



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Agenda

For the Scheduled Council Meeting
Eldorado Memorial Hall
94 Main Street, Eldorado
6pm 30 April 2024

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Rural City of Wangaratta Live Stream

Clause 24 of the Governance Rules provides the following:

"This public meeting is being recorded to improve access to the meeting for our community. The recording will be published and will be retained by Council in accordance with Council's legal obligations. As a visitor in the public gallery, your presence may be recorded."

1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and to Elders from other communities who may be here today.

2. Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we humbly ask thee to bless and guide this council in its deliberations so that we may truly preserve the welfare of the people whom we serve. Amen

3. Present

4. Absent

5. Acceptance of Apologies & Granting of Leave of Absence

Order of Business

6. Citizen Ceremony

7. Confirmation of Minutes

Recommendation:

That Council read and confirm the Minutes of the Scheduled Council Meeting of 26 March 2024 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

8. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

In accordance with section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 a councillor who has a conflict of interest in respect of a matter must disclose the conflict of interest in the manner required by Council's Governance Rules and exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to that matter, including any discussion or vote on the matter and any action in relation to the matter.

Clause 28.1 of Council's Governance Rules requires a councillor to indicate that they have a conflict of interest by clearly stating:

- (a) the item for which they have a conflict of interest; and
- (b) whether their conflict of interest is general or material; and
- (c) the circumstances that give rise to the conflict of interest.

Immediately prior to the consideration of the item in which they have a conflict of interest, a councillor must indicate to the meeting the existence of the conflict of interest and leave the meeting.

A councillor who discloses a conflict of interest and leaves a Council meeting must not communicate with any participants in the meeting while the decision is being made.

9. Reception of Petitions

10. Hearing of Deputations

Presentation Of Reports

11. Councillor Reports

Nil

Officers' Reports

12. Executive Services

Nil

13. Corporate and Leisure

13.1 2023/2024 Quarter 3 Forecast Review

Meeting Type: Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 30 April 2024
Author: Financial Controller
File No: IC23/2000

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to provide an update of Council's financial performance and anticipated full year financial position based on developments over the last three months.

Recommendation:

That Council approves the 2023/2024 Quarter 3 Forecast Review, including:

1. The increase in the projected full year accounting surplus by \$4.2m to \$11.89m.
2. The increase in capital works expenditure by \$375k to \$37.34m.
3. The Environmental Upgrade Agreement quarterly statement.

Background

Council has completed its third quarter financial reporting process to manage and monitor its financial performance against the 2023/24 Budget.

Council's Quarter 3 Forecast Report indicates increase to the Accounting Surplus of \$4.2m and to the Adjusted Underlying Operating Result by \$2.35m. This was primarily driven by increases in Operating Grants due to recognition of National Disaster Recovery Funding for the 2022 Storm Event, and a decrease in Employee Benefits.

Council's 2023/24 capital works expenditure has increased from \$36.97m to \$37.34m, a net increase of \$375k, impacted by additional material and contractor costs of several existing projects.

Implications

Financial/Economic Implications

Quarter 3 Forecast Review

Rural City of Wangaratta	23/24 Adopted Budget	23/24 Adopted Q2 Forecast	23/24 Q3 Forecast Review	Q2 to Q3 Variance Fav/(Unfav)
31st March 2024	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income	86,556	89,982	92,527	2,546
Expenses	76,327	82,290	80,637	1,653
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	10,229	7,692	11,890	4,199
Add/(Less) Non-Operating	10,061	14,275	16,124	(1,849)
Adjusted Underlying Result	167	(6,584)	(4,234)	2,350
Capital Works Expenditure	32,462	36,966	37,341	(375)
Net Fav/(Unfav) Q3 Variance				1,975

The Chief Executive Officer is of the opinion that a revised budget is not required, pursuant to Section 97(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Accounting Surplus – Favourable Increase:

Council's forecasted Accounting Surplus increased by \$4.2m as described below. The decrease in the Adjusted Underlying Operating Result is due to favourable movements in Operating Grants and Employee Benefits.

Operating Grants, net increase \$2.45m:

- Recognition of funding relating to the October 2022 Storm Event (\$2.1m)
- Increased Financial Assistance Grants (\$300k)

Employee Benefits, net decrease \$1.4m:

- Removal of provision for EBA increase placed in budget at the start of the year which has is now captured through actual salary payments (\$570k)
- Adjustment to staff cost allocations within Field Services (\$178k)
- Reduction due to vacancies in Waste Management (\$137k)

Refer to the Income Statement on Attachment 1, Quarter 3 Forecast Review document for detailed commentary on the changes to Council's 2023/24 projected position.

Capital Works

Council's capital works expenditure has increased from \$36.97m to \$37.34m, a net increase of \$375k. The increase can largely be attributed to additional costs associated with materials and contractors relating to Moyhu Hall Refurbishment (\$175k), Wangaratta Flood Mitigation Strategy (\$66k) & Major Patching and Asphaltting (\$62k).

Year-to-date delivery of the Capital Works Program is \$21.32m, with a further \$10.36m of commitments in place.

Balance Sheet

Council's working capital is in a strong position at 319% due to a high cash position from grant funding received in advance.

The third rates instalment was due in February and rates receivables continue to progress well with outstanding rates for the year of \$10.1m as of 31st March 2024.

Environmental Upgrade Agreements – Quarterly Statement

Environmental Upgrade Agreements provide funding for sustainability or climate adaptation building upgrades. Under these loans, a lender provides finance to the property owner for the upgrade and repayment of the loan is administered through Council rates.

Section 181G of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires that Council prepares a quarterly statement in respect of Environmental Upgrade Agreements.

There are two active Environmental Upgrade Agreements in operation with a total value of \$57,048.33. Charges due this year total \$4,360.68. Total payment of \$1,090.17 fell due this quarter, which was paid in full. The Balance outstanding at the end of the quarter is \$44,802.35.

Legal/Statutory

In accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Council must prepare a budget for each financial year. Additionally, section 101 of the Act requires Council to apply principles of sound Financial Management. Section 97 of the Act requires the Chief Executive Officer, at least every three months, to prepare a statement comparing the budgeted financial performance with the actual performance to date and present this report to Council.

Section 181G of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires that Council prepares a quarterly statement in respect of Environmental Upgrade Agreements.

Social

Social benefits of the delivery of Council services and projects are outlined in the 2023/24 Budget and in the Council Plan 2021-25.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Council budgets for and delivers several projects that support its Environmental Sustainability Strategy. Refer to the Council Plan 2021-25 for further details.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

1. Strengthening our Leadership

Undertake regular and transparent reporting against Council's Adopted Budget.

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Poor performance against budget	M	M	M	Regular monitoring and reporting of the budget position

Consultation/Communication

Consultation has been undertaken with Council Managers and the Corporate Management Team. Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

1. That Council endorses the Quarter 3 Forecast Review report – recommended.
2. That Council advises of any changes to the Adopted Budget and proposes an alternative recommendation for changes to the 2023/24 Budget.
3. That Council endorses the Environmental Upgrade Agreement quarterly statement.

Conclusion

This report compares actual performance with Council's 2023/24 adopted Q2 Forecast, adopted by Council on 27th February 2024. Council's Quarter 3 Forecast Review continues to be based on the best estimates of the Organisation as to its financial outlook.

Attachments

- 1 2023-24 Quarter 3 Finance Report [!\[\]\(4d5671ed09a68966fe2e932f2c5334b2_img.jpg\)](#) 

13.2 Risk Management Policy 2024 and Risk Appetite Statement 2024

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	30 April 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Governance & Reporting Advisor
Approver:	Director Corporate and Leisure

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to endorse Council's Risk Management Policy and Risk Appetite Statement.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Adopts the Risk Management Policy 2024 and Risk Appetite Statement 2024.

Background

Effective risk management is important to Council because by having robust risk management practices it enables the Council to maximise opportunity, minimise loss, and improve decisions and outcomes.

The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) prescribes that Victorian councils are to have due regard to the overarching governance principles of the Act, including giving priority to the best outcomes for the municipal community (including future generations) and ensuring the ongoing financial viability of the municipality. Having an effective risk management framework is a critical element of ensuring Council adheres to these principles.

The Risk Management Policy and Risk Appetite Statements have had minimal changes and are presented to Council in accordance with their required review period and Local Law 4 to ensure they remain current.

Implications

Policy Considerations

'Major Council Policies' to be presented to council to be adopted in accordance with Local Law 4. Usually they require a period of community consultation, however this is not the case when only minor amendments have been made – as in this instance. Therefore the 'Council Policy' process is being followed meaning Councillors can adopt the policy immediately if satisfied that the proposed amendments don't change the purpose, intent or outcomes of the policy.

Financial/Economic Implications

There are no financial or economic implications identified for the subject of this report.

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal/statutory implications identified for the subject of this report.

Social and Diversity

There are no social impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Risk Management Policy has had an Equity Impact Assessment (EIA) completed and is compliant with the obligations and objectives of the Victorian Gender Equality Act 2020.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Strategic Links**Council Plan 2021 – 2025**

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

1. Strengthening our Leadership**1.2 An efficient and effective Council**

- 1.2.1 Ensure Council's financial sustainability through transparent and accountable financial management.
- 1.2.3 Proactively manage risk across all areas of Council

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Failure of having robust risk management processes in effect	Possible	Minor	5 – Medium	Adopting a risk management policy and appetite statement formalising council's approach to risk management practices mitigates this risk.

Consultation/Communication

Community consultation for this report is not required as the policy only contains 'minor amendments' as per Local Law 4 (2015) section 5. Officers involved in the review of the policy and the drafting of this report believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.





Options for Consideration

Councillors may elect to seek further review of the policy and Appetite Statement before considering at a future meeting date (not recommended) or adopt the policy in its proposed form (recommended).

Conclusion

Councillors are requested to adopt the Risk Management Policy 2024 and the Risk Appetite Statement 2024.

Attachments

- 1 Risk Management Policy 2024 [↓](#) 
- 2 Risk Management Policy - Tracked Changes [↓](#) 
- 3 Risk Appetite Statement [↓](#) 
- 4 Community Impact Statement [↓](#) 

13.3 Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member Appointment

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	30 April 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Governance & Reporting Advisor
Approver:	Director Corporate and Leisure

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to formally endorse the appointment of a new independent member to the Audit and Risk Committee.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Appoints the candidate listed in Confidential Attachment 1 to this report to the Audit and Risk Committee (Committee) as an independent member, who is not a Councillor and who is not a member of Council staff:
 - a) For a term of 3 years commencing on the date of this resolution; and
 - b) In accordance with any other terms and conditions relevant to independent member established by the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic), the Committee's Charter, Council's Governance Rules and any other relevant council policies or procedures; and;
2. Discloses the successful applicant and notifies any other applicants of Council's decision.

Background

The Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) was established by Council in August 2020 under section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic).

The Committee Charter (**Attachment 3**) states the Committee must include two Councillors and at least three, and up to four, independent members who are not Councillors and who are not members of Council staff.

The expiration of an independent member's term has resulted in there currently being only three independent members remaining on the Committee. Council may appoint a new independent member to the Committee to ensure there is sufficient independent member representation.

Expressions of Interest to fill the vacancies were advertised in February 2024 and one application was received. This applicant met the qualifying criteria for the position.

A selection panel was established and a Skills Assessment completed (**Confidential Attachment 2**) to assess the applicants and recommend the independent member appointment. The selection panel comprised the independent member Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee, the Corporate Planning & Governance Specialist and the Governance & Reporting Advisor.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The process for appointing the independent member set out in Council's Appointment to Council Committees Policy requires that the Chief Executive Officer undertakes an expression of interest process for the appointment of new members before providing a report to Council recommending that Council determine the appointment. This process has been followed.

The Committee's Charter contains membership provisions related to independent member appointments, including that:

1. The committee must include at least three, and up to four, other independent members;
2. Independent members must collectively have expertise in financial management and risk and experience in public sector management;
3. Independent members may be appointed for a term of up to three years;
4. The terms of office of independent members may be arranged to avoid more than two independent members retiring at the same time.

Financial/Economic Implications

There are no financial or economic implications identified for the subject of this report.

Legal/Statutory

Section 53 of the Act governs the membership requirements, including that an Audit and Risk Committee must consist of a majority of members who are not Councillors and who collectively have expertise in financial management and risk, and experience in public sector management.

Social and Diversity

There are no social impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

There are no equity impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

1. **Strengthening our Leadership**

Provide open and transparent communication to the community to build trust, respect and understanding.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Council not having sufficient members to obtain a quorum for Audit and Risk Committee meetings	2 - Unlikely	Major	Low	Council endorsing a preferred candidate in accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

Consultation/Communication

Expressions of Interest were publicly called to fill these positions. One expression of interest was received. The proposed appointee displayed excellent business acumen and possesses a considerable financial, risk and audit background. The proposed appointee also had sound awareness of the functions of audit and risk committees and has previously worked with Boards, particularly in the local government sector.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

Council can either endorse the appointment of the preferred candidate or call for further Expressions of Interest to try and find a more suitable candidate.

Conclusion

The recent expression of interest process has identified a suitable appointee for the committee. The process and terms of the appointment complies with all legal and policy requirements.

The proposed appointee will assist with the continued improvement of council's governance, integrity and risk outcomes.

Attachments

- 1 Candidate Application - Confidential
- 2 Shortlisting Matrix February 2024 - Confidential
- 3 Audit and Risk Committee Charter [🔗](#) 

14. Community and Infrastructure

14.1 Draft Affordable Housing Strategy

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	30 April 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Manager Community Services
Approver:	Director Community and Infrastructure

The following Council officers and contractors have provided advice in relation to this report and have disclosed a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration:

•**Officers:**

Tony Keenan is a member of the Homes Victoria Advisory Board.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to consider the draft Affordable Housing Strategy

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Endorse the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy 2024 for public exhibition for 28 days.
2. Invites community submissions on the Strategy for 28 days from Friday 3 May up to 5pm on Friday 1 June 2023.
3. If submissions requesting changes to the Strategy are received, reviews and considers adopting the Affordable Housing Strategy 2024 at the next available Scheduled Council Meeting, taking into consideration all submissions made and any further changes.
4. If no submissions requesting changes to the Policy are received, adopts the Affordable Housing Strategy 2024 without further resolution.

Background

Since COVID, we have seen a rise in people experiencing housing insecurity and experiencing homelessness. Many factors such as increasing housing prices and cost of living pressures are increasing housing stress for families and individuals in our community and across Australia.

In February 2023, Council held a Housing and Homelessness Forum to understand what we can do as a local government organisation to support the community and to further our understanding of the complex issues around housing insecurity.

One of the recommendations from this forum was that Council develop an Affordable Housing Strategy considering the opportunities that we can explore to reduce the amount of people that are experiencing housing insecurity. Within this forum it was agreed that this strategy needs to be place-based – developed to suit the Wangaratta area, the opportunities we have and the community and services that reside here.

Our community has shown that it is compassionate and supportive of people doing it tough. A review of online Wangaratta community noticeboards shows that people are willing to help others, understanding the tough times people are going through and are willing to lend a hand.

While the Affordable Housing Strategy is primarily aimed at increasing affordable, social and key worker housing, it should be recognised that Wangaratta's community and service agencies are incredible in their compassionate approach which plays a big part in minimizing the number of people experiencing homelessness.

Council approved the budget for the Affordable Housing Strategy and a social planner was employed in October 2023. The draft strategy has been developed over the past five months. During this time, we have engaged with local service agencies and other councils to understand & learn about what is needed in this space and how councils can best provide this support.

Council held a follow up Housing and Homelessness Forum in February 2024, bringing these agencies together again to help shape the draft strategy.

The draft strategy is now presented to councilors for consideration of placing on public exhibition.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's Affordable Housing Strategy supports the objectives of council's Municipal Health and Wellbeing actions as outlined in the Council Plan 2021 – 2025.

Financial/Economic Implications

A focus on developing social and affordable housing will support our community in their financial security.

The North East Workforce Management and Appropriate Housing (NEWMAH) project identified a lack of appropriate and affordable housing as one of three barriers to employers attracting and retaining key workers to the area.

An increase in the number of affordable, key worker houses in the municipality will help employers meet this labour market challenge.

Legal/Statutory Implications

Action two of the strategy includes some implications on council's Land Use Planning relates to Councils' role as established under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

Social and Diversity Implications

It is anticipated that there will be a number of social impacts provided thorough the Affordable Housing Strategy. These are:

- An increase in the number of social, affordable, and key worker houses across the Rural City of Wangaratta
- A reduction, over time, of people experiencing homelessness in the Rural City of Wangaratta.
- Increased housing options for women escaping family violence.
- Improved amenity provided by social housing developments in the City.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Strategy will improve equity outcomes though the provision of of social, affordable, and key worker houses. This will support:

- Women escaping famliy violence
- Indigenous residents who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental or sustainability impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

Growing With Integrity

6.1.2.3 Work with the State Government and social housing providers to facilitate social housing projects.

6.1.2.4 Explore opportunities to facilitate and encourage affordable CBD housing development

6.5.1.1 Implement placemaking projects in new communities to engage residents, build connections and identify priorities.

The Strategy will also support the following objectives of the Council Plan.

2.1 Protection of our own and each others mental health

2.3 Increased sens of inclusivity and connectedness

2.5 Prevention of all forms of violence

4.2 Support employment through business growth,development and recovery.

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Commonwealth and State Government funding is not allocated to housing projects in Wangaratta	Unlikely	Major	Medium	Continued advocacy to Victorian and Commonwealth Governments, departments and elected representatives.
Community expectation that Council alone can deliver social, affordable and key worker housing	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Develop and implement and communications and engagement strategy with the community
Housing providers choose to develop and seek funding in other Local Government Areas	Possible unlikely (with mitigation)	Major	High Medium (with mitigation)	If Council is able to offer land or air space for housing and this will mitigate this risk
Commonwealth and State Government funding is not allocated to housing projects in Wangaratta	Unlikely	Major	Medium	Continued advocacy to Victorian and Commonwealth Governments, departments and elected representatives.

Consultation/Communication

Stakeholder consultation has been undertaken in developing the strategy including a half day forum.

Pending endorsement, the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days from Friday 3 May up to 5pm on Friday 1 June 2023.

Options for Consideration

1. Council endorses the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy for public exhibition.
2. Council does not endorse the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy for exhibition, with additional development undertaken on items noted by council.

Conclusion

This strategy presents an approach council can take to increasing affordable housing. Council recognises that this is an issue that many agencies and services are working in, and that we need to be working as a collective to address this within the Rural City of Wangaratta and surrounding areas.

Attachments

- 1 Draft Affordable Housing Strategy [↓](#) 

14.2 Recreation Strategy

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	30 April 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Recreation Officer
Approver:	Director Community and Infrastructure

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to adopt the Recreation Strategy 2024-2033. It includes a summary of the changes that were incorporated based on feedback throughout the exhibition period.

The title of the document has been changed to *Recreation Strategy*, from *Recreation and Open Space Strategy*, to better reflect the intent of the document to outline Council's commitment to accessible and diverse recreation for the community. This Strategy will set the direction for the planning, development, maintenance, and activation of spaces by the Rural City of Wangaratta up to 2033.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Accepts the amendments made to the Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2024-2033, including the change of title to Recreation Strategy 2024-2033
2. Adopts the Recreation Strategy 2024-2033

Background

The Recreation Strategy is part of Council's commitment to the health and wellbeing of its community, including a commitment to providing space for recreation – whether that recreation is passive enjoyment, informal, play-based, or part of an organised sport. This strategy considers a number of factors, including Wangaratta's population and community; trends in sport, recreation and physical activity; the spaces within the Rural City used for recreation; as well as other strategies and plans from Council. The strategy is underpinned by the vision of everyone having the opportunity to be active and connected through sport and recreation and the mission to plan and manage our facilities and open spaces to enhance community use, enjoyment and well-being.

Extensive consultation was undertaken as part of the development of the strategy, and feedback from many sources was incorporated into the final document. The majority of the feedback during exhibition was supportive, including from the growing number of non-traditional sports that call the Rural City of Wangaratta home. The majority of changes to the strategy were around the

provision of clarity to recommendations and actions, as well as including sporting organisations who had not participated earlier in the process.

The main changes can be found in Attachment 3.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Recreation Strategy references and impacts various park and open space Master Plans, as well as the Urban Tree Plan 2022, Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021 and the Walking and Cycling Strategy 2020 among others.

Financial/Economic Implications

A project bid for \$30,000 has been put in for the 24/25 Project year to implement project actions, particularly around activation of spaces, support of community, and concept designs. The Strategy also recommends and prioritises actions for Council-owned and managed facilities that will have costs associated. These costs will need to be reflected in project bids and budgets, subject to the prioritisation of the long term financial plan.

Legal/Statutory

Open space used for recreation is governed by a variety of legislation including the Planning and Environment Act (1987), and the Wangaratta Planning Scheme.

Social and Diversity

The Strategy has significant social and diversity impacts. Well-planned and managed recreational spaces have health benefits to the community, and are necessary especially in lower socio-economic areas. Additionally, generational diversity, gender, caring responsibilities, and race may all play a role in how the community interacts with open space.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

Equity is a principle of delivery for the strategy, and an Equity Impact Assessment was completed for this strategy.

The Equity Impact Assessment for this strategy stressed the importance of seeking multiple voices during the engagement process, including the viewpoint of younger people (completed via school and youth council engagement) and women (completed through targeted engagement and research)

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are environmental and sustainability impacts to this strategy. Resilience to climate change and opportunities to design with environmental impacts in mind are important as recreational spaces are planned and developed, and this is reflected in Sustainability being captured as a principle of delivery for the strategy, and the references to Council's Urban Tree Plan, among others.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions * denotes an action that is part of our municipal health and wellbeing plan:

2 Nurturing our Wellbeing

- Provide accessible, affordable and inclusive opportunities for all members of our community to participate in physical activity.*
- Plan for the future recreation needs in Wangaratta's North and South growth areas.*
- Update and deliver the Open Space and Recreation Strategy.*

3. Valuing our Environment

- Promote the significance and importance of our rivers and creeks to build community pride, care and protection.*

Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision

This report supports the 2033 Community Vision through the following objectives:

- Beautiful and accessible parks, gardens and open spaces

"We maintain our parks and gardens, reserves and open spaces to ensure the safety and enjoyment of our people and the protection of our spaces."

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Expectation for Council to fund all recommendations	Unlikely	Minor	4- Low	Communicate the need to apply for external grant funding to augment the Council Long Term Financial Plan
Resistance to change of title to Recreation Strategy from Recreation and Open Space Strategy	Likely	Minor	6 - Medium	Clear communication that this strategy is focused on recreation and the spaces that are used for recreation.
Community concern that the recommendations in the strategy will be enacted without further consultation	Possible	Insignificant	4 - Low	Wording in strategy strengthened around following Council processes, including further consultation as part of project development

Consultation/Communication

Extensive Consultation has been undertaken throughout the development of the strategy. This consultation included:

- Internal Council Officer Interviews
- Project Control Group sessions
- Community Survey (640+ responses)
- Sporting Group Survey (36 Club responses)
- 16 Community drop in sessions (10 in 2023, 6 during exhibition period in 2024) across the Rural City of Wangaratta with 140+ attendees
- School Sessions – primary and secondary
- Sporting group interviews
- Review of Place score Data, and Council's Sporting Group Survey from 2022
- Councillor Briefings
- Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee, Environment and Sustainability Community Reference Group
- Connect Wangaratta Exhibition period – 48 responses

The main changes have been outlined in Attachment 3. and include:

- Change of name from Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2024-2033, to Recreation Strategy 2024-2033
- Changes in wording especially around rationalisation of parks, to provide a more precise recommendation
- Alteration of priorities for some recommendations, for example the investigation of cycling infrastructure
- Including sporting organisations who had not engaged in the initial consultation

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for final endorsement.

Options for Consideration

1. That Council adopts the Recreation Strategy 2024-2033
2. That Council does not adopt the Recreation Strategy 2024-2033 and asks for revisions

Attachments

- 1 Recreation Strategy 2024-2033 [↓](#) 
- 2 Executive Summary Recreation Strategy 2024-2033 [↓](#) 
- 3 Summary of changes [↓](#) 

14.3 Kerbside Glass Bin Service

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	30 April 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Waste Management Coordinator
Approver:	Director Community and Infrastructure

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented following the resolution of the March 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting to award the tender 'Resource Recovery Collective – Hume', a regional collaborative tender for waste and recycling services across the Hume region.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Awards 'Recycle Kerbside Collection' 'Recycle Acceptance & Processing' and 'Recycle Kerbside Public Place' to Cleanaway Pty. Ltd with the minor adjustment to excluding 'Glass Kerbside Collection' & 'Glass Acceptance & Processing' components.
2. Disclose the contract value for kerbside services 'Recycle Kerbside Collection' 'Recycle Acceptance & Processing' 'Recycle Kerbside Public Place', at the next Council meeting after the contract is awarded.

