place of interment if unable to find any of the other holders after diligent inquiries and with the consent of the Secretary	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
s 110(2)	Power to maintain, repair or restore any building for ceremonies from other funds if unable to find responsible person and with consent of the Secretary	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
s 110A	Power to use cemetery trust funds or other funds for the purposes of establishing, maintaining, repairing or restoring any memorial or place of interment of any deceased identified veteran	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
s 111	Power to enter into agreement with a holder of the right of interment to maintain a memorial or place of interment	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 112	Power to sell and supply memorials	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
s 116(4)	Duty to notify the Secretary of an interment authorisation granted	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 116(5)	Power to require an applicant to produce evidence of the right of interment holder's consent to application	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 118	Power to grant an interment authorisation if satisfied that the requirements of Division 2 of Part 8 have been met	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 119	Power to set terms and conditions for interment authorisations	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 131	Function of receiving an application for cremation authorisation	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 133(1)	Duty not to grant a cremation authorisation unless satisfied that requirements of s 133 have been complied with	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	Subject to s 133(2)
s 145	Duty to comply with an order made by the Magistrates' Court or a coroner	REMAIN WITH CEO	

s 146	Power to dispose of bodily remains by a method other than interment or cremation with the approval of the Secretary	REMAIN WITH CEO	Subject to the approval of the Secretary
s 147	Power to apply to the Secretary for approval to dispose of bodily remains by a method other than interment or cremation	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 149	Duty to cease using method of disposal if approval revoked by the Secretary	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 150 & 152(1)	Power to authorise the interment or cremation of body parts if the requirements of Division 1 of Part II are met	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 151	Function of receiving an application to inter or cremate body parts	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
s 152 (2)	Power to impose terms and conditions on authorisation granted under s150	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
sch1 cl 8(3)	Power to permit members to participate in a particular meeting by telephone, closed-circuit television or any other means of communication	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
sch 1 cl 8(8)	Power to regulate own proceedings	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	Subject to clause 8
sch 1A cl 8(3)	Power to permit members to participate in a particular meeting by telephone, closed-circuit television or any other means of communication	N/A	Where council is a Class A cemetery trust
sch 1A cl 8(8)	Power to regulate own proceedings	N/A	Where council is a Class A cemetery trust Subject to clause 8

DOMESTIC ANIMALS ACT 1994			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
PROVISION	THING DELEGATED	DELEGATE	CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS
s 41A(1)	Power to declare a dog to be a menacing dog	CEO, MCSA, CECS, SCSO	Council may delegate this power to a Council authorised officer

FOOD ACT 1984			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
PROVISION	THING DELEGATED	DELEGATE	CONDITIONS & LIMITATIONS
s 19(2)(a)	Power to direct by written order that the food premises be put into a clean and sanitary condition	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	If s 19(1) applies
s 19(2)(b)	Power to direct by written order that specified steps be taken to ensure that food prepared, sold or handled is safe and suitable	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	If s 19(1) applies
s 19(3)	Power to direct by written order that the food premises not be kept or used for the sale, or handling for sale, of any food, or for the preparation of any food, or for any other specified purpose, or for the use of any specified equipment or a specified process	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	If s 19(1) applies Only in relation to temporary food premises or mobile food premises
s 19(4)(a)	Power to direct that an order made under s 19(3)(a) or (b), (i) be affixed to a conspicuous part of the premises, and (ii) inform the public by notice in a published newspaper or otherwise	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	If s 19(1) applies
s 19(6)(a)	Duty to revoke any order under s19 if satisfied that an order has been complied with	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	If s 19(1) applies
s 19(6)(b)	Duty to give written notice of revocation under s 19(6)(a) if satisfied that an order has been complied with	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	If s 19(1) applies
s 19AA(2)	Power to direct, by written order, that a person must take any of the actions described in (a)-(c)	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where council is the registration authority
s 19AA(4)(c)	Power to direct, in an order made under s 19AA(2) or a subsequent written order, that a person must ensure that any food or class of food is not removed from the premises	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Note: the power to direct the matters under s 19AA(4)(a) and (b) not capable of delegation and so such directions must be made by a Council resolution
s 19AA(7)	Duty to revoke order issued under s 19AA and give written notice of revocation, if satisfied that that order has been complied with	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 19CB(4)(b)	Power to request copy of records	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority

s 19E(1)(d)	Power to request a copy of the food safety program	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 19EA(3)	Function of receiving copy of revised food safety program	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 19GB	Power to request proprietor to provide written details of the name, qualification or experience of the current food safety supervisor	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 19IA(1)	Power to form opinion that the food safety requirements or program are non-compliant.	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 19IA(2)	Duty to give written notice to the proprietor of the premises	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 19M(4)(a) & (5)	Power to conduct a food safety audit and take actions where deficiencies are identified	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 19N(2)	Function of receiving notice from the auditor	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 19NA(1)	Power to request food safety audit reports	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 19U(3)	Power to waive and vary the costs of a food safety audit if there are special circumstances	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
s 19UA	Power to charge fees for conducting a food safety assessment or inspection	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Except for an assessment required by a declaration under s 19C or an inspection under s38B(1)(c) or 39
s 19W	Power to direct a proprietor of a food premises to comply with any requirement under Part IIIB	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s.19W(3)(a)	Power to direct a proprietor of a food premises to have staff at the premises undertake training or instruction	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 19W(3)(b)	Power to direct a proprietor of a food premises to have details of any staff training incorporated into the minimum records required to be kept or food safety program of the premises	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority

---	Power to register or renew the registration of a food premises	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority refusal to grant or renew the registration of a food premises must be ratified by Council or the CEO (see s 58A(2))
s 36A	Power to accept an application for registration or notification using online portal	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 36B	Duty to pay the charge for use of online portal	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 38AA(5)	Power to (a) request further information; or (b) advise the proprietor that the premises must be registered if the premises are not exempt ^o	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 38AB(4)	Power to fix a fee for the receipt of a notification under s 38AA in accordance with a declaration under s 38AB (1)	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 38A(4)	Power to request a copy of a completed food safety program template	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 38B(1)(a)	Duty to assess the application and determine which class of food premises under s 19C the food premises belongs	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 38B(1)(b)	Duty to ensure proprietor has complied with requirements of s 38A	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 38B(2)	Duty to be satisfied of the matters in s 38B(2)(a)-(b)	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 38D(1)	Duty to ensure compliance with the applicable provisions of s 38C and inspect the premises if required by s 39	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 38D(2)	Duty to be satisfied of the matters in s 38D(2)(a)-(d)	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 38D(3)	Power to request copies of any audit reports	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 38E(2)	Power to register the food premises on a conditional basis	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority not exceeding the prescribed time limit defined under ss (5)

s 38E(4)	Duty to register the food premises when conditions are satisfied	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 38F(3)(b)	Power to require proprietor to comply with requirements of this Act	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 38G(1)	Power to require notification of change of the food safety program type used for the food premises	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 38G(2)	Function of receiving notice from proprietor if there is a change of the food safety program type used for the food premises	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 38G(4)	Power to require the proprietor of the food premises to comply with any requirement of the Act	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 39(2)	Duty to carry out an inspection of the premises during the period of registration before the registration of the food premises is renewed	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 39A	Power to register or renew the registration of a food premises despite minor defects	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority Only if satisfied of matters in s 39A (2)(a)-(c)
s 39A(6)	Duty to comply with a direction of the Secretary	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
s 40(1)	Duty to give the person in whose name the premises is to be registered a certificate of registration	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 40(2)	Power to incorporate the certificate of registration in one document with any certificate of registration under Part 6 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
s 40C(2)	Power to grant or renew the registration of food premises for a period of less than 1 year	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 40D(1)	Power to suspend or revoke the registration of food premises	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 40E	Duty to comply with direction of the Secretary	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	

s 40F	Power to cancel registration of food premises	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 43	Duty to maintain records of registration	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 43(1)	Duty to maintain records of the prescribed particulars	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 43F(6)	Duty to be satisfied that registration requirements under Division 3 have been met prior to registering, transferring or renewing registration of a component of a food business	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 43F(7)	Power to register the components of the food business that meet requirements in Division 3 and power to refuse to register the components that do not meet the requirements	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority
s 45AC	Power to bring proceedings	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
s 46(5)	Power to institute proceedings against another person where the offence was due to an act or default by that other person and where the first person charged could successfully defend a prosecution, without proceedings first being instituted against the person first charged	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	Where Council is the registration authority

HERITAGE ACT 2017			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
PROVISION	THING DELEGATED	DELEGATE	CONDITIONS & LIMITATIONS
s 116	Power to sub-delegate Executive Director's functions, duties or powers	CEO TO RETAIN	Must first obtain Executive Director's written consent Council can only sub-delegate if the Instrument of Delegation from the Executive Director authorises sub-delegation

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
PROVISION	THING DELEGATED	DELEGATE	CONDITIONS & LIMITATIONS
s 185L(4)	Power to declare and levy a cladding rectification charge	CEO ¹	

¹ The only member of staff who can be a delegate in Column 3 is the CEO.
S6 Instrument of Delegation – Members of Staff

