

Yarriambiack Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 – Update Quarter 1, 2024-2025

Indicator	Measure	Status – Quarter 1, Year 4 – 2024-25
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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is a member of the Visitor Economy Partnership. This initiative has proved successful, with increased engagement, marketing and promotion relating specifically to the Wimmera Mallee occurring. <p>ACTION COMPLETED</p>
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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Economic Development Strategy 2023- 2027 was adopted by Council on 23 August 2023. • The Council has developed key advocacy documents that articulate key priority projects which is available on our website – Priority Projects tab. • The Council has been strongly advocating for changes to childcare funding and bonuses/incentives for early childhood professionals to live and work in rural communities. • Advocating for recreational water security to maintain our weir pools and to support tourism across our Shire and region.
Enhance our tourism assets across the Shire, providing an economic benefit to the region.	<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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has engaged an architect to design the accommodation venue at the Hopetoun Former School site to support and grown tourism in the northern end of our Shire.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Strategy adopted in December 2023. • Hopetoun Caravan Park Masterplans adopted in December 2023. • Minyip Cabins project has been completed. • Warracknabeal Caravan Park amenity block construction works have been completed. • Warracknabeal Courthouse and Wonder Cabinette Project to be completed in Quarter 3, 2024-2025. • 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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings are occurring with Donald Mineral Sands, the CEO and Council Officers. 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. Key focus on advocacy for our community and to provide updates to our Councillors and advocacy groups on the status of projects. • Recognising Council is not a decision maker in the process of approving mining and renewable energy projects. Key focus of Councillors is ensuring the community benefit schemes proposed provided 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 across our Shire that we are aware of. • Meeting with residents within the Shire who have raised concerns in relation to windfarm and mining projects and impacts on amenity. • Working with WSMD to advocate for legislative changes for greater protection for our agriculture land. Recognising the importance of the economic benefit agriculture provides to our region, and the countries food security.

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<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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Housing Strategy advocacy document has been developed and is available on our website. 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 has budgeting to complete Town Structure Plans in 2024/25 which will identify areas for future housing and infrastructure development. Council has applied for the Commonwealth Housing Support Program for the connecting infrastructure to establish housing at Gibson Street Rupanyup, Hopetoun Former School Site, 34 Anderson Street Warracknabeal and West side of Lake Marma (Sewer and Water extension).
<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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Housing Strategy has been developed and is available on our website. Council has built four of the seven affordable houses with the Regional Infrastructure Funding. Delivering the final three in Rupanyup, Hopetoun and Warracknabeal in the 24/25 financial year. Council has endorsed gifting a parcel of land in Cromie Street Murtoa to the Murtoa Housing Innovation for future housing development. Exploring further opportunities via Wimmera Southern Mallee Development and the Wimmera Housing Innovation Project, to establish a registered housing provider and to apply for funding via the Affordable Housing Investment Partnership.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is collaborating with local businesses and the Health Service to explore housing advocacy opportunities.
Support the expansion of arts and culture facilities and programs across the Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of arts and culture programs into Council's library program. 	QTR 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is exploring partnerships with Neighbourhood House and other regional providers to enhance programs across our Library Services.
Advocate for equitable access to NBN and mobile connectivity to address black spots across our Shire.	<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. 	QTR 1 <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.
Advocate and partner to enhance early years services across the Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured funding for the development of the Dunmunkle Early Years Centre. Work with Dept Education to ensure plans and building meet Community expectations and requirements. • Advocate to government, with solutions to address the early years worker shortage across the Shire (and broader Victoria and Australia). 	QTR 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Murtoa College P-12 Early Years Centre due to open in January 2025. • Meeting held with Federal Members of Parliament, Dr Anne Webster and Angie Bell, Shadow Minister for Early Childhood on 29 October 2024, with solutions presented to assist with solving the childcare crisis in rural Victoria.
Council Plan 2021-2025: Strategic Objective Two: A Healthy and Inclusive Community		
Advocate and partner for the delivery of social, affordable and aged care housing across our Shire.	<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. 	QTR 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Council's Housing Strategy and advocacy.
Undertake master planning of sport and recreation assets and areas to support the community with future planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop master plans to support future community grant applications. 	QTR 1

