

Yarriambiack Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 – update Quarter 3, 2023-24

Indicator	Measure	Status – Quarter 3, Year 3 2023-24
Council Plan 2021-2025: Strategic Objective One: A Vibrant and Diversified Economy		
Pursue opportunity to enter partnerships to enhance tourism outcomes across the Shire and region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful transition to a Visitor Economy Partnership, securing additional funding to support Tourism across our Shire and Region. • Clearly developed and defined expectations of the VEP outcomes is to be adopted and articulated to Councillors and the community. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Report endorsed on 07 February 2024 to move forward with joining the Visitor Economy Partnership. • MoU has been endorsed by WMT and the VEP to clearly articulate expectations between parties. • Council is now a member of the Grampians, Wimmera Mallee Tourism Visitor Economy Partnership. The Destination Management Plan will be developed shortly, and will guide the GWMT actions for our Shire over the next two years.
Proactively advocate for funding to support economic development and tourism activities to support regional growth and development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy priorities are clearly articulated and communicated to politicians and community. • Council's advocacy delivers measurable results. • Assisting the community to advocate for funding that supports community action plan priorities. • Support the expansion of the silo art trail. • Strategy adopted to support economic development. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Economic Development Strategy 2023- 2027 was adopted by Council on 23 August 2023. • Council and the CEO have been advocating for additional funding to establish the Visitor Economy Partnership. • The Council has developed key advocacy documents that articulate key priority projects such as ANZAC Park, Murtoa Recreation Reserve, Beulah Supermarket, All Roads Lead to Yarriambiack, Housing. • The Council has developed a Priority Projects page on our Website, outlining Councils key projects and advocacy. • Council has committed \$15,000 in the 23-24 budget towards the Rupanyup Silo Art, and supported the Progress Association with a Tiny Towns application to renew the Art work. • Grant writing workshops and GrantGuru has been embedded into our Website to assist the community to find funding opportunities to support their priorities. • Worked with our communities to submit funding applications for the Tiny Towns Grant, that closed on 25 February 2024. • The Council is a member of Rural Council's Victoria, and CEO is Treasurer, who is strongly advocating for funding for small regional events in Rural Communities,

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		<p>similar to the success from the Regional Recovery Funding that was a well-received to kick start events again in rural and regional areas post COVID.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating for Funding for the Murtoa Stickshed to enable the site to be utilised as a Place for Public Entertainment. Advocacy to Ministers, Local Members of Parliament, Regional Development Victoria and Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action. • Supported the community via Letters of Support for numerous funding applications such as Tiny Towns, FRRR and Expression of Interest for Regional Worker Accommodation.
<p>Enhance our tourism assets across the Shire, providing an economic benefit to the region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy adopted to support tourism activities across Shire. • Successful funding and project delivery of key tourism assets. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has applied for funding under the Commonwealth Governments Regions and Precincts Funding stream for the Hopetoun Former School Site project, to ensure it is shovel ready to apply for future infrastructure funding. This project includes accommodation / tourism element. • Council applied for State Government Enabling Tourism Funding for the Hopetoun Former School Site accommodation development. • Council supported the Murtoa Stickshed with an Enabling Tourism Funding application. • Council is supporting Progress Associations (or equivalent) to be ready Funding opportunities. • Tourism Strategy adopted in December 2023. • Hopetoun Caravan Park Masterplans adopted in December 2023. • Worker Accommodation EOI application submitted for the addition of three deluxe cabins at the Warracknabeal Caravan Park to support workers in the region, which will free up our existing cabins for tourists. • Minyip Cabins have been delivered to site, with the sewer main being extended as part of the project, to enable further cabins to be constructed into the future.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warracknabeal Caravan Park amenity block construction due for completion end of April 2024. • Council Officers are working with Seymour Heritage Rail for the return of the train to our Shire and Region in October 2024. • New Shire boundary signs installed in April 2024.