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
PROVISION	THING DELEGATED	DELEGATE	CONDITIONS & LIMITATIONS
s 4B	Power to prepare an amendment to the Victoria Planning Provisions	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	If authorised by the Minister
s 4G	Function of receiving prescribed documents and a copy of the Victoria Planning Provisions from the Minister	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 4H	Duty to make amendment to the Victorian Planning Provisions available in accordance with public availability requirements	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 4I(2)	Duty to make a copy of the Victoria Planning Provisions and other documents available in accordance with public availability requirements	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 8A(2)	Power to prepare amendment to the planning scheme where the Minister has given consent under s.8A	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 8A(3)	Power to apply to Minister to prepare an amendment to the planning scheme	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 8A(5)	Function of receiving notice of the Minister's decision	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 8A(7)	Power to prepare the amendment specified in the application without the Minister's authorisation if no response received after 10 business days	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 8B(2)	Power to apply to the Minister for authorisation to prepare an amendment to the planning scheme of an adjoining municipal district	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 12(3)	Power to carry out studies and do things to ensure proper use of land and consult with other persons to ensure co-ordination of planning scheme with these persons	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 12B(1)	Duty to review planning scheme at least once in every three years after commencement of <i>Planning and Environment (General Amendment) Act 2004 No. 81</i>	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 12B(2)	Duty to review planning scheme at direction of Minister	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 12B(5)	Duty to report findings of review of planning scheme to Minister without delay	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 14	Duties of a Responsible Authority as set out in s 14(a) to (d)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 17(1)	Duty of giving copy amendment to the planning scheme	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 17(2)	Duty of giving copy s 173 agreement	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 17(3)	Duty of giving copy amendment, explanatory report and relevant documents to the Minister within 10 business days	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 18	Duty to make amendment etc. available in accordance with public availability requirements	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	Until the proposed amendment is approved or lapsed
s 19	Power to give notice, to decide not to give notice, to publish notice of amendment to a planning scheme and to exercise any other power under s19 to a planning scheme	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 19	Function of receiving notice of preparation of an amendment to a planning scheme	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where council is not the planning authority and the amendment affects land within Council's municipal district; or

			Where the amendment will amend the planning scheme to designate Council as an acquiring authority
s 20(1)	Power to apply to Minister for exemption from the requirements of s 19	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is a planning authority
s 21(2)	Duty to make submissions available in accordance with public availability requirements	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	Until the end of 2 months after the amendment comes into operation or lapses
s 21A(4)	Duty to publish notice in accordance with section	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 22(1)	Duty to consider all submissions received before the date specified in the notice	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Except submissions which request a change to the items in s 22(5)(a) and (b)
s 22(2)	Power to consider a late submission Duty to consider a late submission, if directed by the Minister	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 23(1)(b)	Duty to refer submissions which request a change to the amendment to a panel	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 23(2)	Power to refer to a panel submissions which do not require a change to the amendment	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 24	Function to represent Council and present a submission at a panel hearing (including a hearing referred to in s 96D)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 26(1)	Power to make report available for inspection in accordance with the requirements set out in s 197B of the Act	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 26(2)	Duty to keep report of panel available in accordance with public availability requirements	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	During the inspection period

s 27(2)	Power to apply for exemption if panel's report not received	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 28(1)	Duty to notify the Minister if abandoning an amendment	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA	Note: the power to make a decision to abandon an amendment cannot be delegated
s 28(2)	Duty to publish notice of the decision on Internet site	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 28(4)	Duty to make notice of the decision available on Council's Internet site for a period of at least 2 months	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 30(4)(a)	Duty to say if amendment has lapsed	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 30(4)(b)	Duty to provide information in writing upon request	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 32(2)	Duty to give more notice if required	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 33(1)	Duty to give more notice of changes to an amendment	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 33(2)	Duty to comply with request by Authority under s.33(1) for information or assistance	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 34(1)	Function of consulting with Authority where exercising its powers likely to affect Council's functions	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 36(2)	Duty to give notice of approval of amendment	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 38(5)	Duty to give notice of revocation of an amendment	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 39	Function of being a party to a proceeding commenced under s 39 and duty to comply with determination by VCAT	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 40(1)	Function of lodging copy of approved amendment	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 41(1)	Duty to make a copy of an approved amendment available in accordance with the public availability requirements during inspection period	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 41(2)	Duty to make a copy of an approved amendment and any documents lodged with it available in person in accordance with the requirements set out in s 197B of the Act after the inspection period ends	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 42(2)	Duty to make copy of planning scheme available in accordance with the public availability requirements	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 46AW	Function of being consulted by the Minister	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is responsible public entity
s 46AX	Function of receiving a draft Statement of Planning Policy and written direction in relation to the endorsement of the draft Statement of Planning Policy Power to endorse the draft Statement of Planning Policy	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is responsible public entity
s 46AZC(2)	Duty not to prepare an amendment to a declared area planning scheme that is inconsistent with a Statement of Planning Policy for the declared area that is expressed to be binding on the responsible public entity	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is a responsible public entity
s 46AZK	Duty not to act inconsistently with any provision of the Statement of Planning Policy that is expressed to be binding on the public entity when performing a function or duty or exercising a power in relation to the declared area	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is a responsible public entity

s 46GI(2)(b)(i)	Power to agree to a lower rate of standard levy for a class of development of a particular type of land than the rate specified in a Minister's direction	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the planning authority, the municipal Council of the municipal district in which the land is located and/or the development agency
s 46GJ(1)	Function of receiving written directions from the Minister in relation to the preparation and content of infrastructure contributions plans	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46GK	Duty to comply with a Minister's direction that applies to Council as the planning authority	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46GN(1)	Duty to arrange for estimates of values of inner public purpose land	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46GO(1)	Duty to give notice to owners of certain inner public purpose land	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46GP	Function of receiving a notice under s.46GO	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency
s 46GQ	Function of receiving a submission from an affected owner who objects to the estimated value per hectare (or other appropriate unit of measurement) of the inner public purpose land	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46GR(1)	Duty to consider every submission that is made by the closing date for submissions included in the notice under s.46GO	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46GR(2)	Power to consider a late submission Duty to consider a late submission if directed to do so by the Minister	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46GS(1)	Power to accept or reject the estimate of the value of the inner public purpose land in a submission made under s 46GQ	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 46GS(2)	Duty, if Council rejects the estimate of the value of the inner public purpose land in the submission, to refer the matter to the valuer-general, and notify the affected owner of the rejection and that the matter has been referred to the valuer-general	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46GT(2)	Duty to pay half of the fee fixed by the valuer-general for arranging and attending the conference	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46GT(4)	Function of receiving, from the valuer-general, written confirmation of the agreement between the planning authority's valuer and the affected owner's valuer as to the estimated value of the inner public purpose land	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46GT(6)	Function of receiving, from the valuer-general, written notice of a determination under s.46GT(5)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46GU	Duty not to adopt an amendment under s 29 to an infrastructure contributions plan that specifies a land credit amount or a land equalisation amount that relates to a parcel of land in the ICP plan area of the plan unless the criteria in s 46GU(1)(a) and (b) are met	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46GV(3)	Function of receiving the monetary component and any land equalisation amount of the infrastructure contribution Power to specify the manner in which the payment is to be made	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency
s 46GV(3)(b)	Power to enter into an agreement with the applicant	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency
s 46GV(4)(a)	Function of receiving the inner public purpose land in accordance with s 46GV(5) and (6)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency
s 46GV(7)	Duty to impose the requirements set out in s 46GV(3) and (4) as conditions on the permit applied for by the applicant to develop the land in the ICP plan area	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 46GV(9)	Power to require the payment of a monetary component or the provision of the land component of an infrastructure contribution to be secured to Council's satisfaction	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency
s 46GX(1)	Power to accept works, services or facilities in part or full satisfaction of the monetary component of an infrastructure contribution payable	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency
s 46GX(2)	Duty, before accepting the provision of works, services or facilities by an applicant under s 46GX(1), to obtain the agreement of the development agency or agencies specified in the approved infrastructure contributions plan	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency
s 46GY(1)	Duty to keep proper and separate accounts and records	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency
s 46GY(2)	Duty to keep the accounts and records in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency
s 46GZ(2)(a)	Duty to forward any part of the monetary component that is imposed for plan preparation costs to the planning authority that incurred those costs	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan This duty does not apply where Council is that planning authority
s 46GZ(2)(a)	Function of receiving the monetary component	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where the Council is the planning authority This duty does not apply where Council is also the collecting agency
s 46GZ(2)(b)	Duty to forward any part of the monetary component that is imposed for the provision of works, services or facilities to the development agency that is specified in the plan works, services or facilities	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan This provision does not apply where Council is also the relevant development agency
s 46GZ(2)(b)	Function of receiving the monetary component	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the development agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan This provision does not apply where Council is also the collecting agency
s 46GZ(4)	Duty to use any land equalisation amounts to pay land credit amounts under s 46GZ(7), except any part of those amounts that are to be forwarded to a development agency under s 46GZ(5)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan

s 46GZ(5)	Duty to forward any part of a land equalisation amount required for the acquisition of outer public purpose land by a development agency specified in the approved infrastructure contributions plan to that development agency	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan This provision does not apply where Council is also the relevant development agency
s 46GZ(5)	Function of receiving any part of a land equalisation amount required for the acquisition of outer public purpose land	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the development agency specified in the approved infrastructure contributions plan This provision does not apply where Council is also the collecting agency
s 46GZ(7)	Duty to pay to each person who must provide an infrastructure contribution under the approved infrastructure contributions plan any land credit amount to which the person is entitled under s 46GW	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 46GZ(9)	Duty to transfer the estate in fee simple in the land to the development agency specified in the approved infrastructure contributions plan as responsible for the use and development of that land	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	If any inner public purpose land is vested in Council under the <i>Subdivision Act 1988</i> or acquired by Council before the time it is required to be provided to Council under s.46GV(4) Where Council is the collecting agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan This duty does not apply where Council is also the development agency
s 46GZ(9)	Function of receiving the fee simple in the land	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the development agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan this duty does not apply where Council is also the collecting agency
s 46GZA(1)	Duty to keep proper and separate accounts and records	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is a development agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 46GZA(2)	Duty to keep the accounts and records in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is a development agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 46GZB(3)	Duty to follow the steps set out in s 46GZB(3)(a) – (c)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is a development agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 46GZBI(4)	Duty, in accordance with requirements of the VPA, to report on the use of the infrastructure contribution in the development agency's annual report and provide reports on the use of the infrastructure contribution to the VPA	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	If the VPA is the collecting agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan

			Where Council is a development agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 46GZD(2)	Duty, within 6 months after the date on which the approved infrastructure contributions plan expires, to follow the steps set out in s 46GZD(2)(a) and (b)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the development agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 46GZD(3)	Duty to follow the steps set out in s 46GZD(3)(a) and (b)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 46GZD(5)	Duty to make payments under s 46GZD(3) in accordance with ss 46GZD(5)(a) and 46GZD(5)(b)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 46GZE(2)	Duty to forward the land equalisation amount back to the collecting agency within 6 months after the expiry date if any part of a land equalisation amount paid or forwarded to a development agency for acquiring outer public purpose land has not been expended by the development agency to acquire that land at the date on which the approved infrastructure contributions plan expires	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the development agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan This duty does not apply where Council is also the collecting agency
s 46GZE(2)	Function of receiving the unexpended land equalisation amount	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan This duty does not apply where Council is also the development agency
s 46GZE(3)	Duty, within 12 months after the date on which the approved infrastructure contributions plan expires, to follow the steps set out in 46GZE(3)(a) and (b)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 46GZF(2)	Duty, within 12 months after the date on which the approved infrastructure contributions plan expires, to use the public purpose land for a public purpose approved by the Minister or sell the public purpose land	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the development agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 46GZF(3)	Duty, if land is sold under s 46GZF(2)(b), to follow the steps in s 46GZF(3)(a) and (b)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the development agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 46GZF(3)	Function of receiving proceeds of sale	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collection agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan This provision does not apply where Council is also the development agency

s 46GZF(4)	Duty to divide the proceeds of the public purpose land among the current owners of each parcel of land in the ICP plan area and pay each current owner a portion of the proceeds in accordance with s 46GZF(5)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 46GZF(6)	Duty to make the payments under s 46GZF(4) in accordance with s 46GZF(6)(a) and (b)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 46GZH	Power to recover the monetary component, or any land equalisation amount of the land component, payable under Part 3AB as a debt in any court of competent jurisdiction	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the collecting agency under an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 46GZI	Duty to prepare and give a report to the Minister at the times required by the Minister	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is a collecting agency or development agency
s 46GZK	Power to deal with public purpose land which has vested in, been acquired by, or transferred to, Council	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is a collecting agency or development agency
s 46LB(3)	Duty to publish, on Council's Internet site, the payable dwelling amount for a financial year on or before 1 July of each financial year for which the amount is adjusted under s 46LB (2)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46N(1)	Duty to include condition in permit regarding payment of development infrastructure levy	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46N(2)(c)	Function of determining time and manner for receipt of development contributions levy	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46N(2)(d)	Power to enter into an agreement with the applicant regarding payment of development infrastructure levy	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46O(1)(a) & (2)(a)	Power to ensure that community infrastructure levy is paid, or agreement is in place, prior to issuing building permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 46O(1)(d) & (2)(d)	Power to enter into agreement with the applicant regarding payment of community infrastructure levy	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46P(1)	Power to require payment of amount of levy under s 46N or s 46O to be satisfactorily secured	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46P(2)	Power to accept provision of land, works, services or facilities in part or full payment of levy payable	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46Q(1)	Duty to keep proper accounts of levies paid	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 46Q(1A)	Duty to forward to development agency part of levy imposed for carrying out works, services, or facilities on behalf of development agency or plan preparation costs incurred by a development agency	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46Q(2)	Duty to apply levy only for a purpose relating to the provision of plan preparation costs or the works, services and facilities in respect of which the levy was paid etc.	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46Q(3)	Power to refund any amount of levy paid if it is satisfied the development is not to proceed	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Only applies when levy is paid to Council as a 'development agency'
s 46Q(4)(c)	Duty to pay amount to current owners of land in the area area if an amount of levy has been paid to a municipal Council as a development agency for plan preparation costs incurred by the Council or for the provision by the Council of works, services or facilities in an area under s 46Q(4)(a)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Must be done within six months of the end of the period required by the development contributions plan and with the consent of, and in the manner approved by, the Minister
s 46Q(4)(d)	Duty to submit to the Minister an amendment to the approved development contributions plan	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Must be done in accordance with Part 3
s 46Q(4)(e)	Duty to expend that amount on other works etc.	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	With the consent of, and in the manner approved by, the Minister

s 46QC	Power to recover any amount of levy payable under Part 3B	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46QD	Duty to prepare report and give a report to the Minister	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is a collecting agency or development agency
s 46V(3)	Duty to make a copy of the approved strategy plan (being the Melbourne Airport Environs Strategy Plan) and any documents lodged with it available in accordance with the public availability requirements, during the inspection period	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46V(4)	Duty to make a copy of the approved strategy plan (being the Melbourne Airport Environs Strategy Plan) and any documents lodged with it available in accordance with s 197B of the Act and on payment of the prescribe fee, after the inspection period	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46V(5)	Duty to keep a copy of the approved strategy plan incorporating all amendments to it	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46V(6)	Duty to make a copy of the approved strategy plan incorporating all amendments to it available in accordance with the public availability requirements	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 46Y	Duty to carry out works in conformity with the approved strategy plan	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 49(1)	Duty to keep a register of all applications for permits and determinations relating to permits	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 49(2)	Duty to make register available for inspection in accordance with the public availability requirements	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 50(4)	Duty to amend application	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 50(5)	Power to refuse to amend application	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 50(6)	Duty to make note of amendment to application in register	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 50A(1)	Power to make amendment to application	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 50A(3)	Power to require applicant to notify owner and make a declaration that notice has been given	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 50A(4)	Duty to note amendment to application in register	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 51	Duty to make copy of application available for inspection in accordance with the public availability requirements	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 52(1)(a)	Duty to give notice of the application to owners/occupiers of adjoining allotments unless satisfied that the grant of permit would not cause material detriment to any person	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 52(1)(b)	Duty to give notice of the application to other municipal Council where appropriate	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 52(1)(c)	Duty to give notice of the application to all persons required by the planning scheme	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 52(1)(ca)	Duty to give notice of the application to owners and occupiers of land benefited by a registered restrictive covenant if may result in breach of covenant	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 52(1)(cb)	Duty to give notice of the application to owners and occupiers of land benefited by a registered restrictive covenant if application is to remove or vary the covenant	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 52(1)(d)	Duty to give notice of the application to other persons who may be detrimentally affected	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 52(1AA)	Duty to give notice of an application to remove or vary a registered restrictive covenant	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 52(3)	Power to give any further notice of an application where appropriate	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 53(1)	Power to require the applicant to give notice under s 52(1) to persons specified by it	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 53(1A)	Power to require the applicant to give the notice under s 52(1AA)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 54(1)	Power to require the applicant to provide more information	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 54(1A)	Duty to give notice in writing of information required under s 54(1)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 54(1B)	Duty to specify the lapse date for an application	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 54A(3)	Power to decide to extend time or refuse to extend time to give required information	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 54A(4)	Duty to give written notice of decision to extend or refuse to extend time under s 54A(3)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 55(1)	Duty to give copy application, together with the prescribed information, to every referral authority specified in the planning scheme	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 57(2A)	Power to reject objections considered made primarily for commercial advantage for the objector	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 57(3)	Function of receiving name and address of persons to whom notice of decision is to go	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 57(5)	Duty to make a copy of all objections available in accordance with the public availability requirements	CEO, DSPE, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 57A(4)	Duty to amend application in accordance with applicant's request, subject to s 57A(5)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 57A(5)	Power to refuse to amend application	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 57A(6)	Duty to note amendments to application in register	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 57B(1)	Duty to determine whether and to whom notice should be given	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 57B(2)	Duty to consider certain matters in determining whether notice should be given	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 57C(1)	Duty to give copy of amended application to referral authority	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 58	Duty to consider every application for a permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 58A	Power to request advice from the Planning Application Committee	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 60	Duty to consider certain matters	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 60(1A)	Power to consider certain matters before deciding on application	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 60(1B)	Duty to consider number of objectors in considering whether use or development may have significant social effect	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 61(1)	Power to determine permit application, either to decide to grant a permit, to decide to grant a permit with conditions or to refuse a permit application	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	The permit must not be inconsistent with a cultural heritage management plan under the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act</i> 2006.
s 61(2)	Duty to decide to refuse to grant a permit if a relevant determining referral authority objects to grant of permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 61(2A)	Power to decide to refuse to grant a permit if a relevant recommending referral authority objects to the grant of permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 61(3)(a)	Duty not to decide to grant a permit to use coastal Crown land without Minister's consent	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 61(3)(b)	Duty to refuse to grant the permit without the Minister's consent	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 61(4)	Duty to refuse to grant the permit if grant would authorise a breach of a registered restrictive covenant	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 62(1)	Duty to include certain conditions in deciding to grant a permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 62(2)	Power to include other conditions	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 62(4)	Duty to ensure conditions are consistent with sss (a),(b) and (c)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 62(5)(a)	Power to include a permit condition to implement an approved development contributions plan or an approved infrastructure contributions plan	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 62(5)(b)	Power to include a permit condition that specified works be provided on or to the land or paid for in accordance with s 173 agreement	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 62(5)(c)	Power to include a permit condition that specified works be provided or paid for by the applicant	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 62(6)(a)	Duty not to include a permit condition requiring a person to pay an amount for or provide works except in accordance with ss 46N(1), 46GV(7) or 62(5)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 62(6)(b)	Duty not to include a permit condition requiring a person to pay an amount for or provide works except a condition that a planning scheme requires to be included as referred to in s 62(1)(a)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 63	Duty to issue the permit where made a decision in favour of the application if objectors	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 64(1)	Duty to give notice of decision to grant a permit to applicant and objectors	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	This provision applies also to a decision to grant an amendment to a permit-see s 75
s 64(3)	Duty not to issue a permit until after the specified period	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	This provision applies also to a decision to grant an amendment to a permit-see s 75
s 64(5)	Duty to give each objector a copy of an exempt decision	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	This provision applies also to a decision to grant an amendment to a permit-see s 75