Background

The March 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting resolved that Council:

- Recognises Cleanaway as the preferred tender for kerbside services 'Recycle Kerbside Collection' 'Recycle Acceptance & Processing' 'Recycle Kerbside Public Place', 'Glass Kerbside Collection' & 'Glass Acceptance & Processing' to Cleanaway.
- Authorises officers to negotiate a final price with the preferred tenderer.
- Approves a maximum allocation of funding of \$1.49m.
- Authorises the CEO to award the tender at a later stage for a maximum lump sum of \$1.49m
- Disclose the contract value for kerbside services 'Recycle Kerbside Collection' 'Recycle Acceptance & Processing' 'Recycle Kerbside Public Place', 'Glass Kerbside Collection' &

'Glass Acceptance & Processing' at the next Council meeting after the contract is awarded.

Council with the assistance of Russell Kennedy Lawyers facilitated the negotiation of the final contract departures and price. In this process Council officers have recommended the removal the following activity/services from the scope of contract.

- 'Glass Kerbside Collection' & 'Glass Acceptance & Processing'

The removal/postponement of the 'Glass Kerbside Collection' & 'Glass Acceptance & Processing' component of the scope of service has been recommended due to the following.

- The supply of new kerbside trucks (C36542 – Supply and Delivery of Four (4) 24m³ Waste Compactor Trucks completed in 2023) has been delayed, with likely delivery of the complete fleet of vehicles to be complete in Q3 25/26.
- The delivery of the new kerbside trucks will govern the implementation of the additional kerbside services (FOGO and glass) a greater economy of scale will be achieved if the procurement and roll-out of kerbside glass and FOGO bins can be executed/undertaken simultaneously.
- The Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) is having a significant impact on glass generation volumes within the municipality, the minimum tendered service frequency (2 monthly) may result in low presentations/volumes collected on service runs. The postponement of roll-out due to delays in delivery of kerbside trucks will allow further time to consider actual glass generation volumes with the full effect of CDS known.
- Funding partners (DEECA and Sustainability Victoria) have been consulted on the proposed postponement of roll-out and have provided in principle support of amended milestone funding payment dates to suit.
- The recommended contractor 'Cleanaway' have been consulted on the proposed postponement and provided in principle support for the execution of a contract (pending Council endorsement) for the 'Recycle Kerbside Collection' 'Recycle Acceptance & Processing' 'Recycle Kerbside Public Place', 'Glass Kerbside Collection' & 'Glass Acceptance & Processing' only.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The design of the regional collaborative tender has considered that there has been significant policy, regulatory and industry change within the waste and resource recovery sector. The project has been informed through careful consideration of these changes to ensure progression towards administering kerbside reform and meeting the targets of the Victorian Government's circular economy policy. It is critical that this can be achieved in a cost effective and compliant way and that the resilience of the sector is enhanced.

Key regulatory and current state changes that have been considered include:

China National Sword

- Widespread disruption to the recycling industry in 2018 due to a ban on the export of waste to China
- SKM Recycling insolvency and Cleanaway entry to the market

Government Intervention

- Guidance Notes and Model Contract Clauses (Model Clauses) for local governments 2018
- National Waste Policy at Federal level
- Greater regulatory scrutiny at State level

Environment Protection Act 2017 (Vic)

- General environmental duty, specific duties and permissions regime
- *Circular Economy Act 2021* (Vic)
- Greater consistency and transparency in service delivery
- Greater State government oversight (Recycling Victoria)

Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)

- New Procurement Policy (31 December 2021), including enhanced collaborative procurement requirements.

Financial/Economic Implications

Council long term financial plan includes projections and assumptions regarding the cost of kerbside waste and recycling services. This tender will allow Council to project the cost of these services more accurately over the long term. The ability to leverage significant tonnages from across the region will ensure value for money services can be achieved.

Item	Budget for this proposal (Draft budget 24/25 FY)	This Proposal	Variance to Approved Budget	Comments
'Recycle Kerbside Collection' 'Recycle Acceptance & Processing' and 'Recycle Kerbside Public Place'	\$1.30m	\$1.30m	\$0	Council approved a maximum allocation of funding of \$1,49m at the March 2023 meeting.
Net Result	\$1.30m	\$1.30m	\$0	

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal/statutory implications identified for the subject of this report.

Social and Diversity

There are no social impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Strategic Links**Council Plan 2021 – 2025**

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

3 Valuing our Environment

3.2 Valuing our Environment - Reduce waste and enhance resource recovery.

3.2.1 Service our community by managing our waste and recycling streams.

- Ensure service delivery is in accordance with the Recycle Victoria Policy
- Explore feasibility of commercial options to divert materials from waste and recycling streams
- Introduce a third glass-only bin into the community. Provide educational resources to households to ensure a successful uptake.

Rural City of Wangaratta 2023 Community Vision

This report supports the 2033 Community Vision through the following objectives:

Reduce waste and enhance resource recovery

- Service our community by managing our waste and recycling streams
- Strengthen positive behaviours throughout the community to minimise the negative impact of waste
- Reduce waste and waste generation from Council operations
- Establish our community as leaders in the organics waste processing and associated resource recovery.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Community concern with timing implementation of additional services.	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Medium (6)	Extensive community consultation and engagement has been ongoing since 2020, a community consultation plan has been presented to Council in March 2024, this will be implemented in

				advance of the proposed re-scheduled roll-out of Kerbside Glass and FOGO
Poor standard in delivery of kerbside services.	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Medium (6)	Contract specifies kerbside service delivery standards and performance measurement requirements.
Financial viability of individual contractors in delivery of contract.	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Medium (6)	Financial viability checks/assessments will be conducted on shortlisted tenderers

Consultation/Communication

An early market announcement occurred in March 2022, well prior to the release of the Request for Tender and there was significant promotion of the opportunity during the tender open period. ACCC approval was sought early in the process.

This process requires consultation with industry and approval was provided late in September 2022 to allow the Participants to collaboratively procure waste and resource recovery services until October 2042.

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Early market announcement	Significant promotion of the opportunity during the tender open period was undertaken. ACCC approval was sought early in the process.
Consult	Direct consultation with industry	Consultation with broader industry and approval was provided late in September 2022 to allow the participants to collaboratively procure waste and resource recovery services until October 2042.

Collaborate	Collaboratively undertake procurements activity on regional scale.	Regional procurement activity involved 11 Councils and Resorts in the 'Hume' (North-East) region.
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Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, and the procurement activity outcome is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

1. Council award the recommended tenderer for specific services and execute contract.
2. Council does not award. Further processes and procurement activities would be needed immediately to ensure Council implement adequate services prior to Contract No. C1415/007 – Garbage, Recyclables and Organics Collection Services terminating on 30 June 2024.

Conclusion

This regional tender has provided a key opportunity to leverage significant purchasing power to achieve compliant and high performing services. A strong and functional waste and recycling system is a key contributor to the liveability, sustainability, and productivity that regional communities enjoy and value.

It is recommended that Council officers award kerbside services of 'Recycle Kerbside Collection' 'Recycle Acceptance & Processing' 'Recycle Kerbside Public Place' to Cleanaway for specific services identified in this report.

Attachments

- 1 Rural City of Wangaratta\Desktop\Wangaratta - HRR- Cleanaway- Comingled Glass Collection Processing Services - Collated ex version EXECUTED BY CWY 17.01.23(16187003.1) - Confidential

15. Sustainability and Culture

Nil

16. Special Committee Reports

Nil

17. Advisory Committee Reports

Nil

18. Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings

18.1 Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings

Meeting Type: Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 30 April 2024
Author: Councillor and Executive Services Support Officer
File No: IC24/648

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings and committee reports are reported to Council for information (please refer attachments.)

Date	Meeting details	Refer
3 April 2024	Arts and Culture Advisory Committee	Attachment

Recommendation:

That Council notes the minutes of these Advisory Committees.

Attachments

- 1 ACAC Committee Meeting MINUTES - April 2024 [↓](#) 

19. Notices of Motion

19.1 Notice of Motion No 69 - Deputy Mayor, Harvey Benton

Meeting Type: Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 30 April 2024
Author: Councillor and Executive Services Support Officer
File No: IC24/694

Cr Harvey Benton has given notice of their intention to move as follows at the Scheduled Meeting of Council to be held on 30 April 2024 viz:

Executive Summary

This motion is being brought forward because of the State Government's new legislation which has taken away the community's right to appeal a planning decision to VCAT.

Critically this motion is necessary in order to deliver the desired outcome for section 4.2.2/4.2.21 of the Rural City of Wangaratta's Council Plan which says "Support businesses and industry to innovate, value add, adapt, and grow to the changing needs across the key sectors of Health, Agriculture, Food, Beverage, Tourism, Logistics, Manufacturing and Retail.

Agriculture is a main economic driver (with a multiplier factor of 4) for the Rural City of Wangaratta. The loss and destruction of arable land currently producing food, beverage, and fibre to renewable energy infrastructure (also transmission lines) would have a serious and long-lasting economic impact to the municipality. In addition to the economic impacts, the loss of agricultural land would also have significant negative social and environmental impacts. While clean, renewable energy is vital to the future of our planet, so too is our ability to feed, nurture and positively grow our rural communities.

Notice of Motion:

"That:

1. The Rural City of Wangaratta Council develop and resource an advocacy action plan as a matter of urgency to appeal the current legislation which limits the community's ability to contest a planning decision to Victorian Civil Appeals Tribunal (VCAT).
2. The Rural City of Wangaratta Council asks the State Government to support the protection of agricultural land for food, fibre and viticultural production as any significant change to our rural landscape will have adverse impacts economically, socially and environmentally across the whole municipality.

The Action Plan would be communicated to, and support sought, from all political representatives, peak industry bodies and government agencies.

Peak Local Government bodies and agencies would also be lobbied for support."

Officer Comments

The Minister for Planning has been responsible for deciding planning permit applications for energy generation facilities with an installed capacity of 1 megawatt or greater for some time.

The Minister's decisions on these applications have been subject to potential review by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). Changes recently made to all Planning Schemes in Victoria by the Victorian State Government removes the ability for the Minister's decisions on applications for renewable energy facilities with an installed capacity of 1 megawatt or greater to be reviewed by VCAT (review rights).

This means that objectors to an application for example, can no longer apply to VCAT to review the Minister's decisions on these applications.

Other parts of the planning permit application process remain the same such as giving notice of the application to allow submissions to be made in response to the application and seeking the view of authorities including Councils. This continues to provide community members and Council with a pathway to provide views about application to be considered by the Minister prior to a decision being made on a planning permit application.

20. Urgent Business

21. Public Question Time

22. Confidential Business

Recommendation:

That Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public in accordance with Division 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider the following items:

22.1 Community Complaint Resolution

Item 22.1 is Confidential under the Local Government Act 2020 as it contains information relating to : (e) Legal Privileged Information and (f) Personal Information.

23. Closure of Meeting

Attachments

Rural City of Wangaratta	23/24 Adopted Budget	23/24 Adopted Q2 Full Year Forecast	23/24 Projected Q3 Full Year Forecast	Projected Full Year to Adopted Budget Variance	Commitments	23/24 YTD Actual	23/24 YTD Budget	YTD Variance Fav/(Unfav)	YTD Variance	Ref
Income Statement as at 31st March 2024	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	
Income										
Rates and charges	40,623,228	40,523,747	40,508,224	(15,523)	-	40,353,832	40,397,762	(43,930)	(0%)	
Statutory fees and fines	1,432,000	1,379,635	1,366,359	(13,276)	-	988,476	732,491	255,985	35%	1
User fees	12,315,249	12,070,342	11,796,081	(274,261)	(296)	8,712,210	8,755,495	(43,285)	(0%)	
Contributions - cash	652,000	1,722,295	1,762,285	39,990	-	1,568,069	1,701,742	(133,673)	(8%)	
Contributions - non-monetary	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Grants - Operating	18,734,728	16,651,425	19,097,185	2,445,761	-	9,829,263	12,271,620	(2,442,357)	(20%)	2
Grants - Capital	9,915,190	14,129,399	14,216,182	86,783	-	10,937,185	8,162,407	2,774,778	34%	3
Reimbursements	90,000	147,573	207,573	60,000	-	178,256	118,257	60,000	51%	
Other revenue	1,158,450	1,712,071	1,898,300	186,230	-	1,713,496	1,472,831	240,665	16%	
Net gain/(loss) on sale/disposal of PPE&I	(64,733)	(54,733)	(24,733)	30,000	(57,145)	(317,414)	100,008	(417,422)	(417%)	
Total Income	86,556,112	89,981,754	92,527,457	2,545,703	(57,441)	73,963,372	73,712,613	250,759	0%	
Expenses										
Employee benefits	31,097,678	32,102,344	30,697,570	1,404,775	20,661	25,270,928	24,565,976	(704,952)	(3%)	4
Materials and services	26,629,191	30,672,523	30,424,113	248,410	2,793,906	21,000,474	21,646,357	645,883	3%	5
Depreciation and amortisation	17,425,000	17,425,000	17,425,000	0	-	12,311,864	12,720,717	408,852	3%	
Finance costs	612,496	610,850	610,850	0	-	475,679	432,306	(43,373)	(10%)	
Other expenses	563,105	1,479,448	1,479,590	(142)	80,950	1,045,474	1,150,011	104,537	9%	
Total Expenses	76,327,470	82,290,165	80,637,122	1,653,042	2,895,517	60,104,419	60,515,366	410,947	1%	
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	10,228,642	7,691,589	11,890,335	4,198,746	2,952,958	13,858,953	13,197,247	661,707	5%	
Adjusted Underlying Operating Position										
Grants - Capital (non-recurrent)	8,361,145	12,575,354	12,662,137	(86,783)	-	10,937,185	7,189,168	3,748,018	52%	
Contributions - Capital	1,700,000	1,700,000	3,462,285	(1,762,285)	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Adjustments	10,061,145	14,275,354	16,124,422	(1,849,068)	-	10,937,185	7,189,168	3,748,018	52%	
Adjusted Underlying Operating Surplus/(deficit) for the year	167,497	(6,583,765)	(4,234,087)	2,349,678	2,952,958	2,921,768	6,008,079	(3,086,311)	(51%)	

Notes
1. User Fees User Fees Projected Full Year forecast is \$274k below adopted forecast. This unfavourable variance is largely due to a reduction in expected Child Care income (\$180K) based on current year monthly actuals vs original expectations. Fundraising relating to child care has also been reduced (\$38k) as there are currently no funding raising events proposed.
2. Grants - Operating Grants - Operating are \$2.4m below YTD budget. This unfavourable variance is largely due to timing differences relating to Financial Assistance Grants (\$2.14m)(now expected to be received in June). Grants - Operating Projected Full Year forecast is \$2.45m above adopted budget. This favourable variance is largely due to an increase in expected Financial Assistance Grants in the current year (\$300k). As well as the known increase in expected funding relating to the October 2022 Flood Event (\$2.1m).
3. Grants - Capital Grants - Capital are \$2.77m above YTD budget. This favourable variance is largely due to timing differences relating to the Newman Street Drainage project (\$1.35m). As well as other known timing issues relating to the Stanford Road Upgrade (\$299k), Murray to Mountains Trail Enhancements (\$275k), Wangaratta Flood Mitigation Strategy (\$258k) and the Creative Precinct Masterplan (\$90k).
4. Employee Benefits Employee Benefits are \$704k above YTD budget. This unfavourable variance is largely due to timing differences relating to Community care (\$195k), Infrastructure Services (\$145k) and Sustainability and Culture Management (\$135k). Employee Benefits Projected Full Year Forecast is \$1.4m below budget. This favourable variance is largely due to the removal of a provision for EBA increases placed in the budget at the start of the year (\$570k). As well as known adjustments to staff allocations within Field Services (\$178k) and vacant positions in Waste Management (\$137k).
5. Materials and Services Materials and Services Projected Full Year Forecast is \$248k below adopted budget. This favourable variance is largely due to an adjustment in expected costs relating to Home care (\$531k), revised based on current year monthly actuals vs original expectations.

Rural City of Wangaratta	30 June 2022	30 June 2023	29th February 2024	31st March 2024	Variance Fav/(Unfav) C - B	Variance Fav/(Unfav) %	Ref
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	
Assets							
Current assets							
Cash and cash equivalents	40,513,290	39,232,472	25,833,774	26,752,111	918,338	4%	1
Rate receivables	992,940	1,502,471	14,354,612	10,902,347	(3,452,265)	(24%)	2
Other receivables - current	2,858,303	3,655,691	6,075,768	5,221,811	(853,957)	(14%)	3
Financial assets - current	10,000,000	-	0	-	0	0%	
Inventories	2,460	1,793	6,553	(5,402)	(11,956)	(182%)	
Assets held for sale	1,492,590	646,810	646,810	646,810	0	0%	
Other assets - current	1,269,643	1,253,383	398,318	317,465	(80,853)	(20%)	
Investments in associates	-	-	-	-	0	0%	
Total Current assets	57,129,225	46,292,619	47,315,834	43,835,142	(3,480,693)	(7%)	
Non-current assets							
Receivables non-current	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
Financial assets non-current	257,630	277,243	277,243	277,243	0	0%	
Property, plant and equipment and infrastructure	650,612,190	763,356,940	771,971,605	771,455,751	(515,854)	(0%)	
Book collection	794,560	810,131	860,256	851,389	(8,868)	(1%)	
Intangible Assets - Landfill	902,279	2,662,367	2,662,367	2,662,367	0	0%	
Right of Use Assets	465,166	244,382	148,227	136,011	(12,216)	(8%)	
Total Non-current assets	653,031,826	767,351,063	775,919,698	775,382,760	(536,938)	(0%)	
Total Assets	710,161,051	813,643,682	823,235,532	819,217,902	(4,017,631)	(0%)	
Liabilities							
Current liabilities							
Payables - current	21,489,765	12,107,713	3,222,589	4,606,324	(1,383,736)	(43%)	4
Trust funds and deposits	2,101,642	2,783,380	5,286,584	4,456,713	829,870	16%	5
Provisions - current	6,314,079	6,411,466	6,492,509	6,546,249	(53,741)	(1%)	
Interest bearing loans and borrowings - current	2,683,154	2,628,232	1,057,781	673,341	384,439	36%	
Lease liabilities - current	222,322	151,313	50,438	37,828	12,609	25%	
Total Current liabilities	32,810,963	24,082,104	16,109,899	16,320,456	210,557	1%	
Non-current liabilities							
Provisions non-current	24,039,261	16,171,858	15,625,629	15,625,629	0	0%	
Interest bearing loans and borrowings - non-current	27,694,519	25,066,288	25,066,288	25,066,288	0	0%	
Lease liabilities - non-current	263,091	111,778	111,778	111,778	0	0%	
Total Non-current liabilities	51,996,871	41,349,924	40,803,695	40,803,695	0	0%	
Total liabilities	84,807,834	65,432,028	56,913,594	57,124,151	210,557	0%	
Net assets	625,353,217	748,211,655	766,321,939	762,093,751	13,882,096	2%	
Equity							
Accumulated surplus	174,133,518	171,221,227	194,180,302	194,180,314	12	0%	
Other reserves	27,380,253	31,233,086	30,561,801	30,561,801	0	0%	
Asset revaluation reserve	422,921,029	523,465,378	523,478,063	523,492,683	14,620	0%	
Accumulated surplus - current year	918,417	22,291,963	18,101,773	13,858,953	(4,242,820)	(23%)	
Total Equity	625,353,217	748,211,655	766,321,939	762,093,751	(4,228,188)	(1%)	

Notes**1. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and Cash Equivalents fluctuate month to month as a consequence of general business operations. In March we have received a large amount of rate receivables.

2. Rate Receivables

The balance reflects outstanding rates for the financial year and will reduce progressively over the course of financial year, as instalments fall due and payments are made by ratepayers.

3. Other Receivables - current

Other Receivables - current will fluctuate month to month based on invoices issued and payments received. In March a \$1.2m amount was received relating to developer contributions.

4. Payables - current

Payables - current balance is reflective of supplier invoices received but not yet paid. This account will fluctuate during the year as invoices are received and paid as part of Council operations. Invoices are generally paid when they are due, not when received.

5. Trust Funds and Deposits

Trust Funds and Deposits fluctuate monthly based on deposits received and returned relating to capital projects during the year.

Rural City of Wangaratta	FY23/24 Adopted Budget	FY23/24 Adopted Full Year Forecast	FY23/24 Projected Q3 Full Year Forecast	Projected Full Year to Adopted Budget	Commitments	FY23/24 YTD Actual	FY23/24 YTD Budget	YTD Variance	YTD Variance	Ref
Statement of Capital Works 31st March 2024	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	
Property										
WIP Land Improvements	60,000	530,140	541,418	(11,277)	266,517	237,986	282,767	44,781	16%	●
Total Land	60,000	530,140	541,418	(11,277)	266,517	237,986	282,767	44,781	16%	●
WIP Buildings	1,450,697	1,762,145	1,922,617	(160,472)	308,422	1,037,721	1,215,941	178,221	15%	●
Total buildings	1,450,697	1,762,145	1,922,617	(160,472)	308,422	1,037,721	1,215,941	178,221	15%	●
Total Property	1,510,697	2,292,285	2,464,035	(171,749)	574,939	1,275,706	1,498,709	223,002	15%	●
Plant and equipment										
Plant and equipment	3,030,339	3,210,339	3,210,339	-	2,639,987	377,883	1,204,657	826,773	69%	●
Furniture and fittings	141,700	285,918	281,004	4,914	59,880	224,563	206,436	(18,126)	(9%)	●
Computers and telecommunicat	1,407,580	1,029,437	920,343	109,093	413,909	426,779	579,021	152,242	26%	●
Artworks	7,500	9,491	9,491	-	-	9,491	9,491	-	-	●
Book collection	200,648	204,047	204,047	-	6,745	179,967	185,001	5,034	3%	●
Total Plant and equipment	4,787,767	4,739,232	4,625,225	114,007	3,120,521	1,218,683	2,184,606	965,923	44%	●
Infrastructure										
WIP Waste management	767,000	995,213	1,105,213	(110,000)	69,877	829,863	717,375	(112,488)	(16%)	●
WIP Sealed roads and substructu	2,200,000	2,484,631	2,584,655	(100,024)	317,171	1,621,178	1,509,633	(111,545)	(7%)	●
WIP Gravel Roads and substruct	1,828,594	1,828,594	1,828,594	-	104,216	1,052,126	1,151,624	99,498	9%	●
WIP Bridges	820,000	1,026,875	924,157	102,719	621,313	309,955	992,362	682,407	69%	●
WIP Drainage	8,023,000	8,109,489	8,176,111	(66,622)	2,417,939	4,111,859	3,991,917	(119,941)	(3%)	●
WIP Footpaths	500,000	831,190	837,842	(6,652)	186,423	661,768	623,412	(38,356)	(6%)	●
WIP Bikepaths	-	-	-	-	-	(273)	-	273	-	●
WIP Off Street Car Parks	-	(0)	-	-	-	189	2,674	2,485	93%	●
WIP Parks, Open Spaces and Stre	95,000	617,774	617,774	-	28,707	501,381	480,713	(20,668)	(4%)	●
WIP Recreation, Leisure and Con	8,490,736	9,206,647	9,343,337	(136,690)	1,613,035	7,313,481	7,785,541	472,060	6%	●
WIP Aerodromes	-	97,376	97,376	-	19,938	80,843	78,395	(2,448)	(3%)	●
WIP Other Infrastructure	3,439,370	4,736,297	4,736,297	-	1,290,193	2,345,551	3,681,385	1,335,834	36%	●
Total Infrastructure	26,163,700	29,934,087	30,251,356	(317,269)	6,668,813	18,827,920	21,015,031	2,187,111	10%	●
Total capital works expenditure	32,462,164	36,965,605	37,340,615	(375,011)	10,364,273	21,322,309	24,698,345	3,376,036	14%	●
Represented by:										
Renewal expenditure	13,948,416	14,413,531	14,662,915	(249,383)	5,411,955	6,131,127	7,191,954	1,060,827	15%	●
Upgrade expenditure	13,074,948	14,201,136	14,214,893	(13,757)	2,759,465	9,845,917	10,646,240	800,323	8%	●
New Assets expenditure	5,438,800	8,350,938	8,462,808	(111,870)	2,192,853	5,345,266	6,860,151	1,514,885	22%	●
Total capital works expenditure	32,462,164	36,965,605	37,340,615	(375,010)	10,364,273	21,322,309	24,698,345	3,376,036	14%	●

Notes

Delivery of \$21.3m of Council's 23/24 capital works program was completed as at 31st March 2024, with a further \$10.4M of works committed.

YTD performance as at 31st March is \$3.4m behind budget performance. The full year forecast has increased by \$375k from Q2 forecast review. Major increases from Q2 relate to:

Moyhu Hall Refurbishment (\$175k)

Wangaratta Flood Mitigation Strategy (\$66k)

Major Patching and Asphalting (\$62k)



Risk Management Policy

Document Type	Major Council Policy
Department	Council-wide
Date of Council Endorsement	
Date for Review	
Responsible Officer	Manager People and Governance
Authorising Officer	Director Corporate and Leisure
Version Reference Number	2.0
SIM Reference Number	TBC

1. Statement and Purpose

- 1.1 This policy outlines the Rural City of Wangaratta’s (Council) commitment to effective risk management in all areas of the organisation, describes the process Council will take on managing these risks and clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of all persons associated with Council.
- 1.2 Risk is inherent in all activities and effective management of risk is good business practice. This effective management of risk creates value for the organisation by minimising loss and identifying opportunities. It is often a mandatory legal requirement. Risk will be managed consistent with the applicable Australian risk management standards.
- 1.3 Risks will be managed through a proactive, integrated, and structured approach provided by the Risk Management Framework.