<p>Support mineral sand mining and renewable energy projects that have a sustainability and environment focus, with the aim of diversifying our economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive engagement and support provided, with regular meetings and working group participation that supports sustainable economic development of mining and renewable energy projects across the Shire. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings are occurring with Donald Mineral Sands, with the CEO, Council Officers and the Councillors being regularly briefed on progress. • Council Officers and Councillors are being regularly updated on the progress of the wind farm renewable energy projects across the Shire. • A key focus of Councillors is ensuring the community benefit scheme provides an overarching, long term benefit to the community where mining and wind farms are established. • Council has developed an Energy Projects page on our website to keep our community informed of planned wind farm projects. • Meeting with residents within the Shire who have raised concerns in relation to windfarm projects and impacts on amenity.
<p>Advocate for utilities infrastructure investments across our Shire to support the development of housing opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sites across the Shire where lack of utilities is a barrier to future housing development, using this as a platform for advocacy and exploring future funding opportunities. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Housing Strategy advocacy document has been developed. The Councillors and CEO have presented to Members of Parliament, and feedback has been provided to Rural Councils Victoria on the urgent assistance required to support the expansion of connecting infrastructure across our Shire. Connecting infrastructure is important to support future housing developments, particularly in the southern end of our Shire where mining is on the cusp of being realised. • Council is budgeting to complete Town Structure Plans in 2024/25 which will identify areas for future housing and infrastructure development.

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<p>Advocate, partner and seek funding for increased housing across our Shire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully secure funding for housing across the Shire. If funding received, partner organisation, specialising in housing to build housing stock. • Advocate and partner to seek out further opportunities to develop Council owned land parcels across the Shire. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council provided an update to the community on 27 September 2023 on the Housing Advocacy and initiatives being explored. A Housing Strategy has also been developed and is available on our Website. • Regional Worker Accommodation State Funding guidelines were released. Council submitted an Expression of Interest to this funding, for 4 x units in Murtoa, 2 x units in Hopetoun and 3 x deluxe cabins at Warracknabeal Caravan Park. • Partnered with Dunmunkle Lodge on an application for the Aged Care Capital Assistance Grant for 14 units to be built in Warracknabeal. • Submitted an application as part of the Regional Partnerships and Precincts Program, Commonwealth Funding for the planning stage to develop the old School Site in Hopetoun. • Council has built four of the seven affordable houses with the Regional Infrastructure Funding.
<p>Support the expansion of arts and culture facilities and programs across the Shire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of arts and culture programs into Council's library program. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is exploring partnerships with Neighbourhood House and other regional providers to enhance programs across our Library Services.
<p>Advocate for equitable access to NBN and mobile connectivity to address black spots across our Shire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of funding submissions and advocacy for NBN enhancements and implementation and mobile towers in black spot areas across the Shire. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is working with Telstra on developing a localised connectivity plan to help overcome some of the challenges experienced across the Shire. • NBN fibre network is now live in Hopetoun. Residents and businesses can now benefit from faster and more reliable NBN internet technology with the completion of fibre upgrades. Hopetoun was upgraded from fixed wire technology to fibre to the premises, giving about 395 homes and businesses access to fixed fibre internet.
<p>Advocate and partner to enhance early years services across the Shire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured funding for the development of the Dunmunkle Early Years Centre. Work 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p>

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	<p>with Dept Education to ensure plans and building meet Community expectations and requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate to government, with solutions to address the early years worker shortage across the Shire (and broader Victoria and Australia). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Officers are actively involved as part of the Project Control Group for the planning and development of the Dunmunkle Early Years Centre, due to open in early 2025. A community meeting is being held in Murtoa on 17 April 2024 to provide an update on the status of the Centre. The CEO attended the Strengthening Early Childhood Education and Care for Rural Children Round Table, with a focus on national and state sector updates, findings from the Sustainable Childcare for Rural Children’s Project Proposed Practical solutions for strengthening ECEC in rural communities. Commitment to planning collaboratively for rural children to thrive. This round table is aimed at being solutions focused. Actively working with West Vic Staffing Solutions, South West Tafe and Federation University on an RPL solution for people within the region who have an older Certificate III Early Years qualification, that wish to upgrade to a Diploma. Also working with providers on a pathway for our early years staff to upgrade their qualifications to either Diploma or Bachelor qualifications.
<p>Council Plan 2021-2025: Strategic Objective Two: A Healthy and Inclusive Community</p>		
<p>Advocate and partner for the delivery of social, affordable and aged care housing across our Shire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore funding opportunities to develop Council owned land to support the build of aged care, social and affordable housing. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Council’s Housing Strategy and advocacy.