s 64A	Duty not to issue permit until the end of a period when an application for review may be lodged with VCAT or until VCAT has determined the application, if a relevant recommending referral authority has objected to the grant of a permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	This provision applies also to a decision to grant an amendment to a permit- see s 75A
s 65(1)	Duty to give notice of refusal to grant permit to applicant and person who objected under s 57	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 66(1)	Duty to give notice under s 64 or s 65 and copy permit to relevant determining referral authorities	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 66(2)	Duty to give a recommending referral authority notice of its decision to grant a permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	If the recommending referral authority objected to the grant of the permit or the responsible authority decided not to include a condition on the permit recommended by the recommending referral authority
s 66(4)	Duty to give a recommending referral authority notice of its decision to refuse a permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	If the recommending referral authority objected to the grant of the permit or the recommending referral authority recommended that a permit condition be included on the permit
s 66(6)	Duty to give a recommending referral authority a copy of any permit which Council decided to grant and a copy of any notice given under s 64 or 65	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	If the recommending referral authority did not object to the grant of the permit or the recommending referral authority did not recommend a condition be included on the permit
s 69(1)	Function of receiving application for extension of time of permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 69(1A)	Function of receiving application for extension of time to complete development	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 69(2)	Power to extend time	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 70	Duty to make copy permit available in accordance with public availability requirements	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	

s 71(1)	Power to correct certain mistakes	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 71(2)	Duty to note corrections in register	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 73	Power to decide to grant amendment subject to conditions	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 74	Duty to issue amended permit to applicant if no objectors	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 76	Duty to give applicant and objectors notice of decision to refuse to grant amendment to permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 76A(1)	Duty to give relevant determining referral authorities copy of amended permit and copy of notice	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 76A(2)	Duty to give a recommending referral authority notice of its decision to grant an amendment to a permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	If the recommending referral authority objected to the amendment of the permit or the responsible authority decided not to include a condition on the amended permit recommended by the recommending referral authority
s 76A(4)	Duty to give a recommending referral authority notice of its decision to refuse a permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	If the recommending referral authority objected to the amendment of the permit or the recommending referral authority recommended that a permit condition be included on the amended permit
s 76A(6)	Duty to give a recommending referral authority a copy of any amended permit which Council decides to grant and copy of any notice given under s 64 or 76	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	If the recommending referral authority did not object to the amendment of the permit or the recommending referral authority did not recommend a condition be included on the amended permit
s 76D	Duty to comply with direction of Minister to issue amended permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 83	Function of being respondent to an appeal	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 83B	Duty to give or publish notice of application for review	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 84(1)	Power to decide on an application at any time after an appeal is lodged against failure to grant a permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 84(2)	Duty not to issue a permit or notice of decision or refusal after an application is made for review of a failure to grant a permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 84(3)	Duty to tell principal registrar if decide to grant a permit after an application is made for review of its failure to grant a permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 84(6)	Duty to issue permit on receipt of advice within 3 business days	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 84AB	Power to agree to confining a review by the Tribunal	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 86	Duty to issue a permit at order of Tribunal within 3 business days	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 87(3)	Power to apply to VCAT for the cancellation or amendment of a permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 87(4)	Power to make a minor amendment to a permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 90(1)	Function of being heard at hearing of request for cancellation or amendment of a permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 91(2)	Duty to comply with the directions of the VCAT	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 91(2A)	Duty to issue amended permit to owner if Tribunal so directs	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 92	Duty to give notice of cancellation/amendment of permit by VCAT to persons entitled to be heard under s.90	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 93(2)	Duty to give notice of VCAT order to stop development	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 95(3)	Function of referring certain applications to the Minister	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 95(4)	Duty to comply with an order or direction	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 96(1)	Duty to obtain a permit from the Minister to use and develop its land	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 96(2)	Function of giving consent to other persons to apply to the Minister for a permit to use and develop Council land	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 96A(2)	Power to agree to consider an application for permit concurrently with preparation of proposed amendment	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 96C	Power to give notice, to decide not to give notice, to publish notice and to exercise any other power under s 96C	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 96F	Duty to consider the panel's report under s 96E	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 96G(1)	Power to determine to recommend that a permit be granted or to refuse to recommend that a permit be granted and power to notify applicant of the determination	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

	(including power to give notice under s 23 of the <i>Planning and Environment (Planning Schemes) Act 1996</i>)		
s 96H(3)	Power to give notice in compliance with Minister's direction	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s96J	Power Duty to issue permit as directed by the Minister	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 96K	Duty to comply with direction of the Minister to give notice of refusal	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 96Z	Duty to keep levy certificates given to it under s 47 or 96A for no less than 5 years from receipt of the certificate	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 97C	Power to request Minister to decide the application	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 97D(1)	Duty to comply with directions of Minister to supply any document or assistance relating to application	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 97G(3)	Function of receiving from Minister copy of notice of refusal to grant permit or copy of any permit granted by the Minister	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 97G(6)	Duty to make a copy of permits issued under s 97F available in accordance with public availability requirements	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 97L	Duty to include Ministerial decisions in a register kept under s 49	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 97O	Duty to consider application and issue or refuse to issue certificate of compliance	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 97P(3)	Duty to comply with directions of VCAT following an application for review of a failure or refusal to issue a certificate	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 97Q(2)	Function of being heard by VCAT at hearing of request for amendment or cancellation of certificate	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 97Q(4)	Duty to comply with directions of VCAT	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 97R	Duty to keep register of all applications for certificate of compliance and related decisions	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 98(1) & (2)	Function of receiving claim for compensation in certain circumstances	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 98(4)	Duty to inform any person of the name of the person from whom compensation can be claimed	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 101	Function of receiving claim for expenses in conjunction with claim	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 103	Power to reject a claim for compensation in certain circumstances	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 107(1)	Function of receiving claim for compensation	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 107(3)	Power to agree to extend time for making claim	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 113(2)	Power to request a declaration for land to be proposed to be reserved for public purposes	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 114(1)	Power to apply to the VCAT for an enforcement order	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 117(1)(a)	Function of making a submission to the VCAT where objections are received	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 120(1)	Power to apply for an interim enforcement order where s 114 application has been made	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 123(1)	Power to carry out work required by enforcement order and recover costs	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 123(2)	Power to sell buildings, materials, etc salvaged in carrying out work under s 123(1)	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Except Crown Land
s 125(1)	Power to apply to any court of competent jurisdiction or to the tribunal for an injunction restraining any person from contravening an enforcement order or an interim enforcement order.	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 129	Function of recovering penalties	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 130(5)	Power to allow person served with an infringement notice further time	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 148B	Power to apply to the Tribunal for a declaration	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 149A(1)	Power to refer a matter to the VCAT for determination	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 149A(1A)	Power to apply to VCAT for the determination of a matter relating to the interpretation of a s.173 agreement	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 156	Duty to pay fees and allowances (including a payment to the Crown under s 156(2A) and payment or reimbursement for reasonable costs and expenses incurred by the panel in carrying out its functions unless the Minister directs otherwise under s 156(2B), power to ask for contribution under s 156 (3) and power to abandon amendment or part of it under s 156(4)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the relevant planning authority
s 171(2)(f)	Power to carry out studies and commission reports	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 171(2)(g)	Power to grant and reserve easements	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 172C	Power to compulsorily acquire any outer public purpose land that is specified in the approved infrastructure contributions plan	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is a development agency specified in an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 172D(1)	Power to compulsorily acquire any inner public purpose land that is specified in the plan before the time that the land is required to be provided to Council under s 46GV(4)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is a collecting agency specified in an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 172D(2)	Power to compulsorily acquire any inner public purpose land, the use and development of which is to be the responsibility of Council under the plan, before the time that the land is required to be provided under s 46GV(4)	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the development agency specified in an approved infrastructure contributions plan
s 173(1)	Power to enter into agreement covering matters set out in s 174	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 173(1A)	Power to enter into an agreement with an owner of land for the development or provision of land in relation to affordable housing	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the relevant responsible authority

---	Power to decide whether something is to the satisfaction of Council, where an agreement made under s 173 of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> requires something to be to the satisfaction of Council or Responsible Authority	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
---	Power to give consent on behalf of Council, where an agreement made under s 173 of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> requires that something may not be done without the consent of Council or Responsible Authority	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 177(2)	Power to end a s 173 agreement with the agreement of all those bound by any covenant in the agreement or otherwise in accordance with Division 2 of Part 9	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 178	Power to amend a s 173 agreement with the agreement of all those bound by any covenant in the agreement or otherwise in accordance with Division 2 of Part 9	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 178A(1)	Function of receiving application to amend or end an agreement	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 178A(3)	Function of notifying the owner as to whether it agrees in principle to the proposal under s178A(1)	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 178A(4)	Function of notifying the applicant and the owner as to whether it agrees in principal to the proposal	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 178A(5)	Power to propose to amend or end an agreement	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 178B(1)	Duty to consider certain matters when considering proposal to end an agreement	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 178B(2)	Duty to consider certain matters when considering proposal to end an agreement	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 178C(2)	Duty to give notice of the proposal to all parties to the agreement and other persons who may be detrimentally affected by decision to amend or end	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 178C(4)	Function of determining how to give notice under s 178C(2)	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 178E(1)	Duty not to make decision until after 14 days after notice has been given	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 178E(2)(a)	Power to amend or end the agreement in accordance with the proposal	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	If no objections are made under s 178D Must consider matters in s 178B
s 178E(2)(b)	Power to amend or end the agreement in a manner that is not substantively different from the proposal	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	If no objections are made under s 178D Must consider matters in s 178B
s 178E(2)(c)	Power to refuse to amend or end the agreement	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	If no objections are made under s 178. Must consider matters in s 178B
s 178E(3)(a)	Power to amend or end the agreement in accordance with the proposal	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	After considering objections, submissions and matters in s 178B
s 178E(3)(b)	Power to amend or end the agreement in a manner that is not substantively different from the proposal	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	After considering objections, submissions and matters in s 178B
s 178E(3)(c)	Power to amend or end the agreement in a manner that is substantively different from the proposal	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	After considering objections, submissions and matters in s 178B
s 178E(3)(d)	Power to refuse to amend or end the agreement	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	After considering objections, submissions and matters in s 178B
s 178F(1)	Duty to give notice of its decision under s 178E(3)(a) or (b)	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 178F(2)	Duty to give notice of its decision under s 178E(2)(c) or (3)(d)	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 178F(4)	Duty not to proceed to amend or end an agreement under s 178E until at least 21 days after notice has been given or until an application for review to the tribunal has been determined or withdrawn	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 178G	Duty to sign amended agreement and give copy to each other party to the agreement	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 178H	Power to require a person who applies to amend or end an agreement to pay the costs of giving notices and preparing the amended agreement	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 178I(3)	Duty to notify, in writing, each party to the agreement of the ending of the agreement relating to Crown Land	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, SPO, P	
s 179(2)	Duty to make a copy of each agreement available in accordance with the public availability requirements	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 181	Duty to apply to the Registrar of Titles to record the agreement	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 181(1A)(a)	Power to apply to the Register of Titles to record the agreement	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 181(1A)(b)	Duty to apply to the Register of Titles, without delay, to record the agreement	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 182	Power to enforce an agreement	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 183	Duty to tell Registrar of Titles of ending/amendment of agreement	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 184F(1)	Power to decide to amend or end an agreement at any time after an application for review of the failure of Council to make a decision	CEO, DSPE, DIA, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 184F(2)	Duty not to amend or end the agreement or give notice of the decision after an application is made to VCAT for review of a failure to amend or end an agreement	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 184F(3)	Duty to inform the principal registrar if the responsible authority decides to amend or end an agreement after an application is made for the review of its failure to end or amend the agreement	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 184F(5)	Function of receiving advice from the principal registrar that the agreement may be amended or ended in accordance with Council's decision	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 184G(2)	Duty to comply with a direction of the tribunal	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 184G(3)	Duty to give notice as directed by the Tribunal	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 185B(1)	Duty to comply with a request from the Minister to provide the name, address, email address or telephone number of any person to whom the Minister is required to give notice	CEO, DIA, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 198(1)	Function to receive application for planning certificate	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 199(1)	Duty to give planning certificate to applicant	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