2. Scope

2.1 This policy applies to all Councillors, Council employees and agents of Council.

2.2 Agents of Council include contractors working for or on behalf of Council, staff on exchange or secondment, members of Delegated Committees, Advisory Committees or Community Reference Groups independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee, volunteers, work experience students, or graduate placements who perform work for Council, as well as external suppliers and other contractors and subcontractors.

3. Policy

3.1 AIM

The risk management approach aims to:

- a) Achieve Council strategic objectives and outcomes through the regular review of Council's Strategic Risk Register.
- b) Proactively identify current and emerging operational and project risks and trends.
- c) Establish an effective communication flow for the management of all risks.
- d) Ensure a common understanding of risk across the organisation.
- e) Maximise value for money.
- f) Enhance governance and compliance.
- g) Implement robust controls for proactive and efficient responses to events that minimise loss; and
- h) Enable the organisation to identify and capitalise on opportunities

3.2 RISK TYPES

a) Risks are classified into one of three categories: Strategic, Project or Operational. These risks will be measured and reported in accordance with the Risk Management Framework.

b) Council's strategic risks relate to the fundamental decisions that Council's Corporate Management Team make in order to achieve Council's strategic objectives. These risks are determined by Council's Corporate Management Team and will be presented to the Corporate Management Team, Council's Audit and Risk Committee and Council in accordance with the timelines prescribed by the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic) or its

associated Regulations.

c) Project risks relate to the deliverables of a Council approved project throughout the life of that project.

d) Operational risks are the risk of losses caused by flawed or failed processes, policies, systems, or events that disrupt business operations. Examples of operational risks can be resourcing issues; lack of skills or expertise and physical events are among the factors that can trigger operational risk.

3.3 RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS

The risk management process includes the following elements:

- a) **Identifying** risks to generate a list based on events that might create, enhance, prevent, degrade, accelerate or delay the achievement Council's strategic objectives and outcomes, project deliverables or operational efficiencies.
- b) **Analysing and assessing** risks, including identifying the causes and sources of risks, the positive and negative consequences, and the likelihood that those consequences can occur by implementing a risk appetite and risk tolerance judgement
- c) **Controlling** risks through measures or actions that effectively manage the risk.
- d) **Evaluating** risks to determine if further treatment is needed and setting the priority for that treatment.
- e) **Treating** risks where controls are not effectively reducing the risk or the risk to the organisation is unacceptable.
- f) **Monitoring** and consistent reporting on identified risks, incidents and trends.
- g) **Embedding** risk management practices into all processes through communication and consultation.

4. Roles and responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

- 4.1 The Chief Executive Officer holds ultimate responsibility for ensuring this policy is followed and communicated effectively across the organisation.

Directors

- 4.2 Directors are responsible for ensuring that all business areas that fall under their directorate at a given time have current and appropriate risk management procedures in place.

Director Corporate and Leisure

- 4.3 The Director Corporate and Leisure is responsible for ensuring robust financial risk management principles are established and maintained and
- 4.4 for ensuring appropriate IT permissions are administered.

Managers

- 4.5 Each Manager is responsible for ensuring that all operational risks within their departments are monitored and communicated to the Corporate Management Team at least six-monthly.

Project Managers

- 4.6 Each Project Manager is responsible for the maintenance, review and communication of all risks within their project throughout the life of that project.

Governance and Risk Advisor

- 4.7 The Governance and Reporting Advisor is responsible for the development and facilitation of implementation of this Policy and of Council's overarching Risk Management Framework.

The Governance and Reporting Advisor is responsible for the regular reporting of Strategic Risks to Corporate Management Team in accordance with all applicable legislation.

5. Breaches

Breaches of this policy will be referred to CMT for consideration and determination on what action to take.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

- 6.1 Council's Audit and Risk Committee is responsible for the regular monitoring and compliance with Council's Risk Management Framework and policies.
- 6.2 This policy will be presented to the Audit and Risk Committee at least once every 3 years for formal consideration of its effectiveness.

7. Definitions

Corporate Management Team means Council's Directors and Chief Executive Officer.

Framework means the set of components that provide Council's foundations and organisational arrangements for designing, implementing, monitoring, reviewing and continually improving risk management throughout the organisation and includes policies, procedures and guidelines.

Major Breach means a breach of this policy that does or has the potential to cause significant harm to Council, including but not limited to financial, legal and reputational harm

Operational Risk means the risk of losses caused by flawed or failed processes, policies, systems or events that disrupt business operations.

Project Risk means an event or occurrence that may negatively impact the project's deliverables

Risk means the effect of uncertainty on your objectives.

Risk Appetite means the level of risk an organisation is prepared to accept in pursuit of its objectives.

Risk Management means coordinated activities to direct and control an organisation regarding risk.

Risk Management Policy means a statement of the overall intentions and direction of an organisation related to risk management.

Risk Tolerance means the maximum specific level of risk an organisation is willing to take regarding each risk

Strategic Risk means the risks identified by Council's Corporate Management Team as risks that have the potential of impacting the organisation's strategic direction.

8. References

8.1 LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)

8.2 EXTERNAL GUIDANCE

Australian/New Zealand Standards AS/NZS ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines

Australian/New Zealand Standards SA SNZ HB 436-2013 Risk Management Guidelines – Companion to AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009

8.3 INTERNAL DOCUMENTS

Business Continuity Policy



- Business Continuity Procedure
- Fraud and Corruption Control Policy
- Fraud and Corruption Control Procedure
- Risk Management Framework

9. Review

This policy will be reviewed by Council's Corporate Management Team and the Audit and Risk Committee at least once every three years to ensure the risk management practices remain relevant and operationally applicable, or when required by legislative change.

Version History		
Version Number	Date of change	Reasons for change
1.0	April 2020	
2.0	February 2023	Revision of policy



Risk Management Policy 202~~3~~4

Document Type	Major Council Policy
Department	Council-wide
Date of Council Endorsement	3 April 2023
Date for Review	April 2026
Responsible Officer	Manager People and Governance
Authorising Officer	Director Corporate and Leisure
Version Reference Number	32.0
SIM Reference Number	RCOW-631633092-749

1. Statement and Purpose

1.1 This policy outlines the Rural City of Wangaratta's (Council) commitment to effective risk management in all areas of the organisation, describes the process Council will take on managing these risks and clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of all persons associated with Council.

1.2 Risk is inherent in all activities and effective management of risk is good business practice. This effective management of risk creates value for the organisation by minimising loss and identifying opportunities. It is often a mandatory legal requirement.

Risk will be managed consistent with the applicable Australian risk management standards.

- 1.3 Risks will be managed through a proactive, integrated, and structured approach provided by the Risk Management Framework.

2. Scope

2.1 This policy applies to all Councillors, Council employees and ~~agents of Council~~ Council associates.

2.2 ~~Agents of Council~~ associates include contractors working for or on behalf of Council, staff on exchange or secondment, members of Delegated Committees, Advisory Committees or Community Reference Groups independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee, volunteers, work experience students, or graduate placements who perform work for Council, as well as external suppliers and other contractors and subcontractors.

3. Policy

3.1 AIM

The risk management approach aims to:

- a) Achieve Council strategic objectives and outcomes through the regular review of Council's Strategic Risk Register.
- b) Proactively identify current and emerging operational and project risks and trends.
- c) Establish an effective communication flow for the management of all risks.
- d) Ensure a common understanding of risk across the organisation.
- e) Maximise value for money.
- f) Enhance governance and compliance.
- g) Implement robust controls for proactive and efficient responses to events that minimise loss; and
- h) Enable the organisation to identify and capitalise on opportunities

3.2 RISK TYPES

a) Risks are classified into one of three categories: Strategic, Project or Operational. These risks will be measured and reported in accordance with the Risk Management Framework.

b) Council's strategic risks relate to the fundamental decisions that Council's Corporate Management Team make in order to achieve Council's strategic objectives. These risks are determined by Council's Corporate Management Team and will be presented to the Corporate Management Team, Council's Audit and Risk Committee and Council in accordance with the timelines prescribed by the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic) or its

associated Regulations.

c) Project risks relate to the deliverables of a Council approved project throughout the life of that project.

d) Operational risks are the risk of losses caused by flawed or failed processes, policies, systems, or events that disrupt business operations. Examples of operational risks can be resourcing issues; lack of skills or expertise and physical events are among the factors that can trigger operational risk.

3.3 RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS

The risk management process includes the following elements:

- a) **Identifying** risks ~~to generate a list based on events that might create, enhance, prevent, degrade, accelerate or delay the achievement of Council's strategic objectives and outcomes, project deliverables or operational efficiencies assists Council in finding, recognizing and describing risks that might help or prevent Council achieving its objectives.~~
- b) **Analysing** and **assessing** risks, including identifying the likelihood of

- events and consequences occurring, the nature and magnitude of these consequences, sector and organisation specific factors and causes and sources of risks, the positive and negative consequences, and the likelihood that those consequences can occur by implementing a risk appetite and risk tolerance judgement
- c) **Controlling** risks through measures or actions that effectively manage the risk.
 - d) **Evaluating** risks to determine if further treatment is needed and setting the priority for that treatment.
 - e) **Treating** risks where controls are not effectively reducing the risk or the risk to the organisation is unacceptable.
 - f) **Monitoring** and consistent reporting on identified risks, incidents and trends.
 - g) ~~**Embedding** risk management practices into all processes through communication and consultation.~~

4. Roles and responsibilities

Audit and Risk Committee

- 4.1 The Audit and Risk Committee provides professional oversight over the development and implementation of this policy and to ensure it aligns with best practice.

Council

- 4.2 Council's elected representatives are to provide the strategic direction and to promote ethical risk taking in all formal decision-making processes.

Chief Executive Officer

- 4.14.3 The Chief Executive Officer holds ultimate responsibility for ensuring this policy is followed and communicated effectively across the organisation.

Directors

[4.24.4](#) Directors are responsible for ensuring that all business areas that fall under their directorate at a given time have current and appropriate risk management procedures in place.

Director Corporate and Leisure

[4.34.5](#) The Director Corporate and Leisure is responsible for ensuring robust financial risk management principles are established and maintained and

[4.44.6](#) for ensuring appropriate IT permissions are administered.

Managers

[4.54.7](#) Each Manager is responsible for ensuring that all operational risks within their departments are monitored and communicated to the Corporate Management Team at least six-monthly.

Project Managers

[4.64.8](#) Each Project Manager is responsible for the maintenance, review and communication of all risks within their project throughout the life of that project.

Governance and Risk Advisor

[4.74.9](#) The Governance and Reporting Advisor is responsible for the development and facilitation of implementation of this Policy and of Council's overarching Risk Management Framework.

The Governance and Reporting Advisor is responsible for the regular reporting of Strategic Risks to Corporate Management Team in accordance with all applicable legislation.

5. Breaches

Breaches of this policy will be referred to CMT for consideration and determination on what action to take.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

- 6.1 Council's Audit and Risk Committee is responsible for the regular monitoring and compliance with Council's Risk Management Framework and policies.
- 6.2 This policy will be presented to the Audit and Risk Committee at least once every 3 years for formal consideration of its effectiveness.

7. Definitions

Consequence means the outcome of an event affecting the objectives of the organisation.

Control means a measure that maintains and/or modifies any risk

Corporate Management Team means Council's Directors and Chief Executive Officer who provide the administrative guidance to ensure the strategic objectives of the organisation are met.

Council means the elected representatives of the Rural City of Wangaratta who provide strategic guidance and direction to

Framework means the set of components that provide Council's foundations and organisational arrangements for designing, implementing, monitoring, reviewing and continually improving risk management throughout the organisation and includes policies, procedures and guidelines.

Major Breach means a breach of this policy that does or has the potential to cause significant harm to Council, including but not limited to financial, legal and reputational harm

Operational Risk means the risk of losses caused by flawed or failed processes, policies, systems or events that disrupt business operations.

Project Risk means an event or occurrence that may negatively impact the project's deliverables

Risk means the effect of uncertainty on ~~your~~ an organisation's objectives.

Risk Appetite means the level of risk an organisation is prepared to accept in pursuit of its objectives.

Risk Management means coordinated activities to direct and control an organisation regarding risk.

Risk Management Policy means a statement of the overall intentions and direction of an organisation related to risk management.

Risk Tolerance means the maximum specific level of risk an organisation is willing to take regarding each risk.

Risk Treatment means the selection and implementation of options for address Council's identified strategic, operational and project risks.

Strategic Risk means the risks identified by Council's Corporate Management Team as risks that

have the potential of impacting the organisation's strategic direction.

8. References

8.1 LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)

8.2 EXTERNAL GUIDANCE

Australian/New Zealand Standards AS/NZS ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines

Australian/New Zealand Standards SA SNZ HB 436-2013 Risk Management Guidelines – Companion to AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009

8.3 INTERNAL DOCUMENTS

Business Continuity Policy



- Business Continuity Procedure
- Fraud and Corruption Control Policy
- Fraud and Corruption Control ~~Procedure~~ Plan
- Risk Management Framework

9. Review

This policy will be reviewed by Council’s Corporate Management Team and the Audit and Risk Committee at least once every three years to ensure the risk management practices remain relevant and operationally applicable, or when required by legislative change.

Version History		
Version Number	Date of change	Reasons for change
1.0	April 2020	
2.0	February 2023	Revision of policy
3.0	April/ May 2023	Cosmetic changes



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Risk Appetite

Risk Management is an essential component of Council's governance framework and supports the achievement of Council's goals and objectives. Effective risk management increases the probability of successful outcomes whilst protecting the reputation and sustainability of Council.

The risk appetite is the amount of risk an organisation is willing to accept in pursuit of its strategic goals. The Risk Appetite Statement (RAS) considers the most significant categories of potential risks to Council and provides an outline as to how much risk Council is willing to accept in this area.

Council's strategic objectives are set out in the Council Plan. In deciding the approach to achieving strategic objectives and ensuring the sustainable operation of services, council must consider the risks involved and its appetite for such risks.

Those with responsibility for achieving strategic objectives and delivering council services must explicitly understand risk appetite when formulating strategy and actions and allocating resources. They must identify risk and determine whether the risks are within the risk appetite. If the risk appetite is exceeded, risk management controls and treatments are required to bring the risk back within the accepted range. It requires consideration of both opportunities and negative outcomes.

Having a documented risk appetite statement:

- allows for a better understanding of our strategic objectives, culture, context, and sensitivity to risk;
- identifies different risk in different parts of the business; and
- informs the development of risk tolerances for various activities and decisions.

Council, its Sub-Committees, Delegated Committees and Audit and Risk Committee, management and staff (including contractors and volunteers) will consult Council's Risk Appetite in both strategic and operational decision making. The Council's vision and strategic objectives will necessitate that Council accept some risks that accompany growth, transformation, innovation and are proportionate with the potential reward.

Overall, Council has a balanced approach to its risk appetite aligned to its strategic objectives. Council's approach to risk appetite is to minimise our exposure to risks to our people and their safety, our reputation and corporate governance whilst accepting and encouraging an increased degree of risk in pursuit of our key strategic directives.

The key challenges in achieving this balance are to ensure:

- ethical and effective governance practices including responsible stewardship of resources
- realisation of opportunities and allowing growth, transformation and innovation while avoiding unnecessary negative impacts
- avoidance of a risk averse culture which stifles growth, transformation and innovation rather than supports it through the correct assessment and management of risks

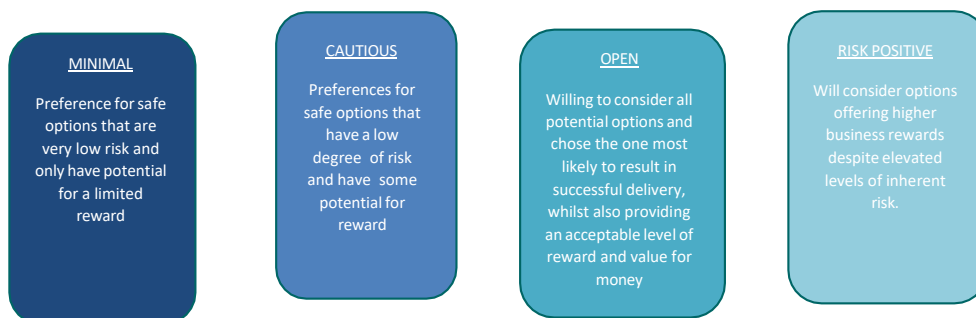
It is acknowledged that Council may at times undertake activities that inherently carry greater risk. The Risk Management Framework will detail requirements for identifying and managing risks at activity or project level.

Risk Appetite Ratings



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Council categorises its level of risk appetite into four categories as can be seen below:



Risk Tolerances

Risk tolerances are the boundaries set for risk taking. The risk appetite statement informs risk tolerances for Council

While risk appetite is a qualitative statement, risk tolerances operationalise the statement by using quantitative measures where possible to better enable monitoring and review.

The Risk Appetite will set the tone for risk taking in general, whilst the tolerance informs:

- Expectations for mitigating, accepting, and pursuing certain types of risk
- Boundaries and thresholds for acceptable risk taking
- Actions to be taken or consequence for acting beyond appropriate tolerances

Implementation of the Risk Appetite Statement (RAS)

Council's appetite for and tolerance of risk as outlined in the RAS forms the basis of our approach to managing risk in our day-to-day activities. The RAS informs the Risk Management Policy and Framework which provide the structure for our risk management processes.

Review

This Risk Appetite Statement will be reviewed annually or whenever there is a significant change to the Council's operating environment. This review will be coordinated by the Governance & Reporting Advisor. Changes to the Risk Appetite Statement must be approved by Corporate Management Team (CMT) and are presented to the Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) for review and comment before providing to Council for endorsement.

Risk Appetite Statement**GUIDELINE****Rural City of Wangaratta (RCoW) Risk Appetite Statement**

Below are the Risk appetites and tolerance levels determined for RCoW. Our risk appetites and our risk management framework support our decision making and ensures Council makes appropriate and informed decisions.

Risk Category	Context	Risk Appetite Rating	Risk Tolerance Levels	
			Council will tolerate	Council will not tolerate
Our People and Safety	<p><i>We support a safe and healthy workforce that treats everyone fairly.</i></p> <p><i>Council has minimal appetite for work practices, actions or inactions that compromise the wellbeing and safety of people including staff, contractors, volunteers and community.</i></p>	Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor unforeseen incidents or injuries that arise from time to time while undertaking normal activities. Minor morale issues relating to improving workforce performance. Minor staff grievances that can be dealt with through normal internal mechanisms. Practices that are not in line with best practice but safety and duty of care is not compromised. Minor morale and staff grievances due change within the organisation due to innovation or change management processes leading to more efficient and effective outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions or behaviours that are deliberate and willingly contravene the Code of Conduct and WHS policies and procedures. Actions which do not align to RCoW values. Practices that knowingly compromise staff well-being, workplace or community safety (including discrimination, harassment or bullying). Activities that result in reasonably foreseeable and preventable fatalities, harm, serious injuries or illnesses to our Community, Customers, Councillors or Employees. Events that occur arising from untrained employees or failed internal processes. Unsafe infrastructure and work environments.
Infrastructure	<p><i>Council is committed to continuous improvement in order to provide excellent infrastructure services that provide benefits to our community.</i></p> <p><i>Council is open to taking moderate levels of risk to enhance our infrastructure.</i></p>	Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate financial and reputational impacts arising from the implementation of new innovative technologies. Impacts leading to term disruption to community due to implementation of construction procedures which provide value for money provided community has been informed Moderate short-term financial impact on capital costs of projects where there are demonstrated long term sustainable gains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure of third-party contractors to provide services within budget and agreed timeframes. Non-completion of a significant portion of new or renewal infrastructure projects beyond financial year (or scheduled completion period if project runs across multiple years). Significant delays to projects that are considered within Council control. Asset failure significantly earlier than the projected lifespan of the asset. Failure to administer and manage contracts appropriately.

Risk Appetite Statement			GUIDELINE
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate impacts to infrastructure due to implementation of new technology, innovation initiatives or projects. • Unforeseen interruptions of up to 2 days to critical infrastructure from uncontrollable events where Council responds and communicates promptly to impacted stakeholders. • Minor unforeseen and unavoidable cost variations in capital projects within the established contingency allocated to each project
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant foreseeable variations in contract price due to aspects of the project within the control of Council • Failure to escalate critical infrastructure damage or issue within 2 hours. • Failure to develop plans to respond to a disruption and ensure continuity of operational infrastructure. • Activities that result in reasonably foreseeable and preventable fatalities, harm, serious injuries or illnesses to our Community, Customers, Councillors or Employees. • Financial variation outside the budget variation policy
Service Delivery	<p><i>Council delivers a range of community services, events and facilities which contribute to our community.</i></p> <p><i>Council is open to creativity and innovation and is willing to take some level of risk to deliver efficiencies, enhance capabilities and provide a service to be proud of to our community.</i></p> <p><i>Council is open to taking moderate risk to enhance service delivery.</i></p>	Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unforeseen interruptions of up to 2 days to critical business functions from uncontrollable events where Council responds and communicates promptly to impacted stakeholders. • Unforeseen interruptions of up to 7 days to less critical business functions from uncontrollable events where Council responds and communicates promptly to impacted stakeholders. • Moderate reputational impact from community complaints relating to service quality or new initiatives to deliver enduring benefits to our community. • Moderate impacts to service delivery due to implementation of new technology, innovation initiatives or projects. • Moderate impacts arising from innovations and ideas that contribute and encourage creating a flexible workforce.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to significantly meet our service commitments and community expectations. • Failure to demonstrate a commitment to delivering quality services to our Community, Councillors, Customers and Employees. • Failure to document and follow policies and procedures that impairs the quality of service delivery or results in service interruptions. • Failure to develop plans to respond to a disruption and ensure continuity of critical business functions. • Failure to escalate a critical business function outage within 2 hours.

Risk Appetite Statement			GUIDELINE
Environmental	<p><i>Council recognises the importance of conserving and enhancing our environment and understands that sustainability considerations in all council decisions is important.</i></p> <p><i>Council has a cautious appetite for environmental impacts arising from normal business activities, however, is open to innovative practices for the betterment of the environment.</i></p>	Cautious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental impacts offset by other activity resulting in an overall environmental benefit. • Minor environmental impacts from uncontrollable or unforeseen events or in order to deliver enduring benefits to our community well into the future. • Changes to procedures and practices to accommodate improved environmental outcomes. • Minor cost impacts in the selection of products, services that have a significant positive impact on the environment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions that do not appropriately consider the principles of environmental sustainability. • Failure to minimise significant impacts on biodiversity and reduce our environmental footprint. • Decisions, activities, and practices that result in long term or irrevocable environmental damage or negative climate impacts, threatens biodiversity, including extinction of flora and fauna, or is hazardous to human life. • Activities and practices that knowingly compromise the environment, are reasonably foreseeable and preventable. • Failure to meet environmental commitments or legal requirements resulting in EPA or other statutory fines or penalties.
Financial	<p><i>Council recognises the financial risks involved in delivering a wide range of services, programs and capital projects.</i></p> <p><i>Council has a cautious appetite for variation in financial performance as long as long-term financial sustainability is not threatened</i></p>	Cautious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor unforeseen and unavoidable cost variations in capital projects within the established contingency allocated to each project • Short Term (less than 12 months) negative performance below expected levels from commercial business aspects if core services are not affected. • Minor losses, or capital outlays, attributable to new processes or innovation to improve services to meet community needs. • Calculated financial risks to deliver infrastructure, improve service delivery or promote ecological sustainability. • Minor cost impacts of the implementation of weighted scoring in procurement to benefit local competent suppliers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial activities and/or investment practices that contravene legislated or policy requirements. • Failure to maintain or implement effective systems, processes and controls which adequately protect Council from fraudulent activity. • Fraudulent or corrupt financial transactions. • Actions that have a significant negative impact on long term financial sustainability. • Available funds below target over a five-year period. • A five-year average operating deficit. • Failure to act within Financial policy, quarterly review process and budget variation process to obtain approval for changed or unplanned financial performance.

