

# Economic Development Strategy Status Report

## Year 1 Activities



	Role	Timeframe	Comments
<b>1. Capitalising on Growth from New Industries</b>			
1.1 Convene Council led Working Groups to provide responsive support to mineral sands mining and renewable energy companies throughout their approvals and fundraising phases.	Facilitation	Year 1 – Year 4 On Track	Donald Mineral Sands MoU renewed to promote processes, work cooperatively and collaboratively to maximise mutually beneficial community and economic outcomes. Response to Resources Victoria Community Benefits Scheme. Meet monthly with RWE and regularly with West Wind. Submissions to Vic Grid. Attended Advocacy group workshop through WSMD
1.2 Advocate for the construction of transmission infrastructure to connect Wimmera Southern Mallee renewable energy generators to the reticulated national transmission grid.	Advocacy	Year 1 Ongoing	YSC has put submissions in VicGrid and held roundtable Vic Grid session with community.
1.3 Communicate with communities in towns affected by mineral sands mining projects to ensure the timetables and impacts of the projects are understood, and that the communities are able to derive social and economic benefits from the new industries.	Facilitation	Year 1 – Year 4 On Track	Attending and participating in community reference meetings by CEO and Manager Development and Environmental Services. Facilitating connections between community members and DMS.
1.4 Collaborate with Wimmera Development Association, town community organisations, and private developers to plan and deliver the housing needs for both construction and operational phases of mining and renewable energy projects (ensuring that the mining project leads to a legacy of permanent housing and minimising the proportion of the workforce that is drive-in/drive-out).	Representation and Delivery	Year 1 – Year 5 On Track	YSC supporting Minyip Special Purpose Vehicle. MoU with Donald Mineral Sands renewed. Permit application for worker accommodation has been recently assessed.
1.5 Consider further intervention in the housing market by gifting of land, empowering Asset Management Committees, seeking grants and loans to overcome the shortage of housing for key workers in mining and renewable energies.	Management and Delivery	Year 1 – Year 5 Not Yet Started.	Refer to 3.3; noting that these projects are across the shire and not specific to the mining & renewable space.
<b>2. Agricultural Diversification and Processing</b>			
2.1 Provide concierge services (via a nominated single point of contact within Council) for new and existing agricultural businesses (including niche and artisanal producers) which are proposing to either diversify or add value to commodities.	Facilitation	Year 1 – Year 5 On Track	Council staff facilitate enquiries as required. Extension of Planning & Building resources available on YSC website.

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### 2. Agricultural Diversification and Processing

**2.2** Investigate the potential for farmer investments or outbound supply chain investment in food product manufacturing enterprises in Yarriambiack (focusing on pulse and cereal grain value adding).

**2.3** Collaborate with regional partners to attract and retain links in the agribusiness supply chain within the Wimmera Southern Mallee region.

### 3. Removing Barriers to Attracting Workers

**3.1** Work with Wimmera Housing Innovations Pty Ltd (a Wimmera Development Association facilitated company) to progress community and employer driven housing solutions across the shire and to establish 'special purpose vehicle' structures to formalise investment and operations.

**3.2** Assist the Yarriambiack Chapter of West Vic Business to develop an engaging program of activities and to create a formal network of businesses across the shire.

**3.3** Consider further intervention in the housing market by gifting of land, empowering Asset Management Committees, facilitating awareness of grants to ensure adequate and suitable independent living housing supply for people who are downsizing or relocating to Yarriambiack towns.

### 4. Strengthening Service Industries

**4.1** Continue to support and encourage innovative responses to continue to provide core town services Yarriambiack's town centres by both local communities and local business investors.

**4.2** Implement the outcomes of the feasibility study and business case of the former Hopetoun school facilities.

**4.3** Support health services to develop facilities and staff accommodation to meet workforce demands in Yarriambiack's medical and social assistance centres.

Role	Timeframe	Comments
Management	Year 2 – Year 3 On Track	YSC supporting prospective grain processing enterprise by facilitating connection with Wimmera Southern Mallee Development.
Representation	Year 2 – Year 5 On Track	Working in collaboration with partners to support the development of agribusiness supply chains, for example hay processing in Warracknabeal.
Representation	Year 1 – Year 4 On Track	YSC partnering with WHI Pty Ltd. and the community to deliver Special Purpose Vehicles to deliver housing initiatives as non-financial partners to support further funding opportunities as they arise.
Facilitation	Year 3 – Year 5 Not Yet Started	Yarriambiack Business Expo delivered June 25th 2024.
Management and Delivery	Year 2 – Year 5 Not Yet Started	Working with Dunmuckle Lodge to take over operations of affordable housing units project once completed in Murtoa, Hopetoun, Rupanyup, and Warracknabeal. Construction finished of 2x units in Murtoa, and 2x units in Woomelang.
Facilitation and Delivery	Year 1 – Year 5 On Track	Streetscape master plans developed, and funding support provided to deliver community lead projects eg. Rupanyup Silo Art.
Management and Delivery	Year 2 Not Yet Started	Funding applications submitted in support of feasibility study initiatives.
Advocacy	Year 2 – Year 4 On Going	Housing advocacy document created. Funding applications submitted in support of Worker Accommodation.

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<b>5. Infrastructure, Planning and a Proactive Council</b>			
<b>5.1</b> Develop an internal economic development concierge. This will include staff from the economic development, building and planning functional areas of Council. Senior executive staff may be concierges for major investment projects from time to time.	Facilitation	Year 1 – Year 5 On Going	Key internal staff identified to supply information and assistance to planning and infrastructure development opportunities when required.
<b>5.2</b> Align urban development, settlement, plans of townships across the Shire with the Yarriambiack Shire Council Planning Scheme Review to highlight provision of land for future residential and, where relevant, industrial development.	Management and Delivery	As Required	Yarriambiack Planning scheme review adopted by council August 2023. Work to be completed include structure plans for the towns of Warracknabeal, Hopetoun, and Murtoa.
<b>5.3</b> Instruct contractors and consultants to use the Shire’s agreed projections and targets when preparing strategies and plans for the Shire.	Management	As New Projects Arise	Ongoing as projects arise.
<b>5.4</b> Advocate for equitable access to broadband and other contemporary communications platforms.	Advocacy	Year 1 – Year 5 On Track	Partnered with Telstra and have agreed upon specific Yarriambiack Connectivity Plan. Meet on a 6-monthly basis.
<b>5.5</b> Advocate for increased funding to allow Yarriambiack’s network of local and main roads and bridges to be maintained or upgraded for safe and efficient transport operations.	Advocacy	Year 1 – Year 5 On Going	Applications submitted for road infrastructure improvements along strategic supply chain routes.
<b>5.6</b> Allocate staff to work with the Shire’s (and/or DEECA appointed) Committees of Management (Asset Management Committees and Recreation Reserve Committees) on initiatives where capital and operating improvements are proposed.	Facilitation, Management and Delivery	Year 1 – Year 5 On Going	Occurs as required through the annual Capital budget process. Conversations in collaboration with Community throughout the year.