s 201(1)	Function of receiving application for declaration of underlying zoning	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P, TLPS	
s 201(3)	Duty to make declaration	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
-	Power to decide, in relation to any planning scheme or permit, that a specified thing has or has not been done to the satisfaction of Council	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
	Power in relation to any planning scheme or permit, to consent or refuse to consent to any matter which requires the consent or approval of Council	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
	Power to approve any plan or any amendment to a plan or other document in accordance with a provision of a planning scheme or condition in a permit	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
-	Power to give written authorisation in accordance with a provision of a planning scheme	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 201UAB(1)	Function of providing the Victoria Planning Authority with information relating to any land within municipal district	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
s 201UAB(2)	Duty to provide the Victoria Planning Authority with information requested under ss (1) as soon as possible	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT 1997			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
PROVISION	THING DELEGATED	DELEGATE	CONDITIONS & LIMITATIONS
s 518F	Power to issue notice to caravan park regarding emergency management plan if determined that the plan does not comply with the requirements	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
s 522(1)	Power to give a compliance notice to a person	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
s 525(2)	Power to authorise an officer to exercise powers in s 526 (either generally or in a particular case)	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
s 525(4)	Duty to issue identity card to authorised officers	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
s 526(5)	Duty to keep record of entry by authorised officer under s 526	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
s 526A(3)	Function of receiving report of inspection	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
s 527	Power to authorise a person to institute proceedings (either generally or in a particular case)	CEO, DIA, MCSA	

ROAD MANAGEMENT ACT 2004			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
PROVISION	THING DELEGATED	DELEGATE	CONDITIONS & LIMITATIONS
s 11(1)	Power to declare a road by publishing a notice in the Government Gazette	CEO, MI, DI	Obtain consent in circumstances specified in s 11(2)
s 11(8)	Power to name a road or change the name of a road by publishing notice in Government Gazette	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 11(9)(b)	Duty to advise Registrar	CEO, MG	
s 11(10)	Duty to inform Secretary to Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning of declaration etc.	CEO, MI, DIA	Clause subject to s 11(10A)
s 11(10A)	Duty to inform Secretary to Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning or nominated person	CEO, MI, DIA	where Council is the coordinating road authority
s 12(2)	Power to discontinue road or part of a road	CEO, DIA	where Council is the coordinating road authority
s 12(4)	Duty to publish, and provide copy, notice of proposed discontinuance	CEO, MI, DIA	Power of coordinating road authority where it is the discontinuing body Unless s 12 (11) applies
s 12(5)	Duty to consider written submissions received within 28 days of notice	CEO, MI	Duty of coordinating road authority where it is the discontinuing body Unless s 12(11) applies
s 12(6)	Function of hearing a person in support of their written submission	CEO, DIA	Function of coordinating road authority where it is the discontinuing body Unless s 12 (11) applies
s 12(7)	Duty to fix day, time and place of meeting under s 12(6) and to give notice	CEO, DIA	Duty of coordinating road authority where it is the discontinuing body Unless s 12 (11) applies
s 12(10)	Duty to notify of decision made	CEO, MI, DIA	Duty of coordinating road authority where it is the discontinuing body Does not apply where an exemption is specified by the regulations or given by the Minister
s 13(1)	Power to fix a boundary of a road by publishing notice in Government Gazette	CEO, MI, DIA	Power of coordinating road authority and obtain consent under s 13(3) and s 13(4) as appropriate

s 14(4)	Function of receiving notice from the Head, Transport for Victoria	CEO, DIA	
s 14(7)	Power to appeal against decision of the Head, Transport for Victoria	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 15(1)	Power to enter into arrangement with another road authority, utility or a provider of public transport to transfer a road management function of the road authority to the other road authority, utility or provider of public transport	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 15(1A)	Power to enter into arrangement with a utility to transfer a road management function of the utility to the road authority	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 15(2)	Duty to include details of arrangement in public roads register	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 16(7)	Power to enter into an arrangement under s15	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 16(8)	Duty to enter details of determination in public roads register	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 17(2)	Duty to register public road in public roads register	CEO, MI, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
s 17(3)	Power to decide that a road is reasonably required for general public use	CEO, MI, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
s 17(3)	Duty to register a road reasonably required for general public use in public roads register	CEO, MI, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
s 17(4)	Power to decide that a road is no longer reasonably required for general public use	CEO, MI, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
s 17(4)	Duty to remove road no longer reasonably required for general public use from public roads register	CEO, MI, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
s 18(1)	Power to designate ancillary area	CEO, MI, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority, and obtain consent in circumstances specified in s 18(2)
s 18(3)	Duty to record designation in public roads register	CEO, MI, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
s 19(1)	Duty to keep register of public roads in respect of which it is the coordinating road authority	CEO, MI, DIA	

s 19(4)	Duty to specify details of discontinuance in public roads register	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 19(5)	Duty to ensure public roads register is available for public inspection	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 21	Function of replying to request for information or advice	CEO, MI, DIA	Obtain consent in circumstances specified in s11(2)
s 22(2)	Function of commenting on proposed direction	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 22(4)	Duty to publish a copy or summary of any direction made under s 22 by the Minister in its annual report	CEO, MI, DIA	s 22(5) duty to give effect to a direction under this section. Where council is the road authority
s 40(1)	Duty to inspect, maintain and repair a public road.	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	
s 40(5)	Power to inspect, maintain and repair a road which is not a public road	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	
s 41(1)	Power to determine the standard of construction, inspection, maintenance and repair	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	
s 42(1)	Power to declare a public road as a controlled access road	CEO, MI, DIA	Power of coordinating road authority and sch 2 also applies
s 42(2)	Power to amend or revoke declaration by notice published in Government Gazette	CEO, MI, DIA	Power of coordinating road authority and sch 2 also applies
s 42A(3)	Duty to consult with Head, Transport for Victoria and Minister for Local Government before road is specified	CEO, MI, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority If road is a municipal road or part thereof
s 42A(4)	Power to approve Minister's decision to specify a road as a specified freight road	CEO, MI, DIA	Where Council is the of coordinating road authority If road is a municipal road or part thereof and where road is to be specified a freight road
s 48EA	Duty to notify the owner or occupier of land and provider of public transport on which rail infrastructure or rolling stock is located (and any relevant provider of public transport)	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	Where Council is the responsible road authority, infrastructure manager or works manager
s 48M(3)	Function of consulting with the relevant authority for purposes of developing Guidelines under s.48M	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 49	Power to develop and publish a road management plan	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 51	Power to determine standards by incorporating the standards in a road management plan	CEO, MI, DIA	

s 53(2)	Power to cause notice to be published in Government Gazette of amendment etc of document in road management plan	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 54(2)	Duty to give notice of proposal to make a road management plan	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 54(5)	Duty to conduct a review of road management plan at prescribed intervals	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 54(6)	Power to amend road management plan	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 54(7)	Duty to incorporate the amendments into the road management plan	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 55(1)	Duty to cause notice of road management plan to be published in Government Gazette and newspaper	CEO, MI, DIA	
s 63(1)	Power to consent to conduct of works on road	CEO, DIA, MI, MO, CES, GE	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
s 63(2)(e)	Power to conduct or to authorise the conduct of works in, on, under or over a road in an emergency	CEO, MO, DIA	Where Council is the infrastructure manager
s 64(1)	Duty to comply with cl 13 of sch7	CEO, MO, DIA	Where Council is the infrastructure manager or works manager
s 66(1)	Power to consent to structure etc	CEO, DIA, MI, MO, CES, GE	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
s 67(2)	Function of receiving the name and address of the person responsible for distributing the sign or bill	CEO, MI, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
s 67(3)	Power to request information	CEO, DIA, MI, MO, CES, GE	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
s 68(2)	Power to request information	CEO, DIA, MI, MO, CES, GE	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
s 71(3)	Power to appoint an authorised officer	CEO TO RETAIN	
s 72	Duty to issue an identity card to each authorised officer	CEO, DIA	
s 85	Function of receiving report from authorised officer	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	