Risk Appetite Statement			GUIDELINE	
Information Technology	<p><i>Our assets (including information) are vital in maintaining our business practices and therefore Council has a cautious approach to safeguarding from both external and internal threats, misuse, modification and unintended damage.</i></p> <p><i>Council's aim is to protect our assets contained within our ICT systems and services. We will be successful through the application of appropriate internal controls, a cyber aware workforce, effective governance, timely remediation of identified control weaknesses, persistent review of the external threat landscape and consistent management of our third-party providers.</i></p> <p><i>Council has an open appetite for risks associated with Information Technology Systems.</i></p>	Cautious	<p>Cyber Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some cyber threats which if they were successful would have a minor or limited impact upon Council's business because they do not compromise the integrity, confidentiality or availability Council information or assets.• Timely remediation of identified cyber security control weaknesses.	<p>Cyber Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cybersecurity threats that could have been prevented through judicious application of technical and behavioral controls.• An unprepared response in the event of an external cyber attack.• Significant threats to assets arising from external malicious attacks.• Misuse, inappropriate distribution or loss of sensitive or confidential council information due to the actions of staff.
		Open	<p>ICT Systems and Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scheduled outages that are agreed to by the business owners and are regarded as part of normal business activities.• Implementation of new technologies which create new opportunities for business improvement and innovation of systems which also could involve some minor to moderate risk.	<p>ICT Systems and Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prolonged unplanned outages of critical Council systems and services.• Failure to maintain systems and services which adequately protect Councils data and information and maintain adequate audit trails.• A lack of diligence in relation to information security the procurement and implementation of ICT systems and services.• Data loss due to inappropriate data management processes.• Failure to comply with information governance requirements.• Failure to maintain recovery plans in place and test plans on a regular basis.

Risk Appetite Statement			GUIDELINE
Governance	<p><i>Council is committed to good governance and meeting legislated and regulatory requirements in a consistent and fair manner.</i></p> <p><i>Council has minimal appetite for significant breaches of legal obligations or contractual agreements that result in fines, penalties or reputational damage.</i></p> <p><i>Council will seek innovative approaches to governance practices subject to compliance with legislation and protection of our interests</i></p>	Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions made on merit in accordance with Council values that are not in line with professional advice. • Minor technical breaches that have been considered by Council. • Temporary non-compliance due to unrealistic regulatory timeframes. • Risks which may give rise to isolated complaints that are incidental to normal business activities despite best efforts to avoid or mitigate • Streamlined governance processes subject to effective controls remaining in place.
Reputation	<p><i>Council recognises the importance of protecting its reputation.</i></p> <p><i>Council does however understand that negative publicity may occur where there is competing priorities and interests in the Community.</i></p> <p><i>Council has a cautious appetite for significant impacts on Council's reputation.</i></p>	Cautious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corrupt or fraudulent conduct by staff, councillors or contractors. • Unreasonable delays when reporting, investigating or correcting any fraudulent, improper, unethical or corrupt conduct. • Any instances where Council Officials knowingly break the law, fail to comply with legal obligations or recklessly breach internal policies. • Material breaches of legislation or the Code of Conduct. • Failure to consider expert / professional legal advice. • Unauthorised release of confidential information. • Any behaviour which gives rise to extensive litigation and indictable offences. • Failure to comply with Government Directions or orders.



Major Council Policy Community Impact Statement

Risk Management Policy

Council provides the following information to the community in respect of the proposed Major Council Policy.

PART A – General

Background

Council is considering revising its Major Council Policy, the Risk Management Policy (the policy) as a result of changes to our community consultation approach.

For a Major Council Policy to be fully endorsed, there are several steps that Council must follow. The proposed report must be approved by Council's Corporate Management Team (i.e. Council's Directors and Chief Executive Officer) and then presented to Council Briefing for formal Councillor discussion. Once Council is satisfied with the proposed policy, it will be formally presented at a Council meeting for endorsement, subject to 28 days of community consultation in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and deliberative engagement principles.

Objectives

The objectives of this policy is to outline Council's approach towards risk management and to clearly define the types of activities in which the supporting Risk Appetite Statement and Risk Management Framework take effect.

PART B – Overall Impact Assessment

Measures of success of the policy

The success of the policy will be best measured by the extent to which it improves the capacity of Council officers, councillors and members of any Council committee to adequately assess the quantum of risks associated with any activity they are undertaking on behalf of Council.

Council will assess outcomes as part of its periodical review of this policy.

Legislative context

The *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) gives Victorian Councils broad powers to make policies with respect to any function or power of the Council.

All Major council Policies are monitored by Council's Audit and Risk Committee and formally reported to Council.

Council considers the policy is the best approach to ensure all parties responsible for conducting risk assessments on a Council project or activity are aware of their duties.

Major Council Policy Community Impact Statement

Risk Management Policy

Council is of the view that the issues identified in relation to the policy are Council issues.

There is no overlap with existing legislation or policies.

Policy approach adopted

Council has reviewed this policy to ensure compliance with the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic), primarily in relation to ensuring a current policy is in force and can be evidenced in Council's Annual Report, which is a governance and management checklist requirement.

The development and monitoring of this policy will result in better risk management practices by all Council officers, councillor and associates of Council as there is a clearly defined risk by the organisation.

Restriction of competition

There are no National Competition Policy implications associated with the proposal.

Permits

The policy does not make provision for the issue of permits.

Fees

The policy does not prescribe any fees.

Comparison with neighbouring and like Councils

Council acknowledges that other councils across Victoria may use a variety of risk management approaches. The proposed Major Council Policy reflects the current Australian Standards in Risk Management and has been drafted to complement and support the operational requirements of the organisation.

Consultation

In the process of developing the policy consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law. Once Council has given its formal in-principle endorsement of the policy, public submissions will be invited for a period of 28 days in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and deliberative engagement principles.

All submissions and any proposed changes will be considered by Council prior to the policy being adopted.

Submissions

Submissions are invited from the community in regards to the policy in accordance with clause 7 of the Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law No. 4 of 2015.

A notice to this effect will be advertised in the Chronicle newspaper on 3 May 2024 and also on Council's website indicating that submissions will be received up to 5.00pm on 31 May 2024.

Major Council Policy Community Impact Statement

Risk Management Policy

All submissions will be considered by Council when deciding whether or not to adopt the policy at the next available Scheduled Council Meeting.

Rural City of **Wangaratta**

Major Council Policy Human Rights Charter Assessment

Risk Management Policy

As from 1 January 2008, all public authorities (including Councils) are required to act in accordance with the Human Rights Charter, and to consider human rights when making a decision.

The Charter is a law that protects the rights of all people in Victoria. It introduces standards and a framework to assist public authorities to consider the rights of all interested parties, and to be better able to strike a balance between an individual's rights and those of competing public interests.

The rights in the Charter may be subject to reasonable limitations in order to achieve this balance. As with all discerning decision making, if limitations are applied, this must be documented.

There are twenty rights listed in the Charter that promote the principles of freedom, respect, equality and dignity. These are listed at the end of this document.

Issues and Purpose	Rights Impacted Positive	Rights impacted Negative
The balance between supporting an individual's fundamental rights to the protection of their privacy and the public interest considerations.	Right to privacy and protection your reputation is a key duty of anyone undertaking a risk assessment.	
Any risk assessment must consider the wider social and societal impacts of that activity.	Right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief	
The weighting of participation in everyday life and the obligation of protection the community.	Right to participate in public life.	Participation in public life may be reduced if a risk is determined to be too high.

Victoria's Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

The Charter sets out the rights, freedoms and responsibilities that are shared by all Victorians and protected by law.

The Charter protects the following rights in Victoria:

- Right to be recognised and treated equally before the law;
- Right to life and to not have your life taken without a lawful reason;
- Protection from cruel treatment or punishment, including torture and medical treatment without consent;
- Freedom from forced work or slavery;
- Right to move freely within Victoria, to come into and leave Victoria, and to choose where to live;

Major Council Policy Human Rights Charter Assessment

Risk Management Policy

- Right to privacy and to protect your reputation;
- Freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief;
- Right to hold an opinion and freedom of expression;
- Right to gather together, take part in a peaceful demonstration or protest, and to join groups such as political, sport or union groups;
- Protection of families and children;
- Right to take part in public life, including the right to vote;
- Right to enjoy your culture, practise your religion, and speak your language;
- Right not to have your property taken away, unless the law says it can be taken;
- Right not to be arrested or detained unfairly, and right to the security of person, such as protection from harassment and threats in everyday life;
- Right to be treated humanely when arrested or detained ;
- Protection of children in the criminal process;
- Right to a fair hearing;
- Rights in criminal proceedings including the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty; and
- Right not to be tried or punished more than once for the same crime.



Major Council Policy National Competition Policy Assessment

Risk Management Policy

Introduction

A policy must not restrict competition unless it can be demonstrated that:

- The benefits of the restrictions to the community as a whole outweigh the costs; and
- The objectives of the policy can only be achieved by restricting competition.

This report applies the competition test to the Risk Management Policy and the proposed policy does not contain any restriction on competition.



Audit and Risk Committee Charter

Responsible Officer	Adoption Date	August 2020
Governance and Reporting Advisor	Approved By	Council
	Review Date	August 2024
Authorising Officer	Policy Type	Major Council Policy
Director Corporate Services		

Statement and Purpose

This policy provides the charter for the Audit and Risk Committee as required by, and in accordance with, section 54 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Scope

This policy applies to the Audit and Risk Committee appointed by the Wangaratta Rural City Council under section 53 of the Act.

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Introduction

1. Authorising provision

The Audit and Risk Committee is appointed by the Wangaratta Rural City Council under section 53 of the Act.

2. Functions and Responsibilities

The functions and responsibilities of the committee are to:

- (a) monitor the compliance of Council policies and procedures with the overarching governance principles, and the Act and the regulations and any Ministerial directions; and
- (b) monitor Council financial and performance reporting; and
- (c) monitor and provide advice on risk management and fraud prevention systems and controls; and
- (d) oversee internal and external audit functions.

Governance rules

The governance rules established by the Council apply to the committee unless otherwise modified by this charter.

Constitution of the committee

3. Membership

3.1 Members

- (1) The committee must comprise 5 members, including:
 - (a) 2 members who are councillors; and
 - (b) at least 3 and up to 4 other members who are not councillors and who are not members of Council staff (independent members).
- (2) Members must be appointed by the Council in accordance with the *Appointment to Committees of Council Policy*.
- (3) Independent members must collectively have expertise in financial management and risk and experience in public sector management.

3.2 Remuneration

- (1) Independent members must be paid a fee for their membership of the committee.
- (2) The fee amount must be determined by Council resolution and reviewed annually.

- (3) The fee must be paid quarterly in arrears.
- (4) Councillors must not be paid a fee for their membership of the committee.

3.3 Induction of members

New and prospective members should be provided with access to the:

- (a) charter;
- (b) governance rules;
- (c) community vision;
- (d) financial plan;
- (e) asset plan;
- (f) council plan;
- (g) the most recent council plan performance report;
- (h) budget;
- (i) risk management policy & framework; and
- (j) the minutes of the most recent committee meeting.

3.4 Insurance and indemnity

Council must indemnify and keep indemnified each member of the committee, exercising any function or power on behalf of Council against all actions or claims (whether arising during or after the term of office or employment of that councillor or other member) in respect of any act or thing done or omitted to be done in good faith in the exercise or purported exercise of any function or power conferred on the committee or member of the committee under this or any other Act. Council's insurance policies shall cover members of the committee while engaged in the business of the committee.

4. Chairperson

- (1) The chairperson must be appointed by the committee by resolution.
- (2) The chairperson must be an independent member.

5. Terms of office

5.1 Councillors

Members who are councillors are appointed for a one-year term.

5.2 Independent members

- (1) Independent members may be appointed for a term of up to 3 years.
- (1) The terms of office of independent members may be arranged to avoid more than 2 independent members retiring at the same time.

- (2) An independent member may be appointed for up to 2 consecutive terms.

5.3 Chairperson

The chairperson may be appointed for a term of up to 2 years.

Meeting procedures

6. Date, time, and place of meetings

- (1) The committee must schedule 5 meetings each year.
- (2) The determination of the dates of meetings must consider the functions and responsibilities of the committee, the business to be transacted and the timing of related Council meetings or audit activities.

7. Attendance

7.1 Participation

Members may participate in meetings by attending in person, or by teleconference, or by video conference.

7.2 Apologies and absences

Where a member does not attend 2 meetings within a 12-month period without sufficient reason or without an approved leave of absence, the member may be removed from the committee by Council resolution subject to the Council:

- (a) being requested to do so by the committee; and
- (b) providing the member with adequate notice of the request to remove the member;
- (c) giving the member the opportunity to explain the reasons for the absences; and
- (d) considering any reasons provided prior to making a decision.

7.3 Quorum

A quorum for a meeting is at least 2 independent members and at least 1 councillor.

7.4 Non-members may attend meetings

- (1) The Chief Executive Officer or nominee should attend all meetings except when the committee chooses to meet without management in attendance.
- (2) Members of Council staff who have authored a report on an agenda must attend the meeting that the agenda relates to in person or through a nominee.
- (3) Other members of Council staff may attend to support the committee and provide advice and information.

- (4) A representative of the internal auditor should attend all meetings.
- (5) A representative of the external auditor:
 - (a) should attend all meetings; and
 - (b) must attend meetings where the draft annual financial report and results of an external audit are on the meeting agenda.

8. Business at meetings

8.1 Order of business

Unless otherwise agreed with the chairperson the order of business for meetings should follow the example set out below:

- (a) welcome;
- (b) acknowledgement of traditional owners;
- (c) present, absent and apologies;
- (d) granting of leave of absence;
- (e) confirmation of minutes of previous meetings;
- (f) conflict of interest disclosure;
- (g) risk management reports;
- (h) fraud prevention report;
- (i) internal and external audit report
- (j) Council policy and procedure compliance report;
- (k) Council financial and performance reporting;
- (l) notices of motion;
- (m) notices of rescission;
- (n) urgent business;
- (o) foreshadowed items;
- (p) closure of meeting.

8.2 Annual work program

- (1) An annual work program must be adopted at or before the last meeting each calendar year for the following calendar year.
- (2) The annual work program should set out a program of meetings, reports, internal audits, and committee activities including the timing of the committee annual committee performance assessment and biannual audit and risk reports to the Council.

9. Minutes

- (1) Unconfirmed minutes must be provided in draft form within 2 weeks after the meeting.

- (2) Unconfirmed minutes must not be published on Council's website.
- (3) A report summarising the meeting content will be included in the agenda of the next practicable Council meeting.

Functions and responsibilities

10. Risk management

- (1) The committee must monitor and provide advice on risk management systems and controls.
- (2) For the purpose of clause 10(1) monitoring processes may include:
 - (a) Reviewing significant strategic and emerging risks;
 - (b) Receiving reports on significant control failures;
 - (c) Monitoring major lawsuits;
 - (d) Reviewing compliance investigations;
 - (e) Monitoring the development and implementation of the risk management framework;
 - (f) Reviewing the risk profile and risk appetite annually.

11. Fraud prevention

- (1) The committee must monitor and provide advice on fraud prevention systems and controls.
- (2) For the purpose of clause 11(1) monitoring processes may include:
 - (a) Monitoring the development and implementation of the fraud prevention framework;
 - (b) Reviewing councillor expenses;
 - (c) Reviewing credit card expenditure;
 - (d) Receiving reports on major fraud incidents.

12. Internal and external audit

- (1) The committee must oversee internal and external audit functions.
- (2) For the purpose of clause 12(1) oversight processes may include:
 - (a) Facilitating discussion between the internal and external auditors to promote compatibility, to the extent appropriate, between their audit programs;
 - (b) Discussing the external audit strategy;
 - (c) Reviewing the interim management letter;
 - (d) Reviewing the final management letter;



- (e) Monitoring the status of external audit actions;
- (f) Recommending to the Chief Executive Officer the appointment of an internal auditor;
- (g) Endorsing the internal audit program;
- (h) Reviewing internal audit project reports;
- (i) Monitoring the status of internal audit actions;
- (j) Monitoring the status of committee meeting actions.

13. Council policies and procedures

- (1) The committee must monitor the compliance of Council policies and procedures with the overarching governance principles and with the Act and the regulations and any Ministerial directions.
- (2) For the purpose of clause 13(1) monitoring processes may include receiving reports on the level of compliance of major council policies and procedures with the overarching governance principles, the Act, the regulations, and Ministerial directions.

14. Council financial and performance reporting

- (1) The committee must monitor Council financial and performance reporting.
- (2) For the purpose of clause 14(1) monitoring processes may include:
 - (a) Reviewing the most recently reported financial statements;
 - (b) Reviewing the most recently reported council plan project status report;
 - (c) Reviewing the most recently reported council plan measures report;
 - (d) Review the annual financial statements and performance statement having considered implications of accounting standards, policies, and practices, processes used to make material accounting estimates, material adjustments arising from the external audit process and material variances from prior years.
 - (e) Recommending adoption of the annual financial report, financial statements, and performance statement to Council.

Definitions

Act	<i>Local Government Act 2020</i>
Agenda	A document containing the date, time and place of a meeting and a list of business to be transacted at the meeting

Associates of Council	Contractors working in-house, staff on exchange, members of Special Committees, members of Advisory Committees, volunteers, work experience students or graduate placements who perform work for Council as well as external suppliers and other contractors and subcontractors.
Chairperson	The chairperson of a meeting and includes an acting, temporary and substitute chairperson.
Chief Executive Officer	The person occupying the office of Chief Executive Officer of the Council, and includes a person acting in that office.
Committee	The Audit and Risk Committee established by the Council under section 53 of the Act.
Committee meeting	A meeting of the committee convened in accordance with the governance rules and includes a scheduled meeting and an unscheduled meeting.
Compliance investigations	Investigations conducted by the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission, Victorian Ombudsman, Victoria Auditor General's Office, Victoria Police, other regulatory authorities or by a monitor or commission of inquiry established under the Act.
Council	The Wangaratta Rural City Council comprised of elected councillors and led by the Mayor.
Council	The Rural City of Wangaratta, led by the Chief Executive Officer.
Councillor	A councillor of the Council.
Council meeting	A meeting of the Council convened in accordance with the governance rules.

Delegate	A member of Council staff to whom powers, functions and duties have been delegated by an instrument of delegation.
Independent member	A member of the committee who is not a councillor or a member of Council staff.
Major council policies and procedures	Policies and procedures which set out Council's position on an issue or set of issues to guide decision-making and the exercise of power in respect of decisions that impact on the lives and wellbeing of residents, ratepayers, visitors, and businesses. Examples may include policies regarding access to services, funding of capital works, allocation of community resources, allocation of Council grant funding, management of risks and policies related to councillors, councillor support arrangements, committees of Council and councillor conduct.
Major lawsuits	Lawsuits that that have a consequence rating of major or catastrophic and have a likelihood rating of likely or almost certain and that are not effectively transferred to a third party or parties.
Meeting	A Council meeting or a committee meeting.
Member	A member of the committee.
Minutes	The official record of the proceedings and decisions of a meeting.
Significant control failure	A failure of a control that has, or has the potential, effect of changing a consequence rating to major or catastrophic and a likelihood rating to likely or almost certain.
Significant strategic and emerging risk	Strategic and emerging risks assessed with a high or extreme risk rating.

References

Legislation

- *Local Government Act 2020*

Internal policies

- Appointment to Committees of Council Policy

Review

This charter must be reviewed by Council, and amended if necessary, at least once in each Council term.



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Affordable Housing Strategy

2024

Affordable Housing Strategy

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Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Rural City of Wangaratta acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands, on which the Rural City of Wangaratta communities reside. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and celebrate and respect their continuing cultures. We are committed to walking beside all traditional owners as we move toward reconciliation.

Mayor's Message

Since COVID, we have seen dramatic changes to the housing market in the Rural City of Wangaratta. House prices increased almost 50% in three years and housing supply has not kept up with demand. While housing has always been affordable for most people in the city, this is no longer the case. More households are spending increasing amounts of their income on housing costs and are facing housing stress at a time when other costs of living are increasing. This means more families and individuals are falling behind.

At its most extreme, a lack of affordable housing leads to homelessness. Wangaratta has seen a 67% increase in people experiencing homelessness from 2016 to 2021 and services who work with people experiencing homelessness are finding it hard to even find crisis accommodation.

The lack of affordable housing is also having an impact on businesses and services, as key workers are not able to find housing they can afford.

For Wangaratta to continue to be an inclusive, courageous, and compassionate community and to be the place where everybody has the ability to engage, to prosper, to be supported and to grow, we need to work with government and the community to ensure that there is safe and affordable housing for all members of the community.

This is why we have developed this Affordable Housing Strategy. While housing is primarily the responsibility of the state and commonwealth governments, councils also have a role to play and residents in the City expect us to do so. Community engagement for the Council Plan saw 44.37% support from participants for Council encouraging more diversity and affordability of housing.

Council looks forward to working with the community to increase affordable housing in the City and to see the Rural City of Wangaratta continue to be a thriving place for all.

Cr Dean Rees
Mayor



Cr Dean Rees
Mayor

Affordable Housing Strategy

Changes to Housing Affordability

Australia has relied on the private market to provide housing for most households, primarily through home ownership. The 2021 Census showed that 31% of Australians owned their home outright, 25% owned with a mortgage and 31% rented.

While home ownership remains the predominant housing tenure for most, fewer people, especially younger people, are now able to buy homes.

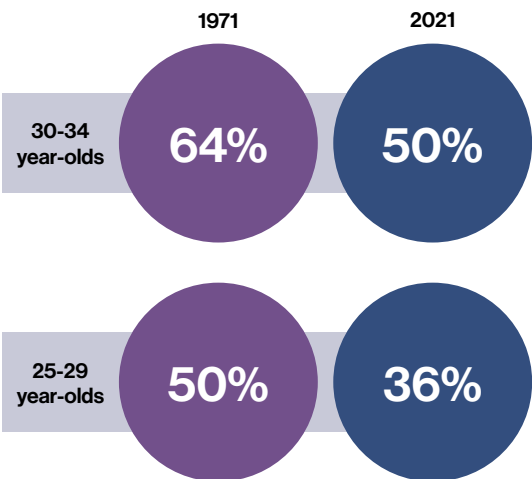
This change is driven because house prices have risen at a much faster rate than incomes. This is because housing supply has not been sufficient to meet the demand. This has also led to increased rent prices as more people are wanting to rent houses instead of buying.

The home ownership rate of 30–34-year-olds decreased from 64% in 1971 to 50% in 2021. For Australians aged 25–29, the difference was similar – 50% in 1971, compared with 36% in 2021. Home ownership rates have also gradually decreased among people nearing retirement. Since 1996, home ownership rates for the 50–54 age group has fallen by 8 percentage points over 25 years (80% to 72%).

There has been a corresponding increase in the number of households renting over that period. 60.1% of people under 35 were renters in 2021, compared to 55.4% in 1996. 33.8% of people aged between 35–54 were renters in 2021, compared to 25.8% in 1996. 20.6% of people over 55 were renters in 2021, compared to 17.5% in 1996.

Australia has also failed to invest in social and affordable housing. Social housing now comprises 4.1% of all residential housing in Australia; in 1991 it was 7.1% and in 1981 it was 18%. Victoria has the lowest level, at 2.9% of all housing stock.

Australian Home Ownership Rate





Changes in the Rural City of Wangaratta

The Rural City of Wangaratta has had higher levels of home ownership than for the rest of the country, even though Wangaratta has lower average incomes than the rest of Victoria and Australia. Table 1 This is because house prices have historically been at a level where most households in Wangaratta could afford to purchase a house.

Since 2021, there has been very large increases in house prices in Wangaratta. In June 2020, the median house price was \$365,500; the median price in June 2023 was \$547,000- an increase of 49.6%. Rental prices have also increased. The median rental price for properties in Northeast Victoria (combined house and flats) was \$342 per week in in June 2020; the median price was \$422 per week in June 2023 (SQM Research).



Table One:

Housing Tenure	Rural City of Wangaratta			Victoria			Rest of Australia		
Census Year	2011	2016	2021	2011	2016	2021	2011	2016	2021
Owned/ Buying	74%	66%	73%	70%	68%	68%	67%	66%	66%
Renting	22%	29%	22%	27%	29%	29%	30%	31%	31%
Other	4%	5%	5%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Household Incomes									
Less than \$650 pw	31%	29%	22%	24%	20%	16%	24%	20%	17%
More than \$3,000 pw	4%	5%	14%	10%	16%	24%	11%	16%	24%

Figures have been rounded.

Affordable Housing Strategy

Housing Affordability & Housing Stress

The common measure of housing affordability is based on the 30:40 rule. This refers to where a household in the lowest 40% of income distribution pays 30% or more of their net income in housing costs. Where this occurs, the household is said to be experiencing housing stress.

Housing costs include rent, mortgage payments (including both the principal and interest), rates, taxes, household insurance, repairs and maintenance, as well as interest payments on loans for alterations and levies on strata-titled dwellings.

The changes to housing prices outlined above, mean that an increasing number of households in RCOW are experiencing housing stress. This is shown in Table Two:

Table Two:

Households in RCOW experiencing housing stress over time			
Australian Bureau of Statistics Census Data	2011	2016	2021
Households where rent is more than 30% of income	7.2%	8%	30%
Households where mortgage payments are more than 30% of income *	8.2%	5.8%	11%

* The Census data is for August 2021. There have been 12 interest rate increases since May 2022

Another measure of housing affordability in the City is provided by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. It reports quarterly on the number of private rental dwellings that are affordable to people living on Centrelink incomes. This shows a significant reduction in affordable rentals for Wangaratta over the past twenty years..

Table Three:

Rental Affordability Index for people on a Centrelink Income for RCOW	
The index is prepared each quarter by the Department of Families, Fairness & Housing. It shows the number of private rental properties that are affordable to households living on a Centrelink income	
June Quarter 2003	96% of all rentals were affordable
June Quarter 2013	76% of all rentals were affordable
June Quarter 2023	28 % of all rentals were affordable



Social Housing Supply

There is a lack of social housing to meet the needs of people in RCOW.