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful community and/or Council grant applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Plans for ANZAC Park, Murtoa, Hopetoun, Warracknabeal Recreation Precinct, Rabi Park and Minyip adopted and completed. Documents are available on Council's website. • Council's Sport and Recreation Strategy revised and adopted in 2024. • Council applied for the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund in 2024 for Murtoa Netball/ Tennis Courts redevelopment and the Hopetoun Swimming Pool Upgrade. Both applications were successful.
Support and expand library services to be community engagement hubs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded and enhanced service provision. • Increase active patronage. 	<p>QTR 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A self-service library model has been introduced to the Warracknabeal Library on Saturday's. • Dunmunkle Community Library Precinct – Living Libraries funded project to be completed in early 2025. Supporting the enhancement of services in the southern end of the Shire.
Transition out of the Commonwealth Home Support Program and Regional Assessment Service.	<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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful transition out of program in 2023. • Advocacy to our Federal Member of Parliament, and Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Health, Dr Anne Webster on retaining a localised presence for Regional Assessment Services.
Support the enhancement of early childhood, family and youth outcomes across the Shire	<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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Early Years Plan has been revised and adopted in October 2023. • Youth Engagement Commitment Statement revised and adopted. • The CEO and COO are members of several working groups and committees exploring childcare options for rural communities. • Council is working closely with Emerge Early Years Services to address the lack of childcare in Yarriambiack Shire.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to advocate and support the expansion of childcare services. 	
<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</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 viewed 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 • 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 Yaapect. 	<p>QTR 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has engaged a consultant to develop a storm water drainage plan for Rupanyup. • Via the Wimmera CMA, Council has been provided with funding to develop a business case for enhancement of Whitton Swamp and surrounding channels to collect water in extreme weather events (directing into Whitton Swamp). • Mallee CMA funded to undertake a flood / drainage study in Beulah. • Council is currently undertaking a review of the function of the Cannings Channel drainage system in Warracknabeal.
<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</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has adopted a Master Environment Strategy that incorporates an Action Plan. • Council is in the process of planning master plans for the Warracknabeal, Hopetoun and Murtoa Transfer Stations 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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The glass bin system will be revised in 2025, as part of the actions outlined in the Master Environment Strategy. • Container deposit scheme implemented and has been well received across the Shire. • The trial temporary Patchewollock Waste and Recycling HUB has been established, with dates communicated to community members.
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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has submitted a Tiny Towns application for Yaapeet Streetscape and Bus Shelter development. • Council is seeking quotes to develop an Urban Tree Strategy and Town Planting action plan.
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</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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Law revised and adopted in 2024. <p>ACTION COMPLETED</p>

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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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rural Councils Transformation Project, round 2 was completed by 30 June 2024. • Council is implementing a new phone system via Teams calling and has implemented a new customer request management system. • Council has enhanced its ICT security measures.
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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Development forms part of the 24/25 Budget. • Councillors are to complete the Councillor Induction Program in November 2024 as part of the requirements under the Local Government Act 2020 and associated legislation. • A staff member is undertaking the Wimmera Leadership 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</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. 	<p>QTR 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management prioritises staff attendance at Progress Association meetings or equivalent.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement activities to increase knowledge of Council activities. • Customer Request Management System that enhances communication between Community and Council. 	
<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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the RCTP Round 2, Council has implemented Asset Management Modelling software, that will assist with inform the Capital Works program for the 25/26 budget year. • The extended leadership team participated in Service Level Planning training, with the key focus on ensuring Service Level Plans inform the budget going forward. • All Service Level Plans have been revised, and will continuously be revised each year, informing the budget review and development.