s 86	Duty to keep register re s85 matters	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	
s 87(1)	Function of receiving complaints	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	
s 87(2)	Power to investigate complaint and provide report	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	
s 96	Power to authorise a person for the purpose of instituting legal proceedings	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	
s 112(2)	Power to recover damages in court	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	
s 116	Power to cause or carry out inspection	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	
s 119(2)	Function of consulting with the Head, Transport for Victoria	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	
s 120(1)	Power to exercise road management functions on an arterial road (with the consent of Head, Transport for Victoria)	CEO, MO, DIA	
s 120(2)	Duty to seek consent of Head, Transport for Victoria to exercise road management functions before exercising power in s120(1)	CEO, MO, DIA	
s 121(1)	Power to enter into an agreement in respect of works	CEO, MO, DIA	
s 122(1)	Power to charge and recover fees	CEO, MO, DIA	
s 123(1)	Power to charge for any service	CEO, MO, DIA	
sch 2 cl 2(1)	Duty to make a decision in respect of controlled access roads	CEO, MI, DIA	
sch 2 cl 3(1)	Power to make policy about controlled access roads	CEO, MI, DIA	
sch 2 cl 3(2)	Power to amend, revoke or substitute policy about controlled access roads	CEO, MI, DIA	
sch 2 cl 4	Function of receiving details of proposal from Head, Transport for Victoria	CEO, MI, DIA	
sch 2 cl 5	Duty to publish notice of declaration	CEO, MI, DIA	
sch 7 cl 7(1)	Duty to give notice to relevant coordinating road authority of proposed installation of non-road infrastructure or related works on a road reserve	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	Where Council is the infrastructure manager or works manager

sch 7 cl 8(1)	Duty to give notice to any other infrastructure manager or works manager responsible for any non-road infrastructure in the area, that could be affected by any proposed installation of infrastructure or related works on a road or road reserve of any road	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	Where Council is the infrastructure manager or works manager
sch 7 cl 9(1)	Duty to comply with request for information from a coordinating road authority, an infrastructure manager or a works manager responsible for existing or proposed infrastructure in relation to the location of any non-road infrastructure and technical advice or assistance in conduct of works	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	Where Council is the infrastructure manager or works manager responsible for non-road infrastructure
sch 7 cl 9(2)	Duty to give information to another infrastructure manager or works manager where becomes aware any infrastructure or works are not in the location shown on records, appear to be in an unsafe condition or appear to need maintenance	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	Where Council is the infrastructure manager or works manager
sch 7 cl 10(2)	Where sch 7 cl 10(1) applies, duty to, where possible, conduct appropriate consultation with persons likely to be significantly affected	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	Where Council is the infrastructure manager or works manager
sch 7 cl 12(2)	Power to direct infrastructure manager or works manager to conduct reinstatement works	CEO, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
sch 7 cl 12(3)	Power to take measures to ensure reinstatement works are completed	CEO, DIA, MI, MO, CES, GE	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
sch 7 cl 12(4)	Duty to ensure that works are conducted by an appropriately qualified person	CEO, DIA, MI, MO, CES, GE	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
sch 7 cl12(5)	Power to recover costs	CEO, MO, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
sch 7 cl 13(1)	Duty to notify relevant coordinating road authority within 7 days that works have been completed, subject to sch 7, cl 13(2)	CEO, MO, DIA	Where Council is the works manager
sch 7 cl 13(2)	Power to vary notice period	CEO, MO, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
Sch 7 cl 13(3)	Duty to ensure works manager has complied with obligation to give notice under sch 7, cl 13(1)	CEO, MO, DIA	Where Council is the infrastructure manager
sch 7 cl 16(1)	Power to consent to proposed works	CEO, DIA, MI, MO, CES, GE	Where Council is the coordinating road authority

sch 7 cl 16(4)	Duty to consult	CEO, DIA, MI, MO, CES, GE	Where Council is the coordinating road authority, responsible authority or infrastructure manager
sch 7 cl 16(5)	Power to consent to proposed works	CEO, DIA, MI, MO, CES, GE	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
sch 7 cl 16(6)	Power to set reasonable conditions on consent	CEO, DIA, MI, MO, CES, GE	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
sch7 cl 16(8)	Power to include consents and conditions	CEO, DIA, MI, MO, CES, GE	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
sch 7 cl 17(2)	Power to refuse to give consent and duty to give reasons for refusal	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
sch7 cl 18(1)	Power to enter into an agreement	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
sch 7 cl 19(1)	Power to give notice requiring rectification of works	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
sch 7 cl 19(2) & (3)	Power to conduct the rectification works or engage a person to conduct the rectification works and power to recover costs incurred	CEO, DIA, MI, , MO, CES, GE	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
sch 7 cl 20(1)	Power to require removal, relocation, replacement or upgrade of existing non-road infrastructure	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
sch 7A cl 2	Power to cause street lights to be installed on roads	CEO, MI, MO, DIA	Power of responsible road authority where it is the coordinating road authority or responsible road authority in respect of the road
sch 7A cl 3(1)(d)	Duty to pay installation and operation costs of street lighting – where road is not an arterial road	CEO, MO, DIA	Where Council is the responsible road authority for the road
sch 7A cl 3(1)(e)	Duty to pay installation and operation costs of street lighting – where road is a service road on an arterial road and adjacent areas	CEO, MO, DIA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
sch 7A cl 3(1)(f)	Duty to pay installation and percentage of operation costs of street lighting for arterial roads in accordance with cl 3(2) and 4	CEO, MO, DIA	Duty of Council as responsible road authority that installed the light (re: installation costs) and where Council is relevant municipal council (re: operating costs)

CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA REGULATIONS 2015

[##These provisions apply to a Council appointed as a cemetery trust under s 5 of the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003*, and also apply to Council appointed to manage a public cemetery under s 8(1)(a)(ii) as though it were a cemetery trust (see s 53)

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
PROVISION	THING DELEGATED	DELEGATE	CONDITIONS & LIMITATIONS
r 24	Duty to ensure that cemetery complies with depth of burial requirements	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
r 25	Duty to ensure that the cemetery complies with the requirements for interment in concrete-lined graves	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
r 27	Power to inspect any coffin, container or other receptacle if satisfied of the matters in paragraphs (a) and (b)	CEO, DCS	
r 28(1)	Power to remove any fittings on any coffin, container or other receptacle if the fittings may impede the cremation process or damage the cremator	CEO, DCS	
r 28(2)	Duty to ensure any fittings removed of are disposed in an appropriate manner	CEO, DCS	
r 29	Power to dispose of any metal substance or non-human substance recovered from a cremator	CEO, DCS	
r 30(2)	Power to release cremated human remains to certain persons	CEO, DCS	Subject to any order of a court
r 31(1)	Duty to make cremated human remains available for collection within 2 working days after the cremation	CEO, DCS	
r 31(2)	Duty to hold cremated human remains for at least 12 months from the date of cremation	CEO, DCS	
r 31(3)	Power to dispose of cremated human remains if no person gives a direction within 12 months of the date of cremation	CEO, DCS	

r 31(4)	Duty to take reasonable steps notify relevant people of intention to dispose of remains at expiry of 12 month period	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	
r 32	Duty to ensure a mausoleum is constructed in accordance with paragraphs (a)-(d)	CEO, DIA, DCS	
r 33(1)	Duty to ensure that remains are interred in a coffin, container or receptacle in accordance with paragraphs (a)-(c)	CEO, DCS	
r 33(2)	Duty to ensure that remains are interred in accordance with paragraphs (a)-(b)	CEO, DCS	
r 34	Duty to ensure that a crypt space in a mausolea is sealed in accordance with paragraphs (a)-(b)	CEO, DCS	
r 36	Duty to provide statement that alternative vendors or supplier of monuments exist	CEO, DCS, MG CTS	
r 40	Power to approve a person to play sport within a public cemetery	CEO, DCS	
r 41(1)	Power to approve fishing and bathing within a public cemetery	CEO, DCS	
r 42(1)	Power to approve hunting within a public cemetery	CEO, DCS	
r 43	Power to approve camping within a public cemetery	CEO, DCS	
r 45(1)	Power to approve the removal of plants within a public cemetery	CEO, DIA, DCS, MO	
r 46	Power to approve certain activities under the Regulations if satisfied of regulation (1)(a)-(c)	CEO, DCS	
r 47(3)	Power to approve the use of fire in a public cemetery	CEO, DIA, DCS	
r 48(2)	Power to approve a person to drive, ride or use a vehicle on any surface other than a road, track or parking area	CEO, DCS	
Note: sch2 contains Model Rules - only applicable if the cemetery trust has not made its own cemetery trust rules			

sch 2, cl 4	Power to approve the carrying out of an activity referred to in rules 8, 16, 17 and 18 of sch 2	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	See note above regarding model rules
sch 2, cl 5(1)	Duty to display the hours during which pedestrian access is available to the cemetery	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	See note above regarding model rules
sch 2, cl 5(2)	Duty to notify the Secretary of, (a) the hours during which pedestrian access is available to the cemetery; and (b) any changes to those hours	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	See note above regarding model rules
sch 2, cl 6(1)	Power to give directions regarding the manner in which a funeral is to be conducted	CEO, DCS	See note above regarding model rules
sch 2, cl 7(1)	Power to give directions regarding the dressing of places of interment and memorials	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	See note above regarding model rules
sch 2, cl 11(1)	Power to remove objects from a memorial or place of interment	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	See note above regarding model rules
sch 2, cl 11(2)	Duty to ensure objects removed under sub rule (1) are disposed of in an appropriate manner	CEO, DCS, MG, CTS	See note above regarding model rules
sch 2, cl 12	Power to inspect any work being carried out on memorials, places of interment and buildings for ceremonies	CEO, DIA, DCS	See note above regarding model rules
sch 2, cl 14	Power to approve an animal to enter into or remain in a cemetery	CEO, DCS	See note above regarding model rules
sch 2, cl 16(1)	Power to approve construction and building within a cemetery	CEO, DIA, DCS	See note above regarding model rules
sch 2, cl 17(1)	Power to approve action to disturb or demolish property of the cemetery trust	CEO, DCS	See note above regarding model rules
sch 2, cl 18(1)	Power to approve digging or planting within a cemetery	CEO, DIA, DCS	See note above regarding model rules

