

15.6 Tiny Towns Funding Application and Yaapect Bus Shelter Capital Works Endorsement

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SUMMARY

In September 2023 Council adopted the Yaapect Streetscape Masterplan that centered around addressing feedback relating to landmarks & signage, planting, footpaths & kerbs, and rest stops. The Masterplan also included cost estimates for the proposed works and was ready to support funding applications when they became available to Yarriambiack Shire Council.

The Tiny Towns funding, administered by Regional Development Victoria offers grants to eligible towns up to the value of \$50,000. This funding announcement provides Yarriambiack Shire Council with the ability to seek the full amount of this funding to carry out initiatives identified in the Yaapect Streetscape Masterplan.

Yarriambiack Shire Council have capital works funds available to put towards a co-contribution for the funding and also contribute to the costs of a school bus shelter.

This project will deliver high priority works identified in the master plan including:

- Bus shelter for students catching the school bus every day from Yaapect,
- Town entrance signage at the Northern and Southern end of Yaapect,
- The plantings of native trees along Byrne Street,
- Planting of low maintenance garden beds along Byrne Street,
- Wayfinding signage.

Recommended Motion:

That Council.

- a) Support the Tiny Towns Funding application to deliver on the Yaapect Streetscape Master Plan and Yaapect Community Action Plan objectives as outlined in this report.

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment 1: Tiny Towns Fund Program Guidelines](#)

[Attachment 2: Yaapect Community Action Plan](#)

DISCUSSION

Bus Shelter – Capital Works:

Of note in this Yaapect streetscape project is the school bus shelter for Cowan Street. Around 15 school children catch a bus to school every day from Yaapect, however the current pick-up location is not adequate. A shelter is required to provide protection from the elements for the children and formalise the location of the bus stop on a road reserve whose use can sometimes spill over into private land.

The implementation of a bus shelter was identified in the October 2023 Yaapect Community Action Plan as the highest priority project for the Yaapect township. It is essential that this asset be added to deliver safe and adequate facilities for essential services. The current location is preferred by Yaapect parents and community members as a safe off-street location, rather than the public bus stop in Byrne Street. The project

was also identified as part of the Yaapeet Streetscape Masterplan in early 2023 and preliminary costings were provided as part of this plan.

The school bus shelter will be funded and delivered by Council on the road reserve surrounded by Cowan Street and Woods Street, bound to the east by an informal continuation of Mellington’s Lane which crosses private property. The project will be delivered by suitably qualified builders in line with the plans that have been prepared by street furniture suppliers. The project will be project managed by Council officers.

Tiny Towns Funding– Yaapeet Streetscape:

The Tiny Towns Fund through Regional Development Victoria has been identified as a funding opportunity for Council to deliver on substantial key moves identified in the Yaapeet Streetscape Masterplan and Community Action Plan. It aims to support local communities to deliver quality tourism and community facility projects, such as splash parks and bike trails, playgrounds, community hall and library upgrades, public art and more.

Towns with a population of up to 5,000 people in the 48 Local Government areas of regional Victoria are eligible to apply, as well as Alpine Resorts and Melbourne’s 10 interface outer metropolitan Local Government areas.

Up to \$50,000 is available per application – each application requires at least a 25% co-contribution towards the project cost from the applying Local Government body, or 20% from a community organisation.

The town entrance and wayfinding signage will be produced professionally and will involve community consultation to settle on the final design and inclusions. Depending on the final design, professional graphic design may be required and there is the possibility that signage could be installed by the Northern Works team. Several points were received as part of the public consultation relating to the master plan that will need to be considered as part of the design and delivery of signage.

It is important to note that while improving the amenity of Byrne Street was a key driver for the development of the master plan and resulted in the recommendation for the native tree plantings. This was a polarising action that was supported by some residents but not others. Therefore, consultation with individual homeowners, shop owners and residents will be essential to determine the location and concentration of tree plantings along Byrne Street.

Council will apply for \$50,000 through Tiny Towns to deliver on the key actions for Byrne Street (town entrance signage, plantings, trees, and wayfinding signage that will be scaled to fit the overall project budget); and contribute \$17,444.80 in capital works towards the implementation of the bus shelter in Cowan Street as part of an overall Yaapeet streetscape project, which will act as Council’s co-contribution towards the project.

The budget for the project is well founded thanks to the development of the Yaapeet Streetscape Masterplan that was recently adopted by Council, as well as other quotes obtained by Council in line with the Procurement Policy.

The planned funding application to the Tiny Towns Fund meets and addresses all eligibility criteria. The application also meets the fund objectives:

- ‘Address gaps in community infrastructure and facilities in Victoria’s smallest communities’
- ‘Build community pride and enhance living, working, socialising and recreation in small towns’.
- ‘Support the increased participation in community life and community inclusion of all residents, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians, people living with disability, LGBTQIA+ communities and people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds and isolated communities’.

The successful delivery of this project would also demonstrate the importance of community consultation and support further work in engaging with communities, especially through increased confidence in the development of Community Action Plans and Masterplans.

The co-contribution to support this funding application will be allocated from the \$50,000 Streetscape Capital Works Budget allocation in the 23-24 budget.

RELEVANT LAW

- Building Regulations 2018
- National Construction Code
- *Local Government Act 2020*

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021-2025

- *Key Objective 2: A Healthy And Inclusive Community*
- *Key Objective 3: A Robust And Thriving Environment*
- *Key Objective 4: A Council Who Serves Its Community*

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

15.1 Yaapeet Streetscape Master Plan – Adoption of strategy at September Council Meeting 2023

OPTIONS

Nil

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Environment: In the design and delivery stages of the project, consideration has and will be given to:

- Ensuring the low maintenance and relative hardiness of the plantings suggested including trees,
- The amenity of Byrne and Cowan Streets,
- The needs of individual homeowners and residents, especially those who may be impacted by the planting of trees,
- Council's tree policy regarding the recommended trees for Byrne Street.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This project has considerable backing from the community, supported by the community consultation undertaken as part of the Masterplan, and also through its high prioritisation in the Yaapeet Community Action Plan.

Yaapeet Community Club have been engaged to develop a working group to represent the views of their community in the design of the signage, and to liaise with homeowners and residents along Byrne Street regarding plantings.

Yaapeet Streetscape Masterplan:

In consultation with the Yaapeet Community Club, two community consultation sessions were held with consultants and Council staff to develop the Yaapeet Streetscape Masterplan. Community consultation sessions were advertised through the Yaapeet Community Club, Council's website and social media, newspaper ads and Council's newsletter.

Following the final draft, the Masterplan was made available on Council's website for public comment. A letter drop was used to notify residents, and the timeframe for feedback was also extended beyond 28 days. Minor amendments were made following

the one submission received where the submission supported or reinforced views of residents at the community consultation sessions.

Yaapeet Community Action Plan:

The Yaapeet Community identified through their Community Action Plan, that the bus shelter was the highest priority on their project lists to provide a safe and adequate shelter for the large number of students that utilise the bus service.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<i>Gender Impact Assessment (GIA)</i>	<i>Status</i>
Does this Council report recommendation c) Introduce a new policy, program and/or service; or d) Is it a review of a policy, program and/or service; that directly and significantly impacts the public?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A GIA has been completed. NO <input type="checkbox"/> A GIA is not required.
Link to Gender Impact Assessment	GIA – Yaapeet Streetscape Master Plan

RISK

<i>Strategic Risk Description and Residual Risk Level</i>	<i>Action to Mitigate/Reduce Risk</i>	<i>Does Action maintain or reduce Residual Risk Level</i>
Program and Project Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Dedicated Project Manager for the procurement and construction of the project will reduce project delivery risks.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Financial Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	Several quotes have been sourced to ensure cost accuracy and value for money would be achieved.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Reputational Risk - Residual Risk Level Low	Council can be seen delivering on community priorities, supporting the work done by Council that supports the development of township Community Action Plans.	Reduces Residual Risk Level
Strategy Execution and Change Management Risk - Residual Risk Level Medium	The Yaapeet Bus Shelter is identified as a project in Council’s adopted Operational Plan for 2023-24.	Reduces Residual Risk Level

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

<i>Strategy / Plan</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Outcome / Action</i>
Yaapeet Community Action Plan	School Bus Shelter Streetscape works	Supporting the strategic planning of the Yaapeet township by delivering high priority projects for action
Yaapeet Streetscape Master Plan	School Bus Shelter Key Actions 1-4	Delivering on a key action identified as part of the master plan community consultation

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.