There are 686 social housing dwellings in RCOW which are owned and managed by Homes Victoria and a range of Community Housing Organisations. As of June 2023, there were 548 people on the Priority Waitlist for Social Housing in the City and a further 397 on the general waitlist for social housing: a total of 945. The greatest demand was for one-bedroom properties followed by two-bedroom properties.

Affordable Housing Strategy

Impact of Increasing Unaffordability

Increase in Homelessness

The lack of affordable housing in RCOW has led to an increase in people experiencing homelessness.

The Australian Census, which is conducted every five years, counts the number of people experiencing homelessness. This is a point in time count i.e., it tells us how many people experienced homelessness on that day.

The 2021 Census reported a **67% increase** in the numbers of people experiencing homelessness in RCOW from Census Night 2016. (**125 people 2021, 75 people 2016**).

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reports on the number of people who received support from Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) over a year. For the 2021-22-year, **622 people** received SHS services in RCOW.



Economic

The lack of affordable housing in RCOW also means that employers are experiencing problems attracting and recruiting key workers to the City and the Region.

The Victorian Skills Authority undertook an assessment of skills and labour market demand for the Ovens Murray region. It stated:

Employers report strong interest from prospective workers to relocate to the region and enjoy its lifestyle benefits and natural assets. However, across industries Taskforce members identified lack of affordable housing as a critical barrier to attracting and retaining domestic immigrants.

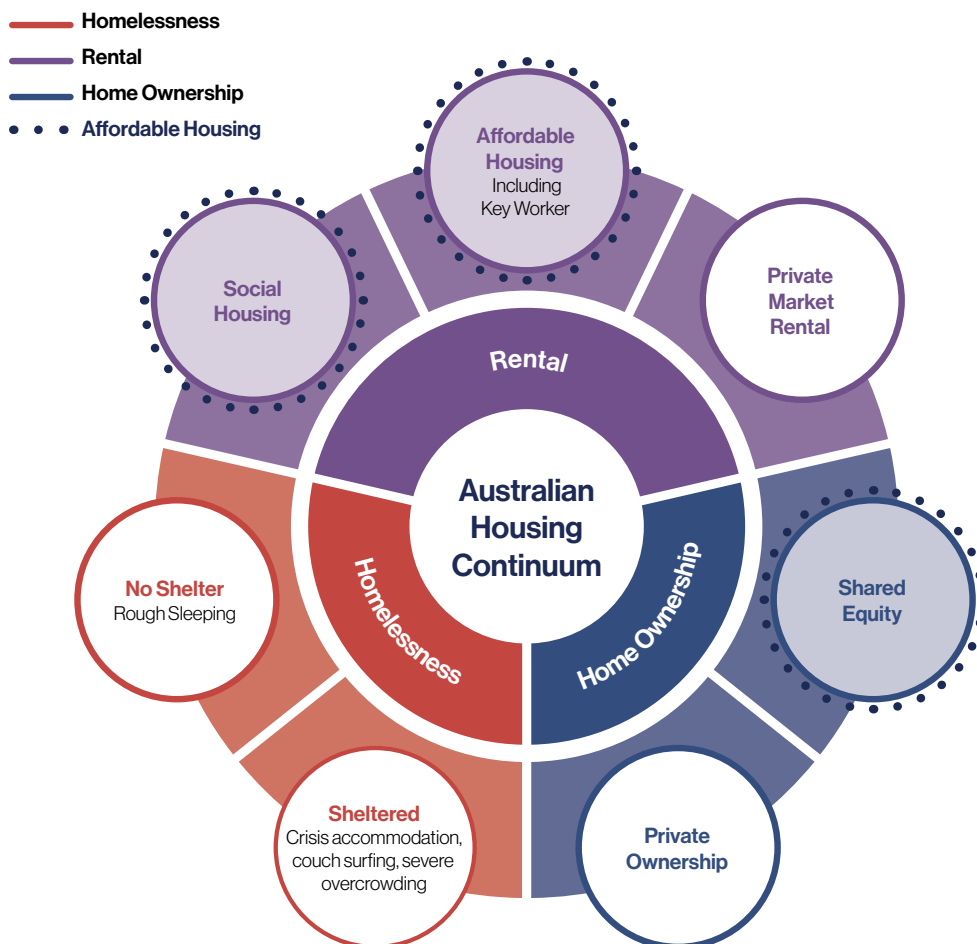
Work commissioned by the Northeast Workforce Management and Appropriate Housing project (NEWMAH) defines a key worker as anyone employed by an eligible business that must be performed at a specific location.

NEWMAH defines the following as eligible businesses in the Northeast: Agriculture & Viticulture, Forestry, Hospitality, Accommodation, Snow, Transport, Health & Allied health, Education & Early Learning, Manufacturing, Construction, Community Services and Essential services.

What is Affordable Housing?

Broadly defined, affordable housing is nonmarket housing where the rent, or purchase is below market. Chart One below sets out where affordable housing sits within the housing continuum in Australia.

Chart One: The Housing Continuum



Affordable Housing Strategy

The Difference Between Affordable and Social Housing

Affordable Housing is defined in the Planning and Environment Act 1987 as “housing, including social housing, that is appropriate for the needs of very-low, low and moderate-income households.”

Social Housing has a larger public subsidy than other forms of affordable housing. Social Housing rents are set at no more than 30% of a household's income. This is because the financial and support needs are higher for those who are allocated social housing.

Social housing is provided through public housing (owned and managed by the Victorian Government) and registered, not-for-profit community housing organisations.

Affordable rental housing, other than social housing, has rental prices that are below market rent, but not as low as social housing. This type of housing is targeted to low to moderate income groups, including key workers, and is owned and managed by not-for-profit community housing organisations. Rents for this type of housing are usually set as a percentage of market rent e.g., 75% of market rent or a percentage of income.

Affordable housing can also include assistance for eligible households to purchase a house, such as first home buyer grants or shared equity schemes.





1. Social Housing with Support

Roland is 28 and is sleeping rough by the river. He is unwell and in very poor health. An outreach worker from the Salvos works to engage with Roland and Gateway Health also work with him on his health issues. The Salvos discover that he is not receiving any Centrelink benefits and has no identification papers. The Salvos work with him to get identification papers and assist him to apply for a Centrelink benefit. They also support Roland to complete an application for Social Housing; he is approved for the Priority Waitlist for Social Housing. When he receives his housing offer, Roland will pay a similar rent to Jake.

2. Social Housing – Public Housing

Jake is 32 and receives a Disability Support Pension of \$548 per week. He lives in a one-bedroom apartment owned and managed by Homes Victoria. His rent is set at 25% of his income which is \$137 per week.



3. Affordable Housing – Community Housing Rental

Lucy is a 29-year-old sole parent with two children aged 6 and 8. She works 25 hours per week as a cleaner worker and receives \$689 per week in net wages. Lucy also receives \$277 per week in Family Tax Benefit supplement and \$218 per week in parenting payment. This means her total income is \$1,184 pw. She is also eligible to receive \$108 per week of Commonwealth Rental Assistance (CRA).

Lucy rents a three-bedroom house from a community housing provider. The market rent for this property is \$400 per week, but Lucy's rent is set at \$300 per week (75% of the market rent).

4. Ownership Affordable Housing – Shared Equity

Aisha and Amir are a couple with two children. Aisha works 20 hours a week at a local restaurant and Amir works full time as a bus driver. Their combined annual income is \$104,000 and they have savings of \$21,000. They have found a house in Wangaratta for sale for \$380,000. They are eligible for assistance under the Victorian Homebuyers' Fund. They have 5% deposit, so the government will contribute 25% to the purchase and retain 25% equity or ownership of the property. Aisha and Amir are expected to buy back the 25% share from the government over time.



Affordable Housing Strategy

Roles and Responsibilities for Social and Affordable Housing

While most residents in RCOW will continue to be housed through the private market – either through home ownership or rental - an increased number of households will need support to rent and/or buy housing. This support is provided primarily through the Victorian and Commonwealth governments but other organisations, including local government, can play a role.



Commonwealth

Provides funding to states for housing and homelessness programs. It also provides income support and rental assistance. Housing Australia provides low-cost finance backed by the Commonwealth to not for profit housing providers for social and affordable housing. It also provides some finance for infrastructure and several schemes to help first home buyers. The NDIS provides some funding for Specialist Disability Accommodation.

Victorian Governments

Builds and operates social housing through Homes Victoria as well as funding and regulating community housing providers to develop and operate social and affordable Housing. It also contracts services to provide support programs for people experiencing homelessness and family violence. The government also operates or funds programs for children in care, alcohol and other drug programs, corrections and mental health support programs.

Local Government

Local government is responsible for land use planning and for developing and implementing a Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Registered Housing Organisations

These are not-for-profit housing agencies that build and operate social and affordable housing. They can receive government funding and philanthropic donations to build properties as well as rental income from their tenants. They are regulated by the Victorian Housing Registrar and are required to meet legislated performance standards.

Support Organisations

These are not for profit organisations that provided support services for people. These can provide support to people experiencing homelessness, family violence, mental ill health, alcohol and other drug issues or general health support.

Voluntary Organisations

These are also not for profit organisations where people volunteer to provide services, fundraising, support, and a range of other support in the community. They can include church groups, service clubs, school clubs for example

Developers

Developers can enter into voluntary agreements with Councils to provide a percentage of affordable housing in a larger development.



Affordable Housing Strategy

An Affordable Housing Strategy for the Rural City of Wangaratta

Council has consulted with government, stakeholders, and the community to develop the broad goals of the Affordable Housing Strategy.

Vision

This strategy supports Council's vision for the Rural City of Wangaratta.



The Affordable Housing Strategy supports council's vision for Wangaratta to be **a place where everyone has the ability to engage, to prosper, to be supported and to grow.**

If Wangaratta is to continue to be that place, then provision of secure, safe and affordable housing for everyone who requires it is fundamental to achieving that vision.

Aims

Council understands that a lack of housing affordability is ultimately driven by a lack of supply of housing. Council will continue to use all available levers to increase overall housing supply in the City.

Council recognises that it cannot solve the housing affordability challenges facing the City. It is hoped however that by partnering with other levels of government, community housing providers, developers, investors, real estate agencies, support services, voluntary organisations and the community of Wangaratta, that we can achieve the following aims.

1. To increase the supply of social, affordable and key worker housing in the Rural City of Wangaratta
2. For social and affordable housing to be located in safe, clean, beautiful and friendly places to live, learn, work and play.
3. For homelessness across RCOW to be a rare, brief and a one-time occurrence and that no one has to sleep rough in the City.
4. That inclusion, courage and compassion in our community is even further strengthened.

Principles

In implementing the strategy, Council will be informed by the principles outlined below.

1. Social, affordable and key worker housing should be located in areas where residents have access to services, including public transport.
2. Social, affordable and key worker housing should be well designed, indistinguishable from market housing and contribute to creating an attractive neighborhood.
3. In areas where there is a higher density of social housing, extra attention must be given to quality building and place design, engagement with residents and the provision of responsive on-site tenancy management.
4. Support services that assist people who have experienced homelessness to find and maintain their tenancies are essential

Actions

While primary responsibility for the funding, building and management of social, affordable and key worker housing rests with the Commonwealth and State governments and the community housing sector local government can also play a role. The role we can play is restricted by Council having much lower levels of resources than those available to other levels of government and the limited areas in which Council can operate.

Nonetheless, the Rural City of Wangaratta commits through this strategy, to play its part to support the development of affordable housing in the City through the following actions:

1. **Direct investment of council resources to support social, affordable and key worker housing**
2. **Land Use Planning**
3. **Advocacy**
4. **Community Engagement and Partnering**



Affordable Housing Strategy



Action One Direct Investment by Council

Council has already facilitated social, affordable and key worker housing across the City, including a \$65 million development at the former Ovens College site. Council will continue to facilitate and directly support social and affordable housing through the following actions.

- 1.1 Council will identify Council owned land and/or air rights which can be made available for social, affordable and key worker housing projects.
- 1.2 Council will continue to provide rates exemptions or reductions on a case-by-case basis, where additional public value for the City can be demonstrated.
- 1.3 Continue to provide concessions for planning fees for social, affordable and key worker housing developed by not-for-profit housing organisations.
- 1.4 Explore whether Council infrastructure works (e.g., footpaths) can be programmed to assist development of social, affordable and key worker housing and/or whether a portion of DCPs can be allocated to infrastructure that supports social and affordable housing.



Action Two – Land Use Planning

Council has a statutory role in land use planning as established under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The Act provides some scope for Council to contribute to the development of affordable housing through its planning function. Council will:

- 2.1 Strengthen planning scheme provisions to facilitate affordable Housing and to support negotiations that secure affordable housing contributions.
- 2.2 Explore a voluntary affordable housing contribution for re-zoning proposals that include residential or mixed-use component and for planning permit applications that will create a significant number of dwellings.
- 2.3 Provide pre planning advice to organisations wishing to develop social, affordable and key worker housing for the City.
- 2.4 Encourage social, affordable and key worker housing that is well designed and located near services and transport.



Action Three

Advocacy

As the elected local government for the city, Council meets regularly with the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments, Government departments and agencies to advocate for the needs of the City and its residents. In doing this, Council will:

- 3.1 Advocate to the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments for funding for social, affordable and key worker housing to be delivered in the RCOW.
- 3.2 Advocate to the Victorian government and Homes Victoria for interim housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness in RCOW and for properly resourced and effective programs to support people experiencing homelessness to find housing and to assist them in keeping their housing.
- 3.3 Review land use in the City and identify if there is any unused government land. If identified, advocate to the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments for this land to be made available for social, affordable and key worker housing within the RCOW. This includes advocacy for changes to business rules which inhibit the use of government land for social, affordable and key worker housing.
- 3.4 Advocate to Northeast Water, the Department of Transport and Planning, other relevant agencies and the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments to ensure appropriate infrastructure is in place to support growth of housing for the city.
- 3.5 Advocate to the Victorian Government for changes to the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to strengthen affordable housing provisions through inclusionary zoning.
- 3.6 Advocate to Homes Victoria and the Victorian government to ensure excellent place and tenancy management of public housing built or redeveloped in RCOW.
- 3.7 Work with other local Councils through Regional Cities Victoria and the Municipal Association Victoria to advocate for increased social, affordable and key worker housing in regional and rural Victoria.

Affordable Housing Strategy



Action Four Community Engagement and Partnering

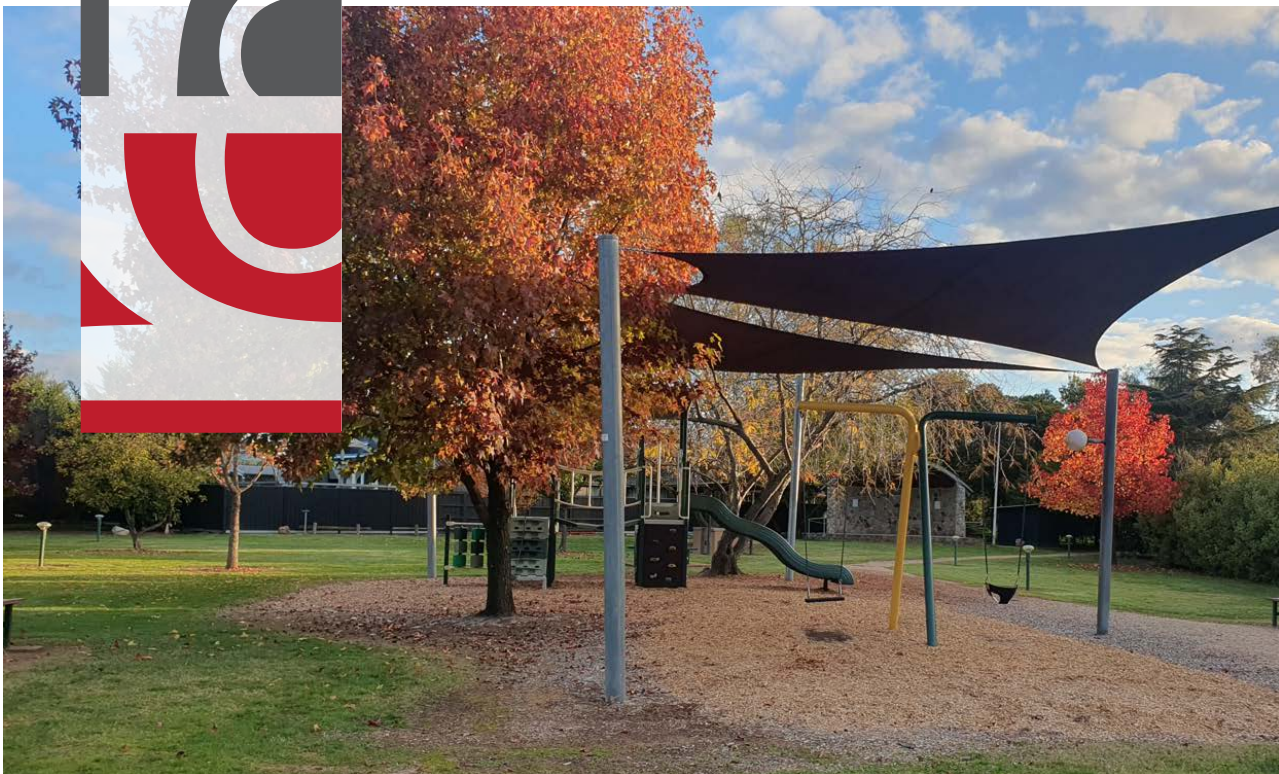
Local government is close to the community and is best placed to partner with and coordinate activities in a local area. Council has a proud history of working with the community to find creative solutions and especially enabling different groups within the City to work together. In continuing this work, Council will:

- 4.1 Facilitate partnerships with businesses, developers, community housing organisations and government to identify and explore opportunities to increase social, affordable and key worker housing in the City.
- 4.2 Explore colocation of Council services or facilities with new social, affordable and key worker housing development, where this could improve outcomes and amenity for the community.
- 4.3 Work with local churches, not for profit organisations to explore whether there is unused land that could be made available for affordable housing.
- 4.4 Work with local service clubs, businesses, churches and not for profit organisations to identify opportunities for crisis accommodation and other supports for people experiencing homelessness and/or support for organisations working to support people experiencing homelessness.
- 4.5 Continue to coordinate the Action to Empower People Experiencing Homelessness group and include people with lived experience of homelessness in the group.
- 4.6 Work with the Action to Empower People Experiencing Homelessness Group and the Local Area Service Network to investigate funding, opportunities and approaches to ending rough sleeping, including the functional zero approach.
- 4.7 Work with not-for-profit organisations, schools, churches, businesses, service clubs and the community to encourage participation in Homelessness Week.
- 4.8 Provide information about government housing programs and housing and homelessness services in the City.
- 4.9 Increase awareness in the community about the changes in demand for housing in the City, particularly the need for more medium density housing.





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Rural City of **Wangaratta**

Recreation strategy| 2024



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Document Control:

VERSION	DATE	DOCUMENT ISSUE	AUTHOR	REVIEWER	RECIPIENT
1	29.08.23	Draft Report	CP,DC	SW	DP
2	31.08.23	Draft Report Rev1	CP,DC	SW	DP
3	07.09.23	Draft Report Rev2	CP,DC	SW	DP
4	09.10.23	Draft Report Rev3	CP,DC	SW	DP
5	10.11.23	Final Draft Report (Rev4)	CP, DC	SW	DP
6	27.02.24	Final Report	CP, DC	SW	DP

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands, which now comprises the Rural City of Wangaratta municipality. This area spans the ancestral lands of the Bpangerang, Gunaikurnai, Taungurung and Yorta Yorta peoples.



The Rural City of Wangaratta acknowledges the support of Sport and Recreation Victoria in the development of this Recreation Strategy



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Defining key terms

For ease of reference, key terms and their definition have been provided below as these terms may be new, uncommon or specialised to the reader, as they relate to open space, recreation and sport strategic planning.

Table 01: Key terms

Active recreation	Recreation activities that require physical exertion but are unstructured, that is not part of a competition
Amenity	A desirable feature of a place and the positive visual impact on the surrounding area
CPTED	Crime prevention through environmental design outlines how physical environments can be designed to lessen the opportunity for crime
Embellishment	Services, facilities and infrastructure that allow a recreation or sport park to be used for its intended purpose e.g. turf irrigation, goal posts, shelters, picnic table and chairs, playgrounds, change rooms
Master Plan	A planning outcome providing a vision for a site, identifying what it should look like and how it should function into the future. It establishes a strong and consistent direction, providing a framework for ongoing improvement
Mitigation	The action of reducing the severity of something (such as a flood event)
Open space	Open space is the over-arching term for sports parks and recreation parks. Land and water bodies that are broadly available for public recreation, pedestrian and cycle movement, sport or for nature conservation purposes
Outdoor recreation	Range of unstructured activities undertaken in more natural settings that are not reliant on built infrastructure
Passive recreation	Range of unstructured activities and social interactions undertaken for enjoyment, relaxation, and mental health, with limited physical exertion
Rail Trail	Rail trails are shared use paths for walking, cycling and horse riding, created on railway corridors that are no longer used for rail transport.
Rationalise	Re-purposing as an alternate use, 'planting out' with trees to reduce maintenance, sale of the land or returning the land to the State (where State-owned)
Recreation park	Settings for informal recreation and social activities that enhance physical and mental health through activity that provides relaxation, amusement or stimulation such as play
Recreation node	A small area within an open space or park that provides recreation opportunity such as play elements or for rest and relaxation
Reserves	Crown land (typically owned by the State Government) managed as open space. May include sports parks, recreation parks and showgrounds
Sport	A range of structured activities capable of achieving a result requiring physical exertion and/or skill, that is competitive or training for competition
Sport park	Designed to primarily support a range of formal structured sport activities such as competitions, physical skill development and training. These parks are designed to accommodate the playing surface and infrastructure requirements of specific sports
Universal Design	The design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability

Project limitations

The Strategy focuses on the provision and distribution of recreational open spaces across the Rural City of Wangaratta.

The core outcome of this work was to develop an action plan for Council to follow in relation to upgrading parkland that it manages.

Park audit information contained within this document was accurate as at May 2023 when the site inspections occurred. Any park developments or data updates since the time of inspection will not have been taken into account in this Strategy.

Land identified as, or potentially for, open space was determined using existing Council mapping, database information and/or officer knowledge.



Rural City of Wangaratta





Introduction

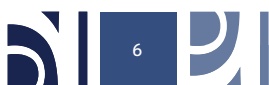
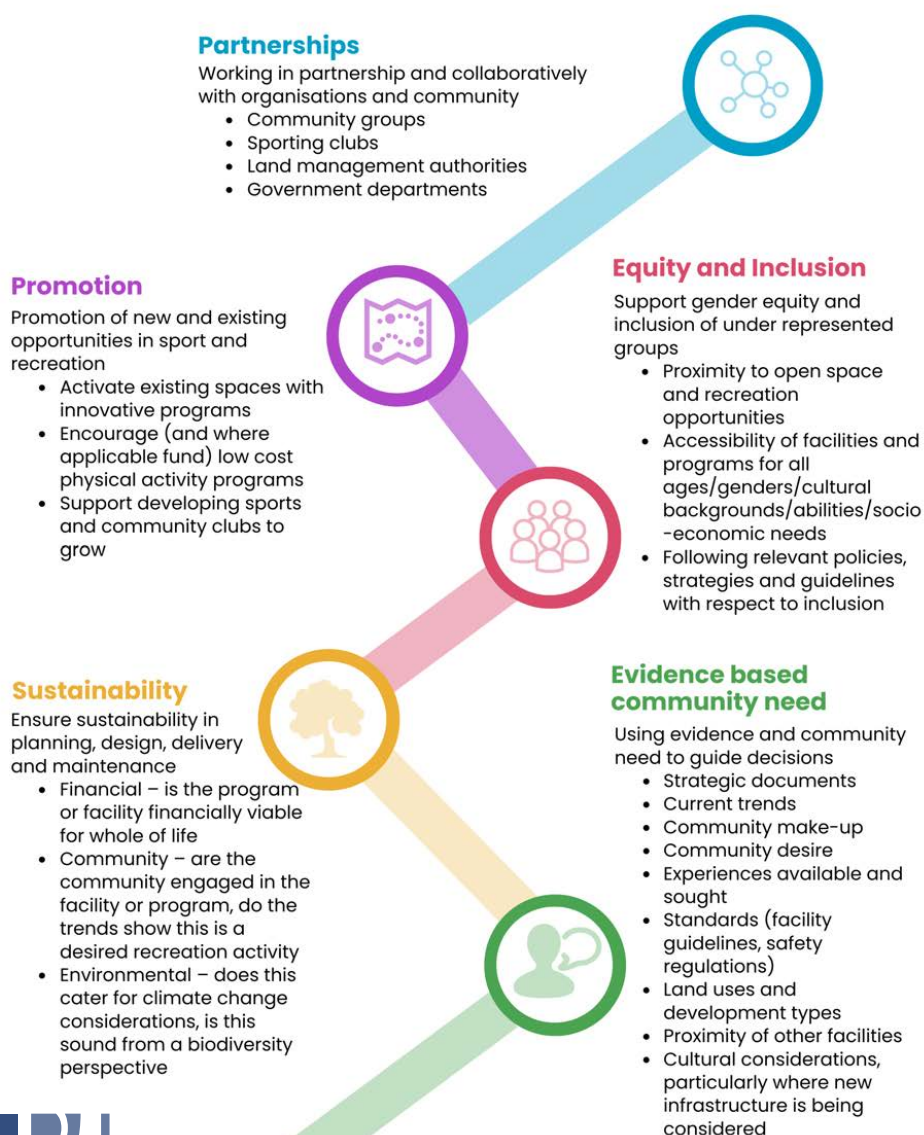
Vision

Everyone has the opportunity to be active and connected through sport and recreation.

Mission

To plan and manage our recreation open spaces and facilities to enhance community use, enjoyment and well-being.

The vision and mission is underpinned by the adjoining principles:



Rural City of Wangaratta

Benefits of recreational open space

Recreational open space plays a vital role in sustaining the social and environmental qualities of the local and visiting community. Appropriately planned, developed and managed recreational open space provides numerous opportunities to improve the health and well-being of individuals and the community, as well as bringing people together to develop social networks and friendships. Recreational open space has the potential to boost the local economy by attracting tourists, investment and supporting local businesses by the means of sporting activities and community events.

Benefits to personal health

- improved health is available to individuals through participation in sport and recreation. Research has shown that quality access to public open space (specifically parks, sporting fields and their connectivity) increases physical activity frequency
- opportunities to develop physical, social and decision-making skills through participation in sport and recreation
- access to public open space including natural areas can significantly improve the mental and physical well-being of the community and results in a higher satisfaction amongst the community.

Benefits to communities

- public open space provision is essential for strengthening and maintaining a healthy community. Public open space can provide a focal point for community gathering, promote interaction and combat social isolation. This became particularly apparent as people used parks to escape mandatory social isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic
- participation in sport and recreation can improve social cohesion, build cultural tolerance and support for seniors and people with a disability
- public open space areas can be used to record and retain history through place names, commemorative buildings and memorials and preserved areas of cultural significance
- public open space can provide connectivity. Recreation paths along open space corridors can link residential areas with key community facilities and open spaces.

Benefits to the environment

- public open space can help to maintain a sustainable environment by reducing water run-off and flooding-related problems, offsetting carbon emissions and filtering pollutants (trees)
- where public open space provides for quality active transport opportunities (e.g. cycleways and walking paths/trails) and walking and cycling replace car trips, additional environmental benefits include reduced traffic congestion and reduced greenhouse emissions, noise and air pollution
- daytime temperatures have been found to be up to 3°C cooler in large urban parks than the surrounding streets as a result of moisture released from trees
- public open spaces provide habitats that support ecosystems. Even highly maintained urban open spaces can be host to a range of mammals, insects, birds and aquatic plant life
- public open space can have high environmental values as it can support species and ecosystems not reserved in national parks or other conservation reserves and may act as corridor linkages between larger areas of environmental value.

Benefits to the economy

- quality public open space can increase the value of nearby properties
- participation can reduce obesity and health care costs. Improved physical health and the building of stronger families and communities helps lower these costs
- quality public open space and leisure services can attract businesses, employees and tourists. In fact, research has shown that recreation, parks and open space are some of the most important factors when new business locations are considered
- many events are hosted in public open space areas - from small local community-based events, through to those of national and international importance.



Strategic context

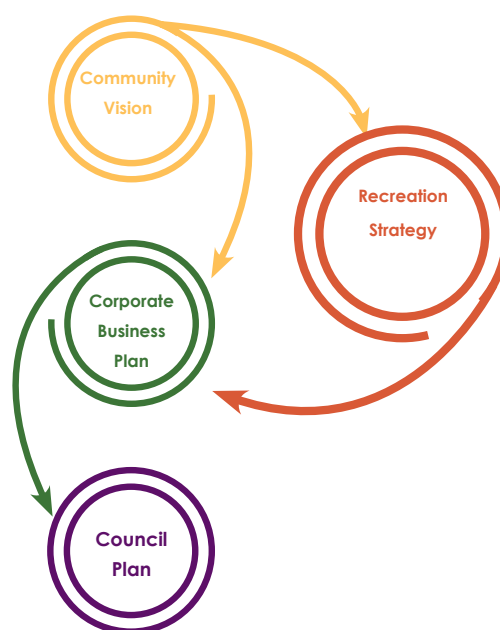
Understanding the makeup, needs and characteristics of the local community, projected population change, trends in recreational open space planning and the local legislative context are all important factors that influence recreational open space usage, planning and design.

Strategic context

Policies, plans and strategies reflect community aspirations and expectations representing an important context to recreational open space planning. Therefore, the development of the Strategy needs to fit within their framework.

A review of a number of relevant Council documents has been undertaken to ensure an understanding of the overall context for the Strategy. Documents considered include:

- RCoW Community Vision 2033
- Council Plan 2021 - 2025
- Wangaratta Planning Scheme 2023
- Planning Practice Note 70 - Open Space Strategies
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021
- Urban Tree Plan 2022
- Open Space Community Insights Report 2021
- Community Access and Inclusion Plan 2019-2022
- Play Space Strategy 2017 - 2027
- Merriwa Park Landscape Master Plan 2022
- Walking and Cycling Strategy 2020
- Parklands Master Plan 2020
- Wareena Park Master Plan 2020
- Wangaratta South Growth Area Structure Plan 2018
- Wangaratta North West Growth Area Structure Plan 2018
- Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2012
- Rural Place Making Projects 2018
- Gateway Health Active Living Mapping Project 2019
- Economic Development Strategy 2018.



Rural City of Wangaratta

RCoW Community Vision 2033

Council's role in the delivery of public open space is that it contributes to building healthy, liveable, attractive, sustainable and connected communities.

Council's vision is:

"We are an inclusive, courageous and compassionate community, that has built our future on a respectful balance between the urban and the rural. We are known for our natural beauty, access to opportunities and innovation, our resilience, and our community strength. We have a mature and healthy landscape that supports our wellbeing and forms a strong part of our identity. We are the place where everyone has the ability to engage, to prosper, to be supported, and to grow."

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) Identifies 'building active communities' as one of the key directions for improving public health and wellbeing. Relevant to this Strategy, the Plan identifies:

- 55% percent of Rural City of Wangaratta adults do not meet the physical activity guidelines
- Above average members of a sporting group (34.2% compared to state average of 26.5%)
- 94.4% of people who rated their community as an active community which is higher than the state average of 81.1%.

Relevant targets have been set in the MPHWP in order to improve upon or maintain these statistics:

- Increase in number of people meeting Australia's Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines
- Increased number of children participating in local sporting and passive recreation activities
- Increased distance of walking and cycling tracks throughout the municipality.

Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) is a plan for a healthy, resilient, and sustainable future for our municipality. Through the strategy Council acknowledges that our municipality is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and that a healthy natural environment is vital to all species and essential to the health and wellbeing of current and future generations. With increased adverse weather events such as floods, droughts and bushfires, it is acknowledged that it will have a negative impact on the quality of our open spaces, the cost of maintenance and upon the people that use it.

The ESS has many relevant actions for the Recreation Strategy in terms of maintaining and improving native habitat, improving connectivity in our green spaces, recognising traditional indigenous Natural Resource Management knowledge, increasing tree canopy cover, incorporating environmentally sustainable design into developments, using alternative sources of water (e.g storm water or recycled) to maintain green spaces and using water wise landscaping where applicable.

Open Space Community Insights Report 2021

Council commissioned the report in order to gain liveability insights regarding open space for the LGA. Relevant to this Strategy, the report identified the following:

- The Quality of public space has been identified as a priority area for intervention. It is both highly valued by the community and currently under performing
- The General condition of public open space is the highest valued primary open space metric and is one of the most important contributors to local liveability
- 30% of open space community ideas from respondents aged under 25 were requesting a variety of free open spaces for sporting and recreation
- A variety of spaces suitable for play (from toddler to teens) is among the poorest performing primary open space metrics
- Respondents over 64 would like to see more seating within open spaces and parks
- Strengthening the presence and identity of the river will help to enhance the natural environment. 23% of environment related community ideas highlighted the need to improve water quality to enrich it as a place for recreation.

Urban Tree Plan 2022

Council's Urban Tree Plan is focussed on trees within open space and streets. The Plan highlights the importance of urban forests, with urban trees offering many environmental, social and economic benefits to the community. Relevant to the Recreation Strategy, the Plan sets the following relevant target:

By 2030 the Rural City of Wangaratta will Increase our Urban Forest Canopy to 25%.

The Plan is focussed on some nature strips, parks and open spaces, recreation reserves, and Council managed sites including sports grounds.

Opportunities exist within this Strategy to implement outcomes of the Urban Tree Plan, for example, removal of playground equipment is recommended for a number of local recreation parks, with opportunities to increase plantings at these sites and maintain them for visual amenity and environmental purposes.

Gateway Health - Active Living Mapping Project for Wangaratta and Surrounds

The aim of the project was to identify the barriers and enablers for physical activity, with a specific focus on older people and people with specific needs which for this project is classified as particular vulnerable groups.

The project found that the biggest barriers to being physically active were lack of time, lack of or poor quality footpaths, cost, weather, health problems, decreasing cognitive ability, lack of motivation and perceived lack of options.

The most common suggestions for increasing physical activity were more/improved footpaths and more free or affordable activity options. These findings have been incorporated within this Strategy.



Rural City of Wangaratta

Community profile

The way in which a community uses the surrounding recreational open space and participates in recreation activities is largely influenced by age and demographic considerations. Understanding the spatial and demographic variations in communities, such as concentrations of older residents or youth, is fundamental to responding to, and planning for, the future provision of recreational open space. 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.



Population

- The population of the RCoW local government area is 29,808.
- 51.7% are female and 48.3% are male.
- 1.9% of the population is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.



Median age

The median age of the Shire is 45 years. This is seven years higher than the Victorian median of 38 years.



SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage

988.4 is the SEIFA Index for the RCoW, with Wangaratta South the only individual small area scoring below 990 (875.1)



Income

Overall in RCoW, 14.0% of households earned a **high income** (more than \$3,000 per week), and 21.7% earned a **low income** (less than \$650 per week). The median weekly household income is **\$1,326**.



Victorian Population Health Survey 2020 for RCoW

Approximately 56.9% of residents are overweight or obese. For mental health and wellbeing, 75.3% self reported good, excellent or very good. For life satisfaction, 80.5% reported high or very high.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

In terms of impacts for the preparation of the Recreation Strategy, what these demographic considerations and key health indicators suggest, as well as the relevant principle from this Strategy are:

- current recreational open space allocations and growth area planning are sufficient for the needs of the municipality **[Evidence based]**
- expectations of higher quality recreational open spaces (and infrastructure) **[Equity and inclusion]**
- demand will continue for facilities (and opportunities) that are attractive across all ages - with an increasing focus on facilities targeted at older residents **[Equity and inclusion]**
- Wangaratta and Wangaratta South may require specific recreational open space outcomes to help counteract their level of disadvantage when compared to the rest of the LGA. Accessibility to open space is important, as well as connectivity to walk/cycle networks **[Equity and inclusion]**
- the creation and promotion of physical activity opportunities and programs is important when considering the high proportion of the community who are overweight or obese **[Equity and inclusion]** **[Promotion]**
- similarly, the low SEIFA Index highlights the importance of extending the existing community garden program through community-led garden beds in open spaces **[Partnerships]**

Major trends in open space and recreation

Participation patterns in recreation 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 recreational 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 recreational open spaces.

Social media

- Provides new ways for people to engage with parks and share experiences on social media platforms
- The process of sharing and promoting locations can increase visitation
- Open space users are seeking ‘brag-worthy’ experiences to share on social media.

Technology

- Shift from outdoor to indoor, and increase in sedentary activity among children and adults
- Rising social media and app use guiding exercise, activity and destination choices
- Opportunity to ‘gamify’ or connect outdoor parks and activities, create brag-worthy experiences
- Expectation of interfaces - wifi in key parks, charging hubs, digital information on signs.

Increasing ‘screen time’ during leisure time

- More of our leisure time is being spent looking at screens, at the cost of active leisure activities
- Excessive screen time has been associated with negative health outcomes as people have less time available to participate in active pursuits such as play and physical activity.

Motivation and participation

- Preference for unstructured physical activity alone
- Appreciation of the physical, mental and social benefits
- Cycling rising, but organised cycling and formal club membership is low
- Children’s participation in formal sport is growing, whilst adult’s is decreasing
- Adventure and imaginative play is important - provision of challenging experiences
- Wheeled activities - from scooters to BMX riding - on the rise.

Health and environmental awareness

- Increasing concern about health with obesity and stress-related illness on the rise
- Residents with easy access to quality natural areas report a higher quality of life
- Growing awareness of the environment has led to growth in visitation to natural areas.

Girls in open space - ParkWatch Report¹

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 (MUGA's) 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 MUGA's, 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.

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 RCoW to support development of gender impact assessments.

¹ <https://www.makespaceforgirls.co.uk/resources-library>

Recreational open space design trends

A successful park (the primary version of 'open space') is one which is well-regarded and heavily used by the community. Key qualities in creating quality parks and the relevant principle for this Strategy include:

Open space design trends	Relevant principle
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – creating a sense of safety and security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parks that are located so that they can be seen from nearby houses, stores or activity areas • parks, their facilities and embellishments are open and visible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Equity and inclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – creating an accessible and connected destination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parks that are accessible to and from other parks, and within the parks themselves, giving maximised opportunities for walking and cycling • footpaths that provide linkages to other open spaces, schools, commercial and residential areas • footpath treatments that are safe (for example at road crossings) and are accessible for prams, wheelchairs, scooters and bikes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Equity and inclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – creating an attractive destination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parks that are well designed with landscaped open spaces • embellishments that complement the natural environment, such as grassy mounds instead of bench seats • parks that have well shaded areas (naturally and artificially), especially over nodes and activity areas (playgrounds, benches) • infrastructure that is attractive and well maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Evidence based community need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – creating sustainable spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parks that protect, enhance and connect landscapes and increase the quality of the natural habitat • parks that integrate environmental sustainable design and water sensitive urban design features that acknowledge and respond to a changing climate • parks that utilise local, recycled, natural and sustainable materials where applicable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – providing adequate facilities and range of activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parks that provide embellishments for comfort and recreation • parks that have a range of infrastructure that allows participation for all ages and considers the needs of different groups (including all ages and abilities) • parks that encourage children to use their imaginations, learn social skills, build their self-confidence and test their physical skills through adventure and exploration • parks that introduce risk back into play (such as high tree house structures, sky walks and natural elements), enabling children to develop an awareness of limits and boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Evidence based community need – Equity and inclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – developing a sense of community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parks that provide spaces for events, gatherings of family and friends, and meetings • parks that have a sense of identity that create community awareness • parks that the community feel is theirs and that they can be proud of. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Partnerships – Promotion

KEY IMPLICATIONS

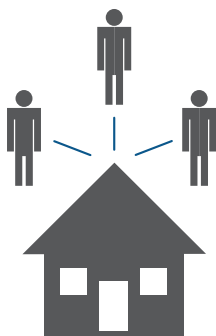
Considered together, these trends suggest:

- technological advances will continue to influence how we interact with the physical environment (and how much time people have available for recreation pursuits) [Evidence based]
- participation in unstructured physical activity is increasing, compared with declining participation in sport. Sport remains important particularly for children [Evidence based]
- people are increasingly aware of living well into older age [Evidence based]
- careful park planning is required to ensure opportunities that are inclusive to all residents and visitors [Equity and inclusion]



Community engagement

In developing the Strategy, consultation was held with a broad cross-section of the community. The findings from community engagement have been used in conjunction with other primary sources of data, background research and trends to create the report recommendations. A snapshot of key findings is detailed below.



Community survey

Key results of the survey are summarised here and provide an overview of residents' thoughts and motivations relating to open space and recreation provision and opportunities.

“Open spaces are very important for community wellbeing and health”

“Living in a remote community, this really is where you get to connect with others. Also living on a steep property with a dam, I am always wanting safer places to play and exercise”

“I like going outside with my kids and their scooters. Having a day out watching my kids have their own space to be creative, make new friends and learn how things work”.



Participation in recreation activities (not organised sport)

Respondents overwhelmingly indicated that *walking* was the most popular form of recreation for residents. With *bushwalking* the second most popular – clearly this form of recreation (and exercise) needs to be a key focus for Council.

Respondents identified that their preferred place to recreate is footpaths (69%).



Participation in organised sport

More than 72% of community survey respondents rate the provision of sporting opportunities as *important* or *very important*.

The top sports for respondents in RCoW are Netball (29%), AFL (21%), Soccer (19%), Hockey (16%) and Tennis (12%).

Almost a quarter of survey respondents travel more than 50km to participate in their preferred sport.



Visiting parks and sport facilities

92% of respondents visit open space and recreation facilities at least weekly.

Limited barriers to participation were identified by respondents – with only *lack of toilets* (35%) and *lack of seating* (30%) reported by respondents.

Favourite parkland in the area

Apex Park was nominated as the favourite open space/park within the LGA. Merriwa Park, Ovens River and King George Gardens were also popular open spaces.

Open space values

The natural setting (70%) and interaction with nature (63%) were the most valued elements of open space within RCoW. These were closely followed by 'they allow me to spend quality time with my family' (57%), 'access to water' (54%) and 'they encourage social interaction' (53%).

Top three open space priorities

Residents nominated the top three priorities for open space over the next 10 years:

1. New/upgraded playgrounds (30%)
2. Improved access to lakes/rivers/creeks (28%)
3. New/upgraded paths (26%).

The provision of additional dog off-leash areas (preferably fenced) was highlighted as a further priority.

Young people

For boys, participation in AFL, football (soccer), cricket, basketball and swimming (for primary students) were popular. Netball, gymnastics, dance and tennis were popular sports for girls.

Primary-aged students identified Apex Park and WSAC as preferred locations for play and recreation. In contrast, secondary-aged students preferred 'hanging' with friends at rivers. Older students noted that Apex Park was not attractive to them (and that the parkour facility in particular was not popular).

Primary students indicated desire for more spinning and moving elements in playgrounds, additional bike and scooter facilities (like pathways (in rural townships) and pump tracks) and more outdoor active recreation facilities such as half courts and rebound walls.

Older students are seeking greater access to rivers (and river-side facilities such as picnic shelters and water bubblers); indoor activity spaces such as rock climbing and trampolining; and concerts and events targeted at youth.

Additional response directions

Respondents provided comments on additional aspects of open space, recreation and sport provision, resulting in more than 1,300 responses. Analysis of these responses highlighted a number of key themes:

- The regular flooding of Apex Park detracts from the site and reduces the Park's potential as the LGA's 'feature' park
- Ongoing development of Merriwa Park may require a review with a number of existing embellishments identified as needing removal, replacement and/or upgrade
- King George Gardens is popular and has been noted as a site requiring additional planning and infrastructure
- Riverside tracks, paths and beaches are highly regarded by the community. Respondents indicated that resource allocation for maintenance and infrastructure upgrades and development at these facilities needs to be increased (with a notion that resource allocation for formal sport was high in comparison to Riverside locations that are open to all sections of the community)
- Demand for additional fenced dog off-leash areas (particularly on the western side of Wangaratta) and need for greater enforcement of dog owner responsibilities such as dogs being on-leash on paths
- Suggestion that access to the aquatic centre is difficult – both from a public transport perspective and from entry fees being beyond the means of some respondents
- Demand for mountain bike facilities in the LGA
- Demand for additional support at the existing community garden in Wangaratta and demand for additional community gardens (plantings) in existing open spaces.

Sporting clubs

77% of sporting clubs expect membership increases over the next three years. More than half of the respondents also highlight being *somewhat concerned* or *very concerned* about falling memberships.

National and state formal sport participation trends indicate junior participation increasing slightly (or steady), while senior participation continues to decline. Individual club surveys and interviews suggest that junior AFL, football (soccer), junior swimming, baseball, basketball, hockey and pickleball appear to be the sports growing well locally.

Sports facilities

More than half of the clubs surveyed indicated that their facilities were *not suitable* (did not currently meet club needs – yet more than 63% indicate that their facility meets the requirements of their sporting code).

Almost 80% of clubs suggested that the condition of their playing facilities was *suitable* or *exceeded their needs*. The main concerns for clubs were ancillary facilities (and not the need for additional fields/courts/ovals) such as:

- change facilities (particularly gender appropriate facilities)
- shade and seating
- playing facility lighting
- storage areas.

Current and future desired facility improvements were also themed around ancillary facilities. Upgrades and/or new infrastructure requests included:

- better quality change rooms and toilets
- lighting (both at playing facilities and general facility surrounds)
- storage facilities
- shaded spectator areas
- canteen/kiosk upgrades
- clubhouse upgrades.

Government agencies

A number of relevant government organisations and agencies have been consulted in the development of the Strategy, with input from specialist agencies including Sport and Recreation Victoria, Gateway Health, Sport North East, Tourism North East and Parks Victoria.

Gateway Health - RESPOND Workshops

Council, Gateway Health and Northeast Health Wangaratta recently engaged the local community through a series of community workshops regarding children's health and wellbeing. A number of ideas that came up in the workshop are relevant for this Strategy, these are listed below:

- The development of community-led garden beds
- The development of a series of up-to date community directories to promote what activities and programs exist within the community
- The creation of regular 'come and try' days or expos for the community to experience new activities that they didn't know existed or hadn't thought about previously.



Baltimore Park



Recreational open space in the RCoW

The Rural City of Wangaratta is well provided for in recreational open space across its urban and rural areas.

It is proposed that locally appropriate guidelines, instead of firm standards (i.e. hectares per 1,000 people), be the preferred planning tool for the provision of recreational open space in RCoW. Three key considerations will direct future planning and provision:

- a range of quality recreation opportunities will be available across RCoW
- the majority of residents living within urban areas of Wangaratta will live within walking distance (400m) of a recreation park
- (most importantly) the recreational open space network will be sustainable, ensuring Council can appropriately resource maintenance and upgrade requirements.

Classification framework

Understanding what constitutes different types of open space and how they are used is a key consideration in order to develop well designed, community-focused recreational open spaces. Various recreational open spaces possess different values, functions and settings. As such, recreational open space is usually classified according to its existing function (classification) and its role (hierarchy) within that function.

The framework applied to RCoW's recreational open space network consists of two central categories - classification and hierarchy:

- Classification (primary use and expected activities)
 - recreation parks
 - sports parks
 - natural areas (not covered in this Strategy)
- Hierarchy (service catchment, size and embellishments)
 - local
 - district
 - citywide
 - rural township.

A recreational open space classification framework for RCoW has been provided in the following table.

Recreational open space classification framework

Classification	Hierarchy	Description	Examples
Recreation park	Citywide	<p>City recreation parks have unique values that differentiate them from other types of recreation parks. They are usually associated with attractive natural landscapes that make them very popular with residents and visitors.</p> <p>Typically the park will offer high order play experiences for toddlers through to youth. The park should also contain a sufficient number of picnic facilities such as barbecues and shelters, and clean, contemporary public amenities to keep visitors entertained and comfortable for several hours. Depending on location, these parks may also include walking paths and water access.</p>	<p>Located within the urban areas of Wangaratta only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Apex Park – Mitchell Avenue Reserve
	Local	<p>Local recreation parks are generally smaller land parcels that service the recreation needs of the immediate residential population. They offer residents a supplementary open space to complement their backyards, attract users from a small catchment and cater for short visits by small groups.</p> <p>These parks provide a green buffer and possible amenity mitigation against development. They should be planted with trees and have a lower level of maintenance than a regional park.</p> <p>A local park is likely to have only basic embellishments such as a simple shaded play node supported by seating, tables and bins. Additional infrastructure may include robust elements such as a rebound wall, internal path circuit and path links to the wider pedestrian network.</p>	<p>Located within the urban areas of Wangaratta only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Brien Crescent Park – Baltimore Park
	Amenity	Open space generally dedicated for their attractiveness and to add to or protect the character/history of the area. Often highly landscaped parks such as entrance statements, monuments, memorials and lookouts.	Amenity parks to be developed from recreation parks where play equipment is rationalised in the future (as per strategy recommendations)
	Township	<p>Township recreation parks are similar to the local recreation park however often form the focal point of a township. They can be stand-alone parks or co-located with a community hall and/or recreation reserve.</p> <p>They contain more infrastructure than a local park, often with a toilet, barbecue and additional play elements. They can contain community gathering places such as a stage, amphitheatre or space for a market. Community gardens or planting beds can also form part of parks. They can act as a rest stop or trail head and provide important infrastructure including water, shade and seating.</p>	<p>Located within the rural areas and villages of the LGA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – John McAleese Community Park – Moyhu Lions Park
Sports parks	District	Open space that is designed to primarily support a variety of formal sporting activities through the provision of a range of training and competition infrastructure. These include facilities for undertaking competitive organised activities and training and ancillary infrastructure to support these activities. Free, unrestricted access to the community is provided at times when formal sporting activities are not being conducted.	<p>Located across the LGA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve – Whorouly Recreation Reserve – Milawa Recreation Reserve
Natural areas	N/a	Council owned and/or managed bushland reserves with ecological significance. The reserves vary in size and are home to native plants and animals, and can provide the last remaining refuges for threatened and endangered species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – One Mile Creek corridor

Needs-based approach

A needs-based approach to open space provision considers the social, demographic, cultural and environmental characteristics of a local area and the type of embellishments required in open space. The needs-based approach assesses the demands for activity at a park rather than having standards for amount of land to be allocated in the open space network.