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REGULATIONS 2015			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
PROVISION	THING DELEGATED	DELEGATE	CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS
r 6	Function of receiving notice, under s 19(1)(c) of the Act, from a planning authority of its preparation of an amendment to a planning scheme	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is not the planning authority and the amendment affects land within its municipal district; or Where the amendment will amend the planning scheme to designate Council as an acquiring authority.
r 21	Power of responsible authority to require a permit applicant to verify information (by statutory declaration or other written confirmation satisfactory to the responsible authority) in an application for a permit or to amend a permit or any information provided under s 54 of the Act	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
r 25(a)	Duty to make copy of matter considered under s 60(1A)(g) in accordance with the public availability requirements	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is the responsible authority
r 25(b)	Function of receiving a copy of any document considered under s 60(1A)(g) by the responsible authority and duty to make the document available in accordance with the public availability requirements	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is not the responsible authority but the relevant land is within Council's municipal district
r 42	Function of receiving notice under s 96C(1)(c) of the Act from a planning authority of its preparation of a combined application for an amendment to a planning scheme and notice of a permit application	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	Where Council is not the planning authority and the amendment affects land within Council's municipal district; or Where the amendment will amend the planning scheme to designate Council as an acquiring authority

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT (FEES)-REGULATIONS 2016			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
PROVISION	THING DELEGATED	DELEGATE	CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS
r 19	Power to waive or rebate a fee relating to an amendment of a planning scheme	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
r 20	Power to waive or rebate a fee other than a fee relating to an amendment to a planning scheme	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	
r 21	Duty to record matters taken into account and which formed the basis of a decision to waive or rebate a fee under r 19 or 20	CEO, DSPE, MCSA, CSD, PSP, P	

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES (CARAVAN PARKS AND MOVABLE DWELLINGS REGISTRATION AND STANDARDS) REGULATIONS 2020			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
PROVISION	THING DELEGATED	DELEGATE	CONDITIONS & LIMITATIONS
r 7	Function of entering into a written agreement with a caravan park owner	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 11	Function of receiving applications for registration	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 13(1)	Duty to grant the registration if satisfied that the caravan park complies with these regulations	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 13(2)	Duty to renew the registration if satisfied that the caravan park complies with these regulations	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 13(2)	Power to refuse to renew the registration if not satisfied that the caravan park complies with these regulations	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 13(4) & (5)	Duty to issue certificate of registration	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 15(1)	Function of receiving notice of transfer of ownership	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 15(3)	Power to determine whether notice of transfer is displayed	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 16(1)	Duty to transfer registration to new caravan park owner	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 16(2)	Duty to issue certificate of transfer of registration	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 17(1)	Power to determine the fee to accompany applications for registration or applications for renewal of registration	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 18	Duty to keep register of caravan parks	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	

r 19(4)	Power to determine where the emergency contact person's details are displayed	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 19(6)	Power to determine where certain information is displayed	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 22A(1)	Duty to notify a caravan park owner of the relevant emergency services agencies for the caravan park, on the request of the caravan park owner	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 22A(2)	Duty to consult with relevant emergency services agencies	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 23(2)	Power to determine places in which caravan park owner must display a copy of emergency procedures	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 24(1)	Power to determine places in which caravan park owner must display copy of public emergency warnings	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 25(3)	Duty to consult with relevant floodplain management authority	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 26	Duty to have regard to any report of the relevant fire authority	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 28(C)	Power to approve system for the collection, removal and disposal of sewage and waste water from a movable dwelling	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 39	Function of receiving notice of proposed installation of unregistrable movable dwelling or rigid annexe	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 39(b)	Power to require notice of proposal to install unregistrable movable dwelling or rigid annexe	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	
r 40(4)	Function of receiving installation certificate	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO	c
r 42	Power to approve use of a non-habitable structure as a dwelling or part of a dwelling	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO, BI	
sch 3, cl 4(3)	Power to approve the removal of wheels and axles from unregistrable movable dwelling	CEO, MCSA, CSD, EHO, BI	

ROAD MANAGEMENT (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2016			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
PROVISION	THING DELEGATED	DELEGATE	CONDITIONS & LIMITATIONS
r 8(1)	Duty to conduct reviews of road management plan	CEO, MI, DIA, MO	
r 9(2)	Duty to produce written report of review of road management plan and make report available	CEO, MI, DIA, MO	
r 9(3)	Duty to give notice where road management review is completed and no amendments will be made (or no amendments for which notice is required)	CEO, MI, DIA, MO	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
r 10	Duty to give notice of amendment which relates to standard of construction, inspection, maintenance or repair under s 41 of the Act	CEO, MI, DIA, MO, MCSA	
r 13(1)	Duty to publish notice of amendments to road management plan	CEO, MI, DIA, MO, MCSA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
r 13(3)	Duty to record on road management plan the substance and date of effect of amendment	CEO, MI, DIA, MO	
r 16(3)	Power to issue permit	CEO, MI, DIA, MO, MCSA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
r 18(1)	Power to give written consent re damage to road	CEO, MI, DIA, MO	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
r 23(2)	Power to make submission to Tribunal	CEO, MI, DIA, MO, MCSA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
r 23(4)	Power to charge a fee for application under s 66(1) Road Management Act	CEO, MI, DIA, MO, MCSA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
r 25(1)	Power to remove objects, refuse, rubbish or other material deposited or left on road	CEO, MI, DIA, MO, MCSA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority

r 25(2)	Power to sell or dispose of things removed from road or part of road (after first complying with r.25(3))	CEO, MI, DIA, MO, MCSA	Where Council is the coordinating road authority
r 25(5)	Power to recover in the Magistrates' Court expenses from person responsible	CEO, MI, DIA, MO, MCSA	

ROAD MANAGEMENT (WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE) REGULATIONS 2015			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
PROVISION	THING DELEGATED	DELEGATE	CONDITIONS & LIMITATIONS
r 15	Power to exempt a person from requirement under cl 13(1) of sch 7 of the Act to give notice as to the completion of those works	CEO, DIA, MI, CES, IE, GE, MO	Where Council is the coordinating road authority and where consent given under s 63(1) of the Act
r 22(2)	Power to waive whole or part of fee in certain circumstances	CEO, DIA, MI, CES, IE, GE, MO, MCSA	Where council is the coordinating road authority

10. Notices of Motion or Rescission

Nil

11. Reports from Councillors/Committees

Queen Mary Botanic Gardens Advisory Group Minutes, Wednesday 7 February 2024

Councillors provided brief reports on their activities on behalf of Council since the last Council meeting.

Cr Emerson reported that it had been a busy month. He said on 1 April which was Easter Monday he had done 17 interviews on the radio in regard the weather and the Stawell Gift. He reported that throughout April he attended an MAV Board Meeting as a Director of the Board. He said that time was taken up with interviewing seven or eight people for the position of Executive Officer of the Stawell Gift Event Management Board, and they now have a successful person to take on the position. He said he attended a strategic planning meeting, a Northern Grampians Shire Transmission Forum, went to Yarriambiack to hear a discussion on the code of conduct and the upcoming elections and attended two budget briefings. He reported that the Stawell Gift Event Management Board also had a couple of meetings during April, he attended an MAV Discrimination, Bullying and Harassment Prevention discussion, a drop-in session regarding the transmission lines and a Halls Gap community barbecue.

Cr Ostarcevic reported that he had attended the St Arnaud Debutante Ball which was a raging success, with 10 couples attend and that it shows the interest within the community as it was booked out. He reported attending the monthly St Arnaud Community Action Network meeting with a number of issues raised that he had passed on through the internal council process. He said that there was a call from businesses in town to hold a careers expo where school students can be exposed to the various careers and have a day or two secondment to those businesses. He said that he had a couple of meetings with the Early Learning Centre Reference Group and that it is incumbent for that group, now that the site is set, to focus on what is going to be included in the building and what we can do to cater for families. He gave his compliments to Martha Haylett MP for organising a meeting on behalf of the Sunraysia Highway Improvement Committee to meet with Minister Horne regarding funding. Cr Ostarcevic said that they took an alternative approach where they offered the minister solutions rather than just problems. He said unfortunately the problems will roost with the councils but they received a positive response from the minister about the concept of coming to her with solutions. He said that they will see where this takes us as it is a model that needs to develop. Cr Ostarcevic went on to report that Barry Batters raised the issue at the National Party meeting and moved a motion that the Teddington Reservoir issue be resolved with Minister Dimopoulos. He said that Emma Kealy MP has reached out and sought letters that council has sent through, so we have sent through copies of letters sent out from the previous Mayor and the current Mayor to Minister Stitt and Minister Dimopoulos and also Minister Stitt's response to council to take the issue up with Parks Victoria. The challenge we have is that Parks Victoria is tasked with delivering an outcome not deciding on policy and we need to keep on hammering the door with the Minister. He reported that Martha Haylett has suggested we might be able to have a meeting with Minister Dimopoulos in June. He reported on attending a fairly significant discussion at a community information sharing event down at Natte Yallock regarding the wind farm proposal at Natte Yallock, which was hosted by Luke and Hayley Batters. He reported on conversations with members of the Philippines community who are keen to showcase their culture to the people of St Arnaud and they are yet to engage with council officers. He said that with an extensive community in Stawell there will be cross pollination of concepts and this will gather momentum over the coming months.

Cr Erwin reported that he also had attended the Transmission Line Meeting, Local Government Forum and a community barbecue out at Halls Gap. He also attended an Audit and Risk Committee Meeting, the Business After Hours event which was highly successful. He reported attending a Western Highway Action Committee meeting, which is a long saga about getting a road repaired and then built and that it would be interesting to see how it progresses or if it does progress. He said he attended the ANZAC Day events which were very well covered by the community with very good numbers at St Arnaud, Great Western, Stawell and Halls Gap. He reported on attending Grampians Grape Escape meetings and that over the weekend he had attended the highly successful Grampians Grape Escape event. He noted that at the Stawell Easter Gift event, he invited Minister Dimopoulos to attend the Grampians Grape Escape and that he graciously did attend and made very positive comments about the event.