<p>Undertake master planning of sport and recreation assets and areas to support the community with future planning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop master plans to support future community grant applications. Successful community and/or Council grant applications. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Plans for ANZAC Park, Murtoa, Hopetoun, Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct, Rabl Park and Minyip were adopted. The Council has submitted a funding application for the precinct planning for ANZAC Park, to enable the site to be shovel ready for future infrastructure construction funding. Master Plans for Beulah, Brim and Rupanyup currently being finalised. Council’s Sport and Recreation Draft Strategy to be released for public consultation in quarter 4, 2023-24.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council applied for the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund in quarter 3 for Murtoa Netball / Tennis Courts redevelopment and the Hopetoun Swimming Pool Upgrade.
<p>Support and expand library services to be community engagement hubs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded and enhanced service provision. • Increase active patronage. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A self-service library model has been introduced to the Warracknabeal Library on Saturday's. This trial will run until end of Jan 2024. • Through the introduction of the Warracknabeal self-service model, and an increased program schedule of activities, active patronage has increased. • Applied for Living Libraries Minor Works Funding to complete the redevelopment of the Rupanyup Community Library Precinct.
<p>Transition out of the Commonwealth Home Support Program and Regional Assessment Service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful transition out with appointment of localised delivery operators. • Successful advocacy for a localised presence for Regional Assessment Service. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council successfully transitioned out of the CHSP as at 30 June 2023. Council's focus now is to advocate to the government on the importance of maintain the Regional Assessment Service within rural communities, providing a Face-to-Face Service. This issue has been raised with the Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster. • The regional assessment service tender has been released. Council will not be submitting a tender to continue with the service and has advocate to RNWH and WWHS to tender for the service. This will ensure a regional presence and would complement the CHSP service currently being delivered by both services.
<p>Support the enhancement of early childhood, family and youth outcomes across the Shire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of the Municipal Early Years Strategy. • Develop a partnership to procure enhanced maternal child health services. • Revision of the Youth Strategy. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Early Years Plan has been revised and adopted in October 2023. • Council has revised the Youth Engagement Commitment Statement, and it is being presented to Council on 24 April 2024 for adoption. • The CEO and Manager Family, Youth and Children are members of several working groups and committees exploring childcare options for rural communities.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities to advocate and support the expansion of childcare services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council has been working closely with Uniting Victoria to address the shortage of Early Years Education and Care professionals to meet our childcare demand.
<p>Partner with Community to either identify or deliver programs and projects that are inclusive and support a connected and health community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Progress Associations to develop Community Action Plans. Support Community groups to apply for funding opportunities based on Community Action Plan's and Master Plans. Partner with key stakeholders, such as Neighbourhood Houses to deliver programs and projects within the shire. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council is currently working closely with Progress Associations to develop and/or revise their community action plans. The Community Action plans can be located on Council's Website - Community Action Plans - Yarriambiack Shire Council Council undertook Grant Workshop training and Grant Finder is now available on Council's Website. GrantUS Grant Writing Workshops - Yarriambiack Shire Council The Community Strengthening and Engagement Department collaborated with the Neighbourhood Houses to deliver digital literacy programs for seniors across our Shire. Community Strengthening Team is working closely with Progress Associations (or equivalent) to apply for Grant Funding opportunities. This included recent support with FRRR and Tiny Town Grant opportunities.
<p>Council Plan 2021-2025: Strategic Objective Three: A Robust and Thriving Environment</p>		
<p>Design integrated water management systems for selected townships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore funding opportunities to address emergency preparedness risks in Rupanyup, Beulah, Warracknabeal and Yaapeet. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council has applied for funding to address drainage systems in Warracknabeal, Yaapeet and Rupanyup. The submissions were unsuccessful. Council has engaged a consultant to develop a storm water drainage plan for Rupanyup. Council was unsuccessful with both grant funding applications for Whitton Swamp drainage.