Further, a needs-based approach is based on the experiences gained by the user, rather than fixed facilities within standard spaces for set population sizes. Typically, implementation of a needs-based approach is undertaken at a neighbourhood-level in which to determine the needs of both the neighbourhood network and individual open spaces.

Elements of a needs-based approach

In regards to implementing a needs-based approach to open space planning, there is a need to understand a range of base information about the existing and future community and land-uses of an area. A local planning process is undertaken in conjunction with the community of a defined neighbourhood. The information below provides an example of the type of information required to undertake the local planning process.

Experiences - What already exists? What does the community want?	Who are the local community?	Land uses and development type
<p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – play – competition – nature – escape, break-out and relaxation – adventure and challenge – exercise – socialisation – activity and hobby – connectivity – amenity and views – events, programs and community building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – demographics – family type – density – number of vehicles – access to transport – SEIFA Index – school enrolments – active community organisations – levels of physical activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – greenfield development – infill development – new housing estate – established housing area – new park – upgrade of existing park – renewal of park assets – physical barriers to connectivity within the local area – proximity to schools – proximity to aged care and disability providers

Open space in new subdivisions

In addition to the needs-based approach, Council's Planning Scheme outlines the required open space land to be provided for within new subdivisions. Standard C13 of Clause 56.02 which states:

- Local parks within 400 metres safe walking distance of at least 95 percent of all dwellings. Where not designed to include active open space, local parks should be generally 1 hectare in area and suitably dimensioned and designed to provide for their intended use and to allow easy adaptation in response to changing community preferences
- Additional small local parks or public squares in activity centres and higher density residential areas
- Active open space of a least 8 hectares in area within 1 kilometre of 95 percent of all dwellings.

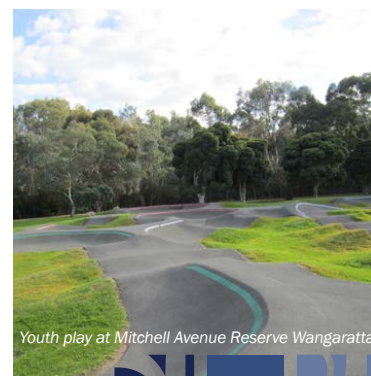


Rural City of Wangaratta

Provision of diverse experiences

Preferably, each planning district will contain a range of activities. These may include (some/or all of):

- play opportunities and differing play experiences for people of all ages, including:
 - toddlers
 - small children
 - older children
 - youth
 - adults
 - older adults
- nature-based play
- natural spaces for enjoyment and relaxation
- adventure play
- active and passive recreation areas
- picnicking facilities for small, medium and large groups
- footpaths and connections
- public toilets
- shaded areas
- car parking (maybe adjacent to park or shared with neighbouring land uses)
- bins, seats and water bubblers
- signage
- landscaping
- dog off-leash areas (fenced and unfenced)
- walking tracks and circuits (using parkland and waterway corridors where appropriate)
- areas suitable to host community events
- public art
- areas suitable to host private events (weddings, birthday parties)
- programs and activities in parks and community halls/venues (commercial and community based), these could consider:
 - tai chi
 - yoga
 - boot camps
 - running
 - school holiday activities.



Current provision - Recreation and physical activity

Informal recreation and physical activity

Walking

Across the LGA, participation in informal recreation activities is increasing. In line with national and state sporting trends, walking is the most popular activity for residents. Council has, and is being proactive at providing, quality infrastructure to support this growing trend:

- Review the Walking and Cycling Strategy
- Include complementing infrastructure, such as bench seats, water bubblers, bike racks and wayfinding/directional signage. These facilities will also promote areas of recreation, scenic and/or cultural importance.

Play

Despite the abundance of natural play opportunities around the LGA, the area lacks diversity in playgrounds. Children at school visits expressed that the existing play was 'boring' and only catered for younger children and toddlers. Many wanted to see larger, more risky play activities such as flying foxes, climbing nets and giant slides:

- Review the Playspace Strategy in line with this Strategy
- Look to upgrade some local parks with challenging equipment to become destination parks for the area
- Investigate play elements for older adults such as outdoor table tennis and chess
- Develop multi-generational play and exercise space at Wareena Park.

Youth activities

A lack of activities for youth within the RCoW is a concern. Wheeled Action Sport Precincts (WASPs) are considered quality facilities to develop for youth as they not only provide an activity space for users but also an area for youth to socialise (when suitable ancillary facilities such as covered seating, bubblers and power are provided). A number of other opportunities have been identified including soccer goal, re-bound walls and climbing structures:

- Look to diversify a number of local parks with elements for older children/youth including Wangaratta Skatepark, Burke Reserve, Baltimore Park, Baroona Court Playground, Brien Crescent Park, Dalton Reserve, Kendall and Orange Court Reserve.

Dogs in open space

A number of existing dog-off leash areas exist across the urban areas of Wangaratta. Dogs are permitted in designated off-leash areas only, and are not permitted on sporting grounds.

Future dog off-leash areas should only be considered where the health of waterways, biodiversity and safety of community is not impacted.

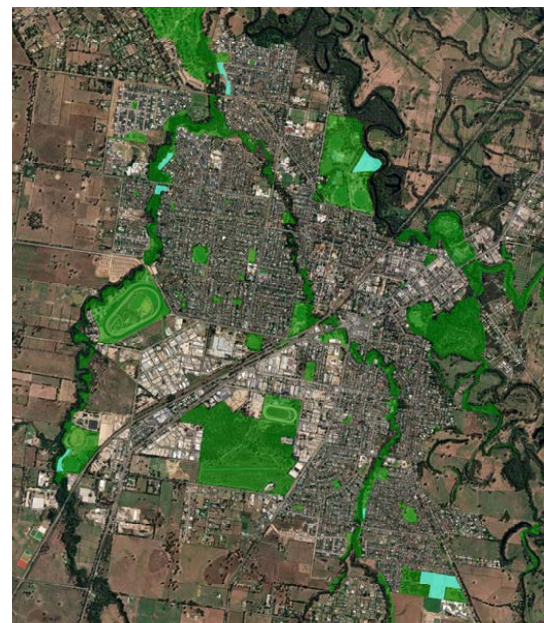
Existing sites include:

- Northern Beaches
- Willow Park Reserve
- Collyn-Dale Drive Parkland
- South Wangaratta Sporting Reserve*
- Creek View End Reserve
- Mitchell Avenue Reserve Dog Park
- Targoora Park*.

*Excludes use of sporting grounds, fields and courts.

There is strong community demand for additional fenced dog-off leash areas within Wangaratta.

Fig. 02 Existing dog off-leash areas in Wangaratta



Legend

- Open space
- Dog off leash areas

Programming

Community gardens

Gardening was identified as the third most popular recreation activity undertaken by residents within the LGA. There is currently just the one community garden in Wangaratta.

It was identified through community engagement that there are limited programs or activities for youth. Community gardens are a great way to educate people of all ages about sustainable gardening and healthy eating. Additionally, they can encourage inter-generational relationships that can provide social and mental benefits to both youth and older adults.

Council, Gateway Health and Northeast Health Wangaratta recently engaged the community through a series of workshop regarding children's health and wellbeing. A key outcome was the desire for garden beds in public open spaces and near playgrounds in order to increase knowledge and skills in growing fruit and vegetables. Improving nutrition, food security and inter-generational connection is a key outcome sought.

Physical activity programs

There is a lack of physical activity programs within the LGA that allows residents to participate in low cost and/or free physical activities to support a healthy lifestyle.

Programs can be a great incentive to get people active. The range of activities available should accommodate all ages and also target specific demographics. For example, programs specifically aimed at new mothers can not only provide physical benefits, but mental and social benefits. They are also a way of sharing advice on parenting, nutrition and health. Similarly, programs for older adults can improve physical activity as well as reduce social isolation and loneliness.

Council is undertaking steps to counteract this with its Active Wangaratta Grants Program 2023 in which Council will provide financial support to local community groups in developing programs, activities and projects for those who are vulnerable to being disengaged in sport and physical activity.

Wangaratta's Sports and Aquatic Centre (WSAC) currently runs groups fitness classes. This venue may provide an opportunity to run further low cost or free physical activity programs in the future.

Examples of successful physical activity programs run by RCoW and other local governments include:

- Group fitness classes
 - bootcamps and circuit classes
 - gentle exercise and low-impact
 - muay thai, zumba and dance classes
- Wellbeing activities
 - yoga, meditation, pilates and tai chi
- Kids
 - Kids fitness
 - Kids nature play
- Youth connect activities
 - skateboarding workshops
 - pool parties and movie nights
- Social sport
 - croquet, soccer and tennis
 - social sports program for disability participants
- Running, walking and cycling
 - walking groups
 - parkrun
 - running group fitness
 - beginners group rides
 - social bike rides
- Getting outdoors
 - eco-gym (bushland conservation activities)
 - outdoor gym classes
- Food and healthy eating
 - nutrition courses
 - community gardening program.

Performing arts/events in open space

RCoW's residents enjoy being outdoors and are enthusiastic supporters of community events.

Council recognises the importance of open space as an event space and supports the delivery of a range of events at spaces including John McAleese Community Park and Milawa Public Hall, Merriwa Park and Showgrounds.

There is opportunity to further activate a number of popular recreation parks by informally embracing the performing arts. Council has designated busking locations, however King George V Gardens is currently the only open space listed.

Recreation and cultural trails

Council is responsible for the management of a large network of linear corridors and bushland reserves. Fronting popular creeks and rivers many of Council's bushland reserves also support low-impact nature-based recreation in the form of recreation trails and shared paths.

The natural setting of the RCoW's open space network and the opportunities it provides for interaction with the natural environment is highly valued by the majority of residents that completed the community survey. With 70% of respondents listing the *natural setting* as what they valued the most about open space within RCoW. This was closely followed by *interaction with nature* at 63%.

Wangaratta is the hub where the majority of the City's trails start or traverse. Noting there are a number of trails, some of the higher order trails include:

- Three Mile Creek Trail
- One Mile Creek Trail
- Bullawah Cultural Trail
- Murray to Mountains Rail Trail.

There is a need to continue to expand on the LGA's network of recreational and cultural trails and paths as well as provide supporting infrastructure including signage, seating, access to water and bike racks.

Waterside recreation

Riverside open spaces including pathways and beaches are highly regarded by the community. Respondents indicated that resource allocation for maintenance and infrastructure upgrades and development at these facilities needs to be increased (with a notion that resource allocation for formal sport was high in comparison to riverside locations that are open to all sections of the community).

The LGA has a significant network of riverside natural areas that offer a range of water-based and nature-based recreation opportunities.

Within Wangaratta these areas feature heavily along the One Mile and Three Mile Creeks, as well as the Ovens and King Rivers.

Important sites include:

- Northern Beaches - Platypus Beach and Kingfisher Beach
- Sydney Beach
- Frank Garth Reserve
- Mullinmur Billabongs
- Merriwa Park.

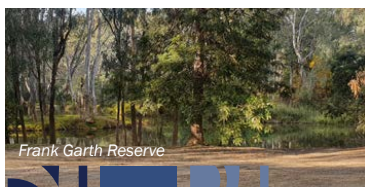
Additionally, Wangaratta is home to a number of other important natural areas (not all are council owned or managed):

- Wangaratta Common
- Kaluna Park Bushland Reserve
- East Wangaratta Nature Conservation Reserve.

Outside of urban Wangaratta, the RCoW community have access to a number of waterside recreation opportunities including:

- Pioneer Bridges Rest Area (Ovens River, Everton) for swimming, fishing and paddling
- North Boorhaman Recreation Reserve for fishing and paddling
- Fosters Lake (Glenrowan) - a stocked fishing lake
- Lake William Hovell (Cheshunt) for paddling, boating and fishing
- Lake Cobbler (Wabonga) for boating, paddling and fishing
- Top Cut Lake (Eldorado) for paddling
- River Road Reserve (Tarrowingee) for fishing, paddling and swimming
- The King River for paddling and fishing
- The Ovens River for swimming, paddling, camping and fishing
- Edi Cutting Reserve (Edi) for fishing and swimming
- Frosts Reserve (Killawarra) for swimming, fishing and paddling.

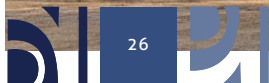
There is a need to formalise some of these sites in order to enhance the recreation opportunities available in line with the high level of community use and desire for supporting infrastructure. The cultural and ecological significance of sites needs to be recognised and protected.

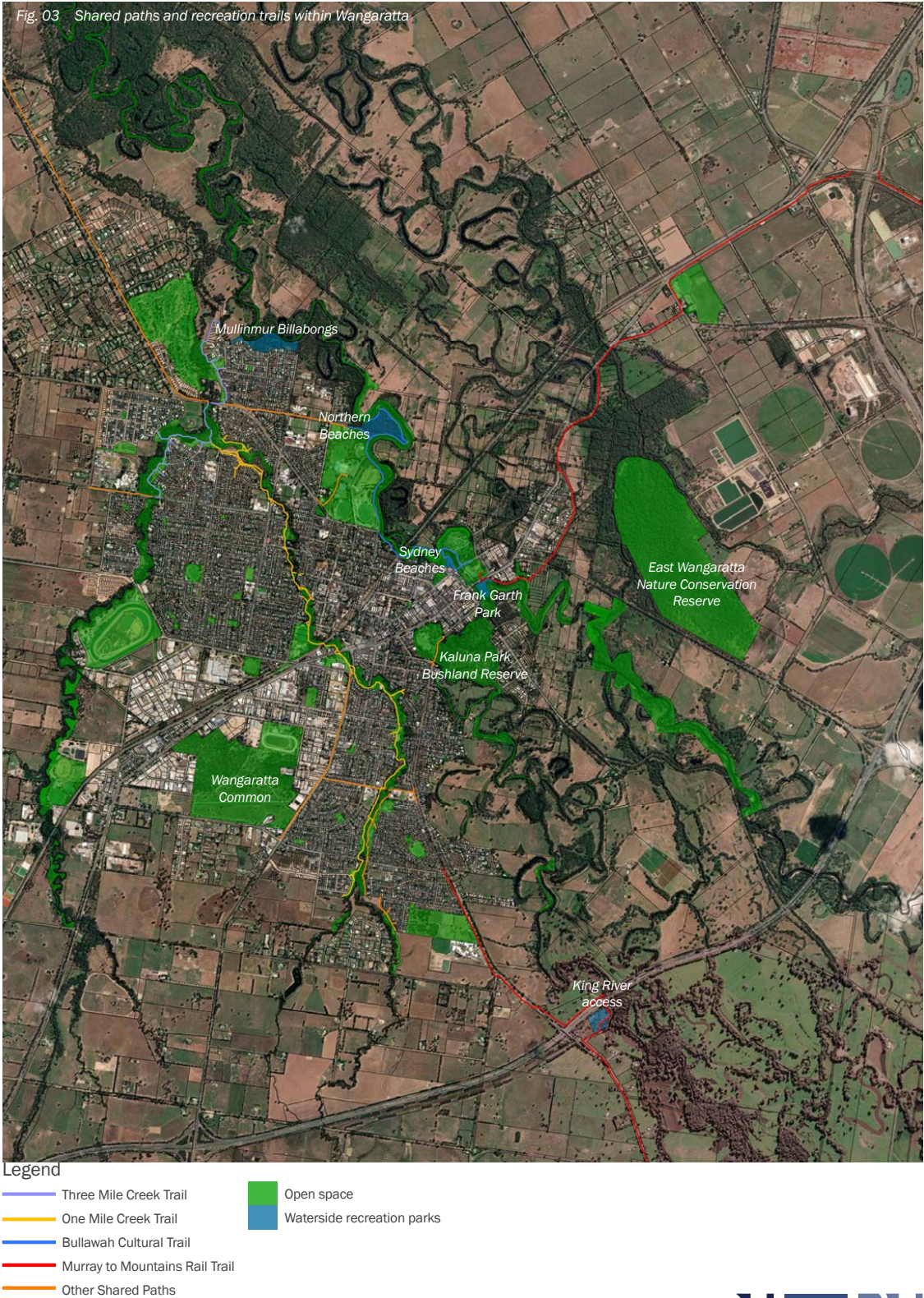


Frank Garth Reserve



Sydney beach





Recreation and physical activity - access to experiences

The RCoW's open space network offers a large variety of experiences and activities for residents and visitors. Creating supportive environments for these activities and experiences is also an important ingredient to facilitating increased use and value of the open space network.

The table below summarises the experiences provided across the LGA. Note: A high provision of activity/experience does not mean that there is an over-supply.

Existing provision of experiences across the Rural City of Wangaratta

Activity/ Experience	Supporting embellishments/ facilities	High provision	Moderate provision	Lacking in provision
Water-based recreation	Boat ramps			●
	Canoe/kayak launching point/facility		●	
Access to nature	Undeveloped green space		●	
	Natural areas	●		
	Waterways	●		
Escape, break-out and recreation areas	Lookouts		●	
	Shaded seating areas		●	
	Formal/structured gardens			●
Comfort	Public toilets		●	
	Changing place			●
Dog-friendly areas	Off-leash			●
	On-leash		●	
Economic opportunities	Equipment/activity hire			●
	Café's		●	
Indoor recreation/ community meetings	Indoor courts and sports spaces		●	
Outdoor recreation	Bushwalking trails		●	
	Mountain biking			●
	Fishing facilities			●
Activity/ Experience	Supporting embellishments/ facilities	High provision	Moderate provision	Lacking in provision
Picnics	Covered gazebos to cater for large groups			●
	Table, seats and shade		●	
	BBQ facilities (gas)		●	
Playgrounds	Toddler	●		
	Young children	●		
	Youth			●
Sport	Fields/ovals (Council)	●		
	Fields/ovals (schools)		●	
Activities	Community garden			●
	Skate park		●	
	BMX track			●
	Outdoor fitness equipment		●	
Walking and cycling	Footpaths	●		
	Shared paths/cycleways	●		
	Bicycle parking			●
Cultural/ community events	Open space for events		●	
	Amphitheatre/gazebo/ stage		●	
Art and culture	Public art			●
	Interpretive information and signage			●

Findings for recreation and physical activity



Youth and young people

With the exception of Apex Park, the Mitchell Avenue Reserve and Wangaratta Skate Park, there are little opportunities for youth to participate in active recreation.

- Continue to develop (and to upgrade) youth appropriate recreation opportunities across the LGA to provide continued challenge and stimulation for regular users; outdoor basketball, rebound walls, ninja warrior style equipment, pump tracks, climbing equipment and legitimate places to socialise.



Older adults

There is a need to provide additional recreation opportunities for older adults across the RCoW, including the recommendations from the Wareena Park Master Plan which identifies the need for an intergenerational exercise and play area.

- Additional shaded seating along formed paths and trails, access to public toilets, and opportunities for gentle exercise and social connection - community garden beds, outdoor table tennis and chess tables.



Dog off-leash areas

While a number of dog off-leash areas exist, there is a need to map and promote the existing off-leash spaces, and to provide additional fenced off-leash areas.



Access to water

Access to waterside open space for recreation is highly desired by the community. There is a need to formalise key spaces including Northern Beaches, Sydney Beach, Frank Garth Reserve and Pioneer Bridges in line with usage and demand.

- This includes signage, seating, picnic tables and designated car parking areas where appropriate. Any improvements need to consider the conservation and cultural heritage values of the sites and ensure the Bangerang elders and other relevant stakeholders are included in any planning
- Public toilets conveniently located to the area would also enhance users experience.



Physical activity programs

There is a need to facilitate and promote physical activity programs, community programs, events and performing arts within the open space network. This will require ongoing close liaison between Council departments to ensure an approach that balances activation with sustainable use.



Community gardens

In addition to the existing community garden in Wangaratta, a trial for the installation of community garden beds in some parks to support the need for improved knowledge and skills in growing fruit and vegetables. Improving nutrition, food security and inter-generational connection is a key outcome sought. Trial areas could include Wareena Park, as well as other urban parks and playgrounds where an interested community group exists. These sites would need to be over-seen by an interested community group or organisation to ensure viability and ongoing maintenance.

Formal sport considerations

Council currently manages 14 sports parks (approximately 100ha) that provide a variety of traditional and non-traditional sporting opportunities to the region's residents (and visitors). These sites also host event opportunities such as caravan and camping shows and circuses.

This section of the Strategy provides an overall analysis of formal sporting opportunities at a Council-wide level. More detailed consideration of individual key sports requiring further consideration follows this over-arching summary.

Master plans

Master plans are important tools to guide facility decision-making. They are particularly important for sports facilities where changes in club officials can alter former preferred directions.

Council has overseen development of a number of master plans for sports facilities over the years. However, there is a perception from the sporting clubs, that these master plans rarely result in suitable budget allocations. Council needs to better communicate during the master planning process around the budgetary implications for the actions, and the need for Local Government to rely on state and federal contributions to develop the works.

Future direction of sport

The following section provides recommendations for key sports, which is supported by site specific recommendations within each of the planning districts. The following guiding principles have been developed to guide the future provision and management of sport within the RCoW:

1. Ensure maximisation of facilities (formal and informal activities)
2. Base decision-making on sound data, demand and sustainable delivery
3. Master planning of all major sports parks to ensure there is a demonstrated need for infrastructure upgrades (and to direct future budget preparation)
4. Continue to provide communication and networking opportunities to sporting clubs
5. Ensure ancillary facilities reflect the needs of participants, officials and spectators.

Additional land for sport

As outlined in this Strategy, the current and projected demand for sports land can be accommodated within the existing open space network with the exception of soccer and hockey. In order to accommodate the needs of these sports, a new site will be required. At a minimum, the site will need to provide 2-4 soccer fields, one synthetic hockey pitch as well as a future hockey training area, a central shared clubhouse, spectator facilities and suitable car parking. As per Council's Planning Scheme, a minimum of 8ha (preferably 10ha) of unencumbered land would be required.

It was hoped that the North West Growth Area would cater for this need, however, the 4ha site that has been proposed for active open space in this area is insufficient due to its size and inclusion of encumbered land onsite as part of the active open space contribution.

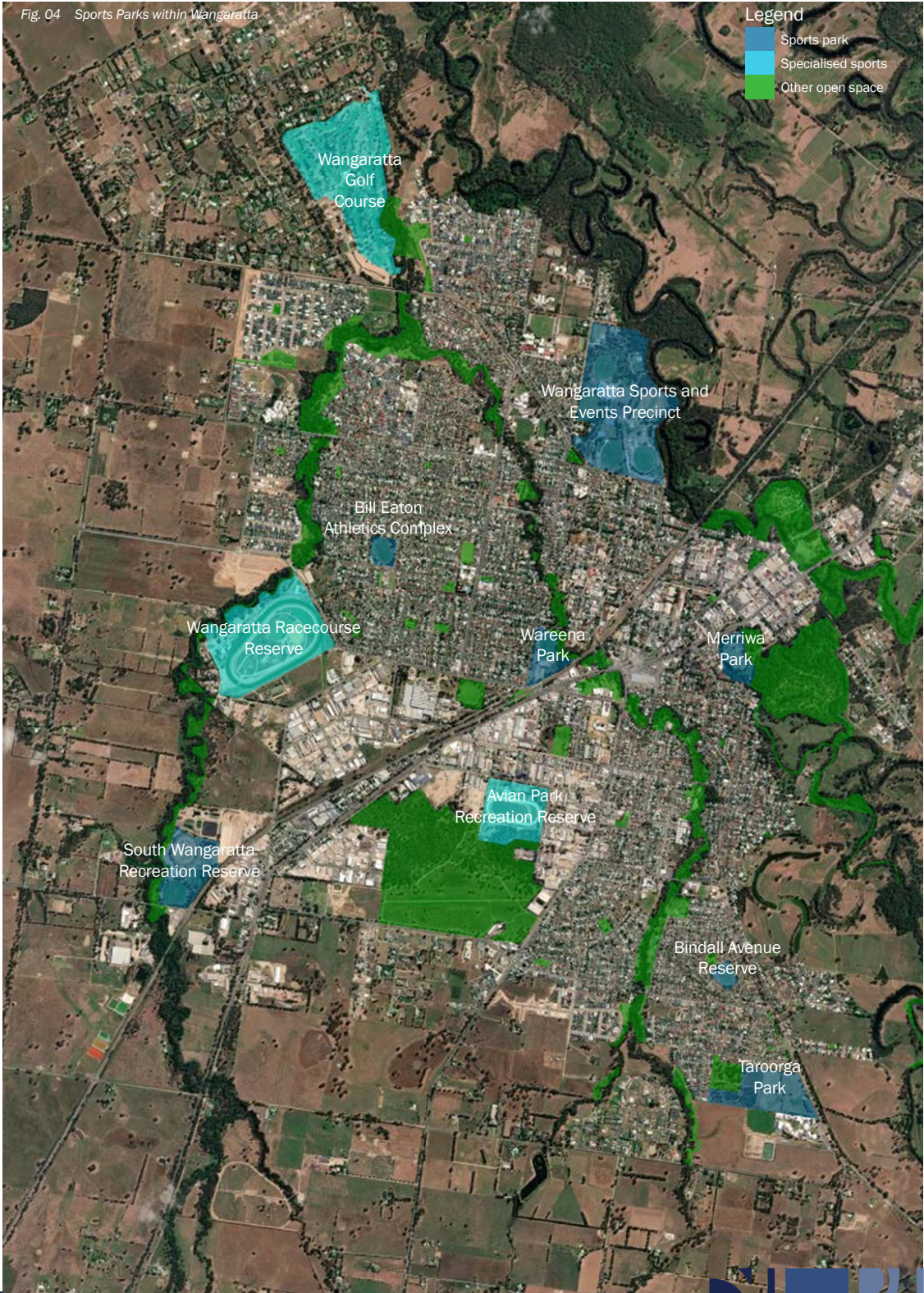
Sport parks within Wangaratta

Whilst the rural townships play a large role in the provision of sport within the LGA, Wangaratta is the home of sport given its the population base for the City. The adjoining map shows the existing Council owned and controlled sports park network within Wangaratta. Whilst not shown on the adjoining map, Council also manages North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve.

In addition to these Council owned and managed sports facilities, a number of private facilities exist across the LGA, including schools.



Rural City of Wangaratta



Key sport analysis

An analysis of a number of sports has been undertaken in order to inform future provision and facility development (and guide club and Council decision-making). The sports chosen reflect those with existing (or projected future) infrastructure requirements of key significance. For each sport, a range of elements have been considered:

- existing facilities and the number of courts/fields/ovals
- registered player numbers
- pattern of participation
- carrying capacity of the site(s)
- future direction of the sport
- relevant actions from current master plans and sport strategic plans (including peak body expectations)
- key issues for clubs and the sport
- legislative directions, such as the Fair Access Policy at a State, Local Government and club level.

The information provided on the following pages has been taken directly from club and organisation surveys and follow-up interviews (including with relevant peak bodies). The future directions are informed by club and peak body preferences and by the consultants' analysis of each sport's local participation profile in relation to State and National trends.

Council is currently in the process of implementing master plans for sport and recreation, notably the Parklands Masterplan and Wareena Park Masterplan. These are key planning documents and their recommendations have been reviewed and embedded into this Strategy (where appropriate). The nature of planning for the community requires a level of flexibility. It is acknowledged that community priorities change i.e. Wareena Park Master Plan was developed with the retention of the bowls club in mind. Since the master plan was written, the situation of the bowls club has changed which has led to this land now being identified in this Strategy for the potential development of an AFL training area (not field). The remainder of the master plan's recommendations remain unchanged.

It is recognised that there are many additional sports being undertaken across the RCoW area. Requests from these sports (representative clubs) should be reviewed by Council on a case-by-case basis and include consideration of existing planning, peak body preferences and potential impacts on the wider sporting network

Archery

Wangaratta Archers provide a year-round archery program from their facility at South Wangaratta Reserve. With weekly training and (at least) monthly competition, the small club is vibrant and maintains a quality facility with both outdoor and indoor ranges. The club is seeking surety of tenure at the facility to allow for future development.

Future Directions

As part of a South Wangaratta Master Plan process, development of a small amenities building (with access to power and water) near to the outdoor range would greatly assist the Wangaratta Archers.

Athletics

The Wangaratta Little Athletics Centre is a thriving Club operating out of Bill Eaton Athletics Complex. The Complex is also used extensively by schools for both carnivals and regular practice, by the Wangaratta Runners, as well as for over-flow training (running and drills) for soccer and rugby league.

Future Directions

There is a need to replace and widen the long jump run up to allow for a 100m synthetic sprint/warm-up surface. The shot put and discus pits require repair/upgrade. In order to improve the training opportunities for other sports, the interior grass surface is in need of improvement, as well as the inclusion of portable soccer goals. A master plan is recommended in order to ensure best outcomes for all groups.



Rural City of Wangaratta

Australian Rules Football (AFL)

AFL is delivered across the RCoW through four community leagues and through three Auskick centres. Together, these opportunities represent more than 1,700 registered AFL participants.

While participation at senior level is steady at national, state and local levels; participation in junior AFL continues to increase (with the local Auskick programs growing by a combined 20% since 2020).

Future Directions

While the availability of grounds across the LGA is appropriate for competition purposes and for meeting the needs of most individual clubs, overuse and capacity issues are beginning to cause difficulties within Wangaratta. Access to additional grounds is required for training purposes within Wangaratta and close surrounds:

- investigate facility upgrades (and shared use arrangements) to accommodate AFL training at the former Rodeo ground at the Wangaratta Events and Sports Precinct, Avian Park and development of a training area at Wareena Park (once bowls is relocated)
- installation of lighting and amenity improvements at Bindall Avenue Reserve to assist with an additional junior training ground
- council to assist AFL North East Border access suitable training arrangements at local schools
- develop a pavilion at Barr Oval 2 to provide suitable ancillary facilities for the sports based at the facility - the south-west corner of the site (near to the cricket practice nets) would be the most appropriate location
- the discovery of the golden sun moth and the need for a pavilion at Barr Oval 2 is a good opportunity to revisit the Parklands master plan
- development of female friendly change facilities are required at WJ Findlay Oval, Wareena Park and North Wangaratta as a priority.



Barr Oval 2



Moyhu Recreation Reserve



North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve



Whorouly Recreation Reserve



Tarooga Park

Baseball and Softball

Wangaratta Baseball-Softball Club provide baseball opportunities in the winter sporting season and softball in the summer sporting season. Baseball is strong and growing with six teams, while softball will host two teams in the 2023/24 season.

Future Directions

Tarooga Park meets the needs of both sports well. With access to four diamonds, it is fast-becoming a preferred site for baseball carnivals. Improvements are needed to continue to support these sports:

- drainage works are required across all diamonds
- base cut outs
- lighting on Diamond 1 needs to be upgraded to meet training standard.



Tarooga Park

Basketball

The Wangaratta North East Bushrangers Basketball Club has grown well in recent years (almost doubling since inception in 2018). The Club is based at the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre (WSAC) where training is undertaken two times each week. However, with demand for court space at WSAC high, the Club also uses Wangaratta High School and Cathedral College regularly.

Future Directions

The development of two additional courts at WSAC will ease capacity and booking issues at WSAC. However, with Wangaratta Basketball also running its fixtures and representative programs from the venue, expectation is that the sport of basketball could quickly outgrow the venue (once again).

- council to consider ongoing discussions with formal indoor sport clubs based in Wangaratta. If capacity issues appear evident at WSAC, formalise arrangements with local schools that have appropriate indoor courts to achieve suitable access for community clubs.



Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre



Rural City of Wangaratta

Bowls

There are currently two Bowls clubs based within Wangaratta and a further two in the rural areas of Milawa and Moyhu. Those clubs based in rural townships play important roles as community hubs for social interaction and should continue to be supported in growing their membership and as a social connector.

The two Wangaratta-based clubs are currently facing mixed fortunes:

- Wareena Park Bowling Club has one synthetic green and has a dwindling membership base (of less than 30) – indeed the Club is seriously concerned about its ongoing operation and is currently only providing social bowls opportunities
- Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club is a vibrant club with strong membership (100 bowlers), regular use and four grass greens.

Future Directions

It would appear that Wangaratta can no longer support two bowls clubs. Council needs to work with the two clubs to investigate relocation and amalgamation with the Wangaratta Bowls and Sports club – where facilities can accommodate potential growth in the sport.

A range of facility upgrades have been proposed for the Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club to meet the Club's needs and provide further impetus for this to become the home for bowls in Wangaratta:

- cover the south-west green to provide an all-weather venue
- open up one of the greens for sports requiring similar facilities (likely croquet)
- light at least two of the greens
- provide a covered spectator viewing area overlooking the covered green
- undertake amenities upgrades
- formalise parking.

Amalgamation of the Wareena Park Bowls Club to the bowls facility at the Wangaratta Events and Sports Precinct would trigger an opportunity to re-visit the Wareena Park Master Plan and Parklands Master Plan.

The synthetic green at the Moyhu Bowls Club is beyond its useful life and requires replacement to support this active club.



Cricket

Cricket is one of the 'traditional' summer season sports played across the region. Within Wangaratta, the Association has access to four turf wicket public ovals at the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct and four synthetic wicket public ovals at North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve, South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve, Bindall Avenue Reserve (not used in winter and restricted by oval size and lack of facilities) and Wareena Park. However, all of these facilities are also used for winter season sports – impacting access for pre-season training and turf wicket preparation. A number of the local schools also have ovals with synthetic wickets.



Wangaratta Parklands

Future Directions

From a trends perspective, cricket is showing a slight declining membership in both senior and junior ranks (despite significant increase in female participation). Locally, participation appears to be steady - although strong numbers in the Blasters (beginner's) program indicates that the junior numbers should increase in coming seasons. Demand for additional ovals with synthetic wickets is projected in the short-term.

With such high demand for field space during the winter sporting season, access for off-season cricket practice is very limited.

- council to work with the District Cricket Association and local schools to formalise arrangements for community use
- convert Barr 1 to synthetic wicket to cater for the predicted increase in junior participation
- develop a pavilion at Barr Oval 2 to provide suitable ancillary facilities for the sports based at the facility - the south-west corner of the site (near to the cricket practice nets) would be the most appropriate location
- there is a need to re-visit the Parklands master plan
- the development of an indoor cricket training facility (shared with other sports) would address the gap in the network. The Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct previously had an indoor training facility (before it was condemned) and this Park has again been identified as the preferred site within Wangaratta
- Rovers United Bruck Cricket Club have confirmed the need for female friendly change facilities, and access to storage at WJ Findlay Oval.



Bindle Avenue Wangaratta



Wareena Park

Croquet

The Wangaratta Croquet Club is a small club of approximately 40 members, based at two locations; Merriwa Park and Ryan Avenue. They have a steady membership however their clubrooms are ageing.

Future Directions

Monitor the need for upgrade of the ageing clubrooms.



Wangaratta Croquet Club

Cycling and Mountain Biking

Wangaratta has a proud history in various cycling and mountain bike disciplines. The Wangaratta Cycling Club previously hosted regular training and racing at the velodrome at the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct. However, this track is in poor condition and is no longer suitable for regular training or competition. Monthly road races (and weekly training rides) have also previously been hosted by the Club.

Future Directions

A small group of cycling enthusiasts are keen to reignite the sport within Wangaratta and have made a number of proposals to Council. AusCycling having a clear preference for indoor velodromes:

- the velodrome at the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct should be removed (as per the Master Plan)
- council to work closely with the Cycling Club to determine preferred routes for road racing and criterium events and assist with gaining suitable regular access
- complete an analysis of cycling infrastructure across the LGA, including feasibility for development of a precinct
- mountain biking continues to grow as both a recreation and formal sport across the country. Wangaratta is well-placed to accommodate these activities if Council can continue to advocate for the sport with relevant land managers to achieve suitable community access
- King Valley may be an appropriate area for further investigation given the potential opportunities to build upon the tourism activities
- investigate opportunities for mountain biking in close proximity to urban Wangaratta through discussions with Parks Victoria to determine the suitability of their existing trails in key locations such as the Warby-Ovens National Park.



Wangaratta Velodrome



Wangaratta Velodrome

Equestrian

Oxley Recreation Reserve is one of two 'homes' for equestrian sports for the region. The site includes a sports oval and multiple sand arenas. The facility is used daily for training and hosts monthly competitions.

The Wangaratta Pony Club and Adult Riding Club are based at a Council-owned facility in South Wangaratta. Combined membership of the two clubs is 35 - with participation steady in recent years. The facility includes two dressage arenas and showjumping arena (all lit), fenced grass arena and cross country training course. These facilities are supported by 20 day yards, two amenities buildings, two storage sheds and canteen. The facility attracts between 20 and 25 days use each year for various rallies and clinics.



Oxley Recreation Reserve

Future Directions

Oxley Recreation Reserve:

- the facility requires a watering system to suppress dust from the sand arenas
- development of lighting across the sand arenas would allow for greater hours of use during the cooler months and for evening use (when it is cooler) during the hotter months
- if the user groups and enthusiasm for equestrian activities was to continue to grow, Council could investigate the development of a cover over the large sand arena to create an all-weather facility.

Wangaratta Pony Club & Adult Riding Club:

- construct an additional 20 day yards to meet demand for clinics and rallies
- construct a 60m x 20m sand arena to allow for warm-up activities
- investigate potential opportunities for the facility to be activated as a camping area.



Murrumbidgee Recreation Reserve



Wangaratta Pony Club and Adult Riding Club



South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve



South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve



South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve

Football (soccer)

Football is one of the stronger formal sports in Wangaratta. The Wangaratta City Football Club has grown significantly in recent years – with more than 450 players in the 2023 season (and an increase of 80 in the miniroos program alone in the last year). The Club provides formal football opportunities for males and females of all ages.

South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve is the home of football for the RCoW. The venue includes three full-size fields (two that are lit). With such a large playing base and only two lit fields, training is spread across five nights each week. Matches are played one evening mid-week and on Sundays. Given these high loads, it is not surprising that the two lit fields are used well above capacity and are in poor condition. This is exacerbated by poor drainage at the site. Additionally, the ageing clubhouse does not meet the needs of the Club – with inadequate changerooms, little storage, dated amenities and canteen and no club function area. Finally, the site has limited car parking for the large numbers it attracts.

Wangaratta is also home to a growing all-abilities team. Their demands should be included in the master plan considerations for South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve and/or the future greenfield site.

Future Directions

With a projected membership in excess of 500 in 2024, immediate upgrades are essential at South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve to meet current demand for football. Based on the high club membership and continued trends in the sport, it is anticipated that a second site will be required to meet soccer's needs in the near future.

The second site will need to be large enough to accommodate a large central clubhouse, at least two lit fields, spectator facilities and suitable car parking. A master plan will need to be developed for this site (focussed on football) as soon as a land parcel is determined by Council.

Short-term upgrades required at South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve include:

- field upgrades to the two southern fields (irrigation upgrades, drainage upgrades and surface upgrades)
- lighting the main field.

Hockey

Wangaratta Hockey Club is based at the synthetic pitch at Cathedral College. The Club has enjoyed recent growth and currently has in excess of 110 players. With a strong culture and quality programs, this growth is projected to continue moving forward. However, the existing facilities will potentially hamstring this growth. The synthetic pitch is not lit and is dual marked for hockey and mini tennis, as well as there being no amenities or change facilities in close proximity to the pitch. Not having a lit field means that senior training as well as the teams involved in the junior Friday night competition have to play all of their games away. Additionally, being based at a private facility significantly limits opportunities for the Club to attract grants.

Future Directions

In the short-term, Council should lead conversations with Cathedral College and the Club to investigate:

- opportunities for a temporary building (with amenities and changerooms) to be placed near to the pitch
- temporary lighting towers to be installed to allow night training.

In the long term:

- a purpose-built synthetic pitch to be investigated for inclusion at the new greenfield sport site being developed in the north-west growth area
- the site needs to include a central clubhouse, a lit synthetic pitch, spectator facilities and suitable car parking
- a master plan needs to be developed for this site as soon as a land parcel is determined by Council
- future stages of the master plan development should consider a second training pitch for hockey in line with participation and demand.

Motorsports

Wangaratta Motor Sports Club provides a range of speedway class activities at South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve. The facility is used on a monthly basis. Despite having to hire in temporary lighting for race meets, the Club and the races it conducts are growing well (with races regularly attracting in excess of 100 vehicles).

Future Directions

The Club has outlined a number of facility upgrades required to retain Speedway Australia Track accreditation:

- lighting upgrade
- concrete wall and fencing upgrade
- power supply upgrade
- canteen upgrade.



Netball

The sport of netball is delivered from a number of fronts across the region with a good supply of courts to meet demand. Football netball clubs each have their own courts and deliver netball through the various leagues. These clubs report steady membership bases. Additionally, the Wangaratta Netball Association conducts a junior netball program throughout the winter sporting season based at the 15-court facility at the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct. In recent seasons, the Association has struggled somewhat with a decreasing membership base.

Future Directions

The facility at the Wangaratta Netball Association will be re-developed by Council as a lit 12-court facility. The existing pavilion will be removed with these functions to be absorbed within the WSAC upgrade. These changes will see the Association needs being met for the foreseeable future.

The Parklands Master Plan includes development of new netball facilities for the Wangaratta Rovers Football Netball Club and the Wangaratta Magpies Football Netball Club.

There is a need to undertake an asset condition and demand audit for all hard courts across the LGA.

Pickleball

Pickleball is recognised as the fastest growing sport globally. This trend is well in-train in Australia. Locally, pickleball is played year-round and has established a four-court base on the hard courts at Merriwa Park and is expanding uses at the Wangaratta Hardcourt Association courts.

There is a need to undertake an asset condition and demand audit for all hard courts across the LGA.

Future Directions

Wangaratta Pickleball will outgrow the Merriwa Park facility quickly. The Wangaratta Hardcourt Association currently has access to 12 hard courts and one shared netball-tennis hardcourt at their facility at the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct.

- opportunity exists for the redevelopment of a number of these tennis hardcourts (that receive limited use) as at least 8 pickleball courts
- this Strategy has recommended the development of an indoor sport facility centrally within the Wangaratta Events and Sports Precinct. This facility would be designed to cater for non-traditional sports such as pickleball, table tennis, roller sports and outdoor cricket training
- there is a need to re-visit the Parklands Master Plan.



Wangaratta Netball Association



Whitfield Recreation Reserve

Roller Sports

Anecdotally, participation in roller sports is increasing. Sports such as inline hockey and roller derby are attracting a clear following within Wangaratta. A local inline hockey club has been established attracting participants from across the Region. The club hosts regular fixtures at the Albury PCYC and participate in representative tournaments.

Future Directions

While demand for standalone facilities is unlikely to be established within the life of this Strategy, opportunity to develop a multi-use indoor facility for non-traditional activities is supported. There is a need to re-visit the Parklands Master Plan in line with the need for a multi-use indoor facility.

Rugby League

There are two rugby league clubs based within the RCoW – Wangaratta Knights Rugby League Club based at Glenrowan Recreation Reserve and Wolfpack Rugby League Club based at Centennial Park (Eldorado) but training between Bindall Avenue Oval and Bill Eaton Athletics Oval. Bill Eaton provides lighting.

Knights are growing well and have established a strong membership base and quality facility. In fact, the Glenrowan Recreation Reserve has become a preferred venue for hosting Association finals. The Club is looking to establish a junior team in 2024.

Wolfpack has grown in 2023 to include two senior men's teams and a female team. Like Knights, the Club is looking to establish at least one junior team in 2024.

Future Directions

- upgrade the lighting at Glenrowan Recreation Reserve to allow night fixtures and install reserves benches
- if the Wolfpack Club continues to grow, investigate the potential development of changeroom facilities at Centennial Park. Consider opportunities to use a relocatable building in the short-term
- additional storage and a minor canteen upgrade are also required at Centennial Park.

Sailing

The North East Windsport Club operates from a 5ha site at Springhurst Recreation Reserve hosting weekly club events. Additionally, the 2019 State Blokart Titles were held at the site. The facility meets current (and expected future) Club demands.

Shooting disciplines

There are three shooting clubs within RCoW. The Wangaratta Small Bore Rifle Club operates out of the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct with less than 50 members. The Wangaratta Rifle Club operate out of the Glenrowan Rifle Range with approximately 40-50 members. The Wangaratta Clay Target Club operate out of the North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve.

Future Directions

Continue to work with the three clubs in providing shooting sports for the community.



Glenrowan Recreation Reserve



Centennial Park Eldorado

Swimming

The Wangaratta Amateur Swimming Club bases its swimming and strength and conditioning activities at WSAC. The Club continues to show strong growth (with a membership of almost 100) but reports being limited by available lane space for its daily training activities. The Wangaratta Stingrays Swim Club also undertake regular training and competition at WSAC. It is acknowledged that there is currently no active waterpolo club or competition that operate at WSAC.

Future Directions

- continue to work closely with the tenant groups using pool space at WSAC to ensure equitable access that reflects user demands
- there is a need to activate the purpose-built waterpolo pool through actively supporting the development of a local competition at WSAC
- look to provide storage for the Stingrays and Swim Club at WSAC as well as access to facilities for meetings on site or at nearby HP Barr Community Centre.

Table Tennis

The Wangaratta Table Tennis Association conducts year-round competition for juniors, seniors and keen-agers (active older adults) at the Association facility at the Wangaratta Events and Sports Precinct. The facility is now too small for the Association and is nearing (or past) the end of its useful life. Fixtures are played one night each week with social keen-ager play conducted two mornings mid-week.

Future Directions

This Strategy has recommended the development of an indoor sport facility centrally within the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct. This facility would be designed to cater for non-traditional sports such as pickleball, table tennis, in-line hockey and indoor nets for cricket training. Opportunity would exist within this building for available space for 10 table tennis tables and suitable spectator areas (with additional space for temporary tables to be erected for larger tournaments). There is a need to re-visit the Parklands Master Plan in line with the need for a multi-use indoor facility.



Tennis

Tennis facilities are spread across the LGA. A number of the facilities in rural townships are under-utilised or no longer in use, while larger multi-court facilities such as the lawn tennis facility at Merriwa Park and hard court facility at the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct rarely have all courts in use.

Tennis continues to show slight increases in participation for adults while participation for children remains steady (at both national and state levels). However, this has not been the case in RCoW. In addition to the many under-utilised and disused courts located outside Wangaratta, the two primary providers of tennis in Wangaratta are also seeing decreasing use. In fact, the Wangaratta Hardcourt Association are currently only providing tennis activities 3 days each week and have a number of courts not in use (resulting in pickleball continuing to grow from this venue). Similarly, while the Wangaratta Lawn Tennis Club conducts coaching, fixtures and social play across five days each week, they have excess court capacity such that the facility is now also used for pickleball (two times each week) and croquet (three times each week).

Future Directions

A rationalisation approach to tennis provision is required across RCoW. While tennis was once a thriving year-round sport – this is no longer the case. Where courts are left disused for many years and reach a point of disrepair they should be removed. Also, where opportunity exists to have under-utilised tennis courts re-purposed for alternate uses (such as croquet and pickleball) this should be highly encouraged. Finally, where practical, opportunities to provide free public access courts should also be pursued (e.g. the Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve tennis courts).

- undertake an asset condition and demand audit for all hard courts across the LGA
- opportunity exists for the redevelopment of a number of the under-utilised tennis hardcourts at the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct as 8 pickleball courts
- key facility upgrades requiring attention at the tennis facility at Merriwa Park include replacement of the court fencing (preferably with black plastic-coated fencing); provision of all-abilities access to the clubhouse and upgrade to amenities to support all-abilities access; and car park re-surfacing.



Merriwa Park



Everton Public Park Reserve



Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve

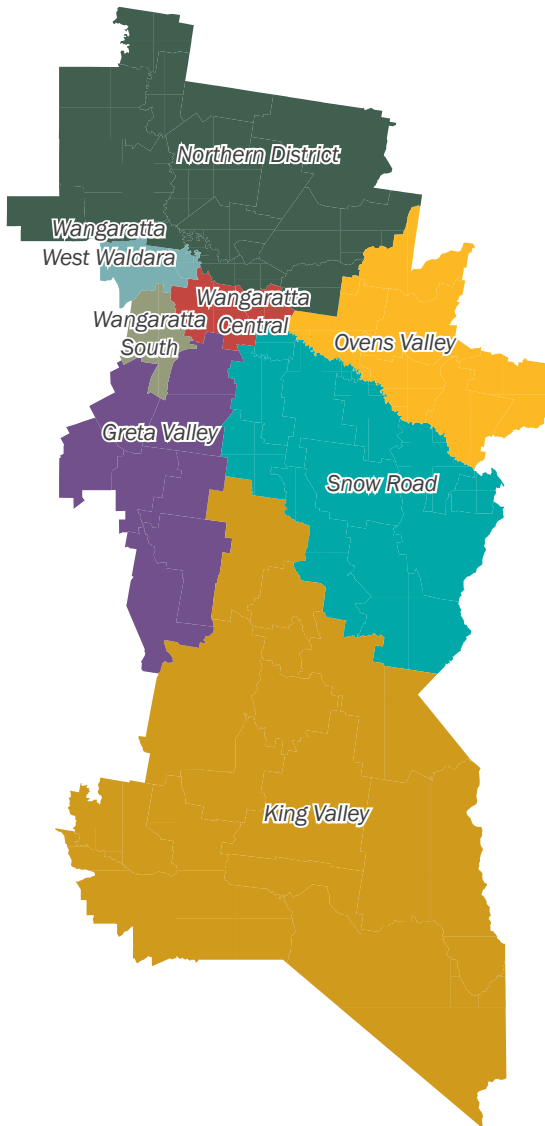




Demand analysis

Recreational open space by