Cr Hyslop said that she attended the budget briefing sessions and they have had a lot of discussion and have changed a few projects around to support community needs. She said that she also attended the Business After Hours event, which was a well attended and successful networking event and they will continue running them and hopefully extend them to St Arnaud. She also attended the St Arnaud and Stawell ANZAC Day events which had great crowds with a lot of people getting out to support a fantastic day. She also attended a few St Arnaud Early Years Stakeholder Reference Group meetings.

Cr Gready reported on attending the first AGM of the Neighbourhood House out at Halls Gap which had a lot of enthusiastic people looking to keep the project going. He said that he attended the ANZAC Day Services in Halls Gap, Great Western and in Stawell which had huge crowds and attended a Great Western Futures Committee Meeting to talk about the Memorial Park Plan that went through Council today.

Cr Haswell reported on Easter Monday there was a flood zone at Central Park which drained away very quickly. He said that at around the middle of the day, he and Minister Dimopoulos visited Pomonal to see up close the damage the fires had created. He said that the CFA provided a guided tour which was really good. He reported on attending a session on the upcoming elections and guidance around the rules and regulations leading up to the elections which was hosted by Maddocks Lawyers. He said that they had a big week on the budget and that a lot of work goes into the preparation of that by the team. He said he attended a Halls Gap community barbecue which was put together by council in order to bring all of the community together after being through so much and losing so much and it was a great event. He reported on the new Central Park female friendly clubroom renovation and the spectacular mural. He also reported that he had done a couple of interviews on the mural with the ABC. He said that ANZAC Day was a huge success in Stawell with such a lot of people. He reported on attending the Grampians Grape Escape at Halls Gap, which had over 8,000 people attend and that the atmosphere was spectacular and an event to be remembered.

RESOLUTION

That the reports be received.

Moved: Cr Murray Emerson

Seconded: Cr Kevin Erwin

Carried

Queen Mary Botanic Garden Advisory Committee minutes, 07th February 2024

Present Lyn Box, Ros Small, Dorothy Patton, Marg McCahon, Dot Baldwin, Dee Freeman and Janelle Patching

Apologies Jo Hamilton and Brenda Procter

Marg McCahon-moved, seconded Lyn Box

Minutes from previous meeting – amended previous minutes as Brenda Procter was listed as an apology but was present at meeting 06.12.2024, also business arising moved by Lyn Box, not Brenda Box - then True and Correct,

Matters arising previous meeting

Sign to be removed – Railway hub sign removal has occurred.

Discussion on Rotary plaque- discussion that the committee needs to be consulted on wording and process, the decision is to be revisited as committee members concerned about placement and maybe some plants around it may make it more discreet.

Committee to measure the future children's play area.

Feb working bee was held thanks to D Patton and N Lloyd.

Eddy to follow up the delay in the palm planting with garden crew.

Marg to follow up membership letter to the Historical society for feedback.

True and correct, Lyn Box moved, Dee Freeman seconded

Business arising

Children's play area-Eddy has raised with council, Eddy advised some low level planning is in process for playground.

Eddy gave update on pedestrian crossing in Napier Street, to follow up for further discussion.

Friends meeting – wood raffle for consideration with the hope Lions may donate a trailer of wood. The raffle selling dates are booked and Gala day preparations for 23rd March are underway with cooking and helpers for the day.

Australia Day was busy and the pricing was agreed \$4 per person would be charged per head to the NG shire with a gold coin donation per morning tea box on the day.

Update on major sign coming along well with bricks and structure, has been community member contact the Shire to question the expense. Friends placed a sign up to advise public the project was fully funded by the friends.

Eddy was to follow up the text script before it was placed on sign.

Moved Lyn Box and seconded Ros Small

General Business

Eddy mentioned the captain cook statue and had advised he had made contact with the shire to see if the statue to see if we could have the statue at Stuart mill or in the QMBG, just something to think about committee had discussion on statues.

Important dates

Next meeting 05th June- General Meeting

Meeting dates for the year, Aug 7th, Oct 2nd and Dec 4th.

Meeting closed. 6.45pm

12. Urgent Business

Nil

13. Public Question Time

Veronica Monaghan, 9 Burgh Street, Stawell

Q1. Since the NGSC awarded a new lease to the Grampians Gate Caravan Park (C & C Parks) at 2 Burgh Street, Stawell many changes have been made. Did you know that according to their terms and conditions?

- the Company uses hidden and visible video and audio surveillance
- C & C Parks may collect Biometric Data such as fingerprints, palm prints, a person's facial structure, a retina or a person's voice
- they may conduct drug and alcohol testing
- they may conduct bag searches

Q2. Were you aware?

- some accommodation options are at budget prices designed for workers, travellers and backpackers but no-one is allowed to stay longer than 30 days
- on their website it was stated they would prefer not to open over Easter as they will lose money with public holiday wages and employing 24-hour security
- exteriors of buildings have been painted black together with some interiors
- many containers have been placed as barriers to stop camping while issues with the CFA are sorted out.

Q3. Is Council intending to do anything about these concerns from park neighbours as well as community members?

Ms Cam Buntsma, Director Corporate Services provided the following response:

Council acknowledges your correspondence regarding the Stawell Grampians Gate Caravan Park, which trades as Stawell C & C Park. It is important to understand the relationship that exists between the parties. Stawell C & C Park is an independent, privately owned business.

The land on which the business operates is Crown Land, for which Council is responsible as a committee of management in accordance with the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*.

Council's relationship with the operator of the Stawell C & C Park is governed by a formal lease. The Stawell C & C Park is not managed on Council's behalf. This means that the business policies and park rules are largely outside the purview of Council's authority.

In Victoria, park operators are regulated by the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*, the *Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks and Movable Dwellings Registration and Standards) Regulations 2010*, the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the Northern Grampians Planning Scheme. and any rules relating to the use, enjoyment, control and management of the park must be consistent with this legislation.

Your questions touch on numerous points of concern that Council will look at, but from the perspective of landlord pursuant to the lease and separately as the local planning authority.

In the meantime, if you have specific concerns Council encourages you to address them directly with the park operator.

Ruth Jabornik, 21 McMahon Street, St Arnaud

Q1. Regarding Upper Teddington Dam has there been any response to Mayor Kevin Erwin's letter from March 15 2023 to the Minister for the Environment asking for a meeting with the Minister? If there has been a meeting what has been the Minister's response?

Brent McAlister, Chief Executive Officer provided the following response:

A response was received on 10 April from Minister Stitt. In the written response she covered three points. Firstly she made it clear that the government decided to decommission the upper reservoir around risk. They did consider the costs around upgrade and maintenance but they felt that the risks outweighed the decision to upgrade and retain the reservoir. The second point was that the State Government has made a decision in their State Budget 2022/23 to decommission the reservoir over three years and they are currently in the planning design phase. The third point was around the advocacy to reuse the reservoir as part of the Southern Wimmera and Northeast Pyrenees Rural Water Scheme, there has been discussion with GWM in which she made the point clear that Parks Victoria is not a water authority and unless GWM took it over they were not going to go down that route.

In answer to the second question, Minister Stitt did not want to meet but she did refer Regional Director Chris Corbell to meet and he did meet with Cr Ostarcevic, council staff and the community. He made it very clear that he follows orders and they are following the decommissioning until they get different orders. Martha Haylett MP Ripon is going to organise a meeting with Minister Dimopoulos and we hopefully can continue to advocate for the retention of the reservoir.

Daniel Monaghan, 20 Crowlands Road, Stawell

- Q1. Community safety at the skate park, can video security be extended from the gym to the skate park?
Q2. Safe use of the dog area at night, can some type of lighting systems be installed for the dog park and parking?

Trenton Fithall, Director Infrastructure and Amenity provided the following response:

With regards to CCTV at the skate park, the answer is yes it could happen. It is a matter of us working through it. We will now have to do some investigation around what is required and how it will work. There is policy work around privacy in public spaces that we will have to work through. We have not looked at it to date but we can commit to looking at it.

With regards to lighting at the dog park, it is not something that is in our master plan for North Park. Public spaces and community safety is multifaceted and lighting, CCTV, surveillance and all those things come into play. We can definitely look at what it would take to get some lighting in the dog park, to what extent and what it would cost, we can potentially seek to put that in the budget if necessary.

14. Closure of Meeting Pursuant to Section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020

A Council or delegated committee may resolve that the meeting be closed to members of the public if it considers it necessary because a circumstance specified below apply:

The circumstances are-

- (a) the meeting is to consider confidential information; or
- (b) security reasons; or
- (c) it is necessary to do so to enable the meeting to proceed in an orderly manner.

If the circumstances specified in subsection (b) or (c) apply, the meeting can only be closed to the public if the Council has made arrangements to enable the proceedings of the meeting to be viewed by members of the public as the meeting is being held.

14.1. C6 2023/24 - Provision of Waste and Recycling Services

14.2. C2 2024/25 - Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO)

RESOLUTION

That items 14.1 and 14.2 be considered in Closed Council as they deal with confidential information as detailed in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Moved: Cr Murray Emerson
Seconded: Cr Kevin Erwin Carried

RESOLUTION

That the meeting be closed to consider the items listed pursuant to section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Moved: Cr Murray Emerson
Seconded: Cr Kevin Erwin Carried

OPEN COUNCIL

The Chief Executive Officer reported on the items discussed in Closed Council.

14.1 Council agreed to award contract C6 2023/24 Provision of Waste and Recycling Services to Wimmera Mallee Waste Management Pty Ltd for their submitted unit rates.

14.2 Council approved joining the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) and authorised the Chief Executive Officer to sign the Retail Electricity Supply Agreement with Red Energy, which is for a contract period of five and a half years, commencing 1 July 2024 and concluding 31 December 2030, with an option for extension by mutual agreement.

15. Close

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 2.22pm.

CR ROB HASWELL
MAYOR