<p>Identify key strategic priorities to address climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt a Climate Change, Environment and Waste Recovery Strategy. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has appointed a consultant to compile a Master Environment Strategy that will incorporate an Action Plan. This piece of work is estimated to be completed by 30 June 2024. • Council will also develop master plans for the Warracknabeal, Hopetoun and Murtoa Transfer Stations as an addition, and to complement the Master Environment Strategy.
Develop innovative solutions to address the State Governments circular economy initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful roll out of the glass bin system. • Support the implementation of the Container Deposit Scheme. • Engage with the community and roll out community recycling and hard waste collection hubs in our smaller townships. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The glass bin system has been rolled out and will be revised as part of the Master Environment Strategy development. • Container deposit scheme locations have been identified across the Shire and have been implemented in Warracknabeal, Murtoa and Hopetoun. • The Beulah Community Recycling Hub is currently in development phase. Plans for the site have been developed, and we are going through the planning approval process.
Implement streetscape works targeted at reducing the heat impacts, and beautifying townships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plantation of trees across townships. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees have been planted in Beulah and streetscape plans have been developed for Yaapeet and Rupanyup. • Council has submitted a Tiny Towns application for Yaapeet Streetscape and Bus Shelter development.
Promote the functions of building, planning and local laws activities with the aim of educating the community on legislative compliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement activities that promote the functions and legislative requirements. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has commenced communication activities to promote building compliance information. This will be a continuing project, dispelling myths regarding building and planning requirements.
Ensure Council's Local Law reflects community sentiments and expectations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake review and revision of the Local Law. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has engaged a consultant to commence the review of our Local Law. Council is aiming for the release of the draft in last qtr. of 23-24.

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Council Plan 2021-2025: Strategic Objective Four: A Council Who Services Its Community		
Implement information, communication and technology that supports the enhancement of good governance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of key priorities identified in Council's ICT and Business Transformation Strategy. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rural Councils Transformation Project, round 2 is currently being implemented, with the project to be completed by 30 June 2024. Council is implementing a new phone system via Teams calling and has recently implemented a new customer request management system.
Promotion of continuous improvement and professional development to enhance good governance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillor and staff training programs that support maintain legislative compliance and supports enhanced governance practices. Budget to support professional development initiatives that provides an overarching benefit to the municipal district. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Development forms part of the 23-24 Budget. Councillors completed a six-month refresher in 22-23 financial year on legislative, compliance and governance practices. Staff and Councillors have been supported to complete the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course, the LGPro Executive Leadership Program, Wimmera Leadership Program and other compliance and legislative training, applicable to roles and responsibilities. The Chief Executive Officer has completed the Institute of Public Professionals Australia, Senior Executive Integrity and Ethical Leadership Training program.
Embed sound risk management practices into Council activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of strategic and operational risk register and framework. Appointment of experienced Audit and Risk Committee. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council has undertaken a Risk Management Internal Audit to identify continuous improvement activities for implementation to enhance risk management practices. Audit and Risk Committee independent members have extensive experience working with Local Government. Their skills and expertise will be utilised to continuously improve and enhance Councils governance and reporting practices.
Engage with community on a regular basis to build a strong relationship between Council and Community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor, Councillors and CEO attendance at Community group meetings providing updates on Council activities. Community engagement activities to increase knowledge of Council activities. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mayor and CEO completed a Road Show of community engagement activities presenting on the Council Plan and Budget for 23-24. Both regularly attend community group meetings, and updates are provided in the Mayor and CEO activity reports that are presented each month to Council.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Request Management System that enhances communication between Community and Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Customer Request Management system has been implemented, with training/videos to be developed to inform the community on how this system operates. • The Road Show of community engagement for 24/25 Budget has been developed and advertising has commenced.
<p>Implement systems to support sound financial and strategic decision making for now and into the future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Management Modelling for each Asset Classes to inform decision making. • Service Level Plans and business cases that inform budget process that address financial sustainability, social, environmental and economic impacts. 	<p>QTR 1, 2 & 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the RCTP Round 2, Council is in the process of implementing Asset Management Modelling software, that will assist with inform the Capital Works program for the 24-25 budget year. Implementation is still ongoing . • The extended leadership team participated in Service Level Planning training, with the key focus on ensuring service level plan’s inform the budget going forward. • All Service Plans have been revised for the 24/25 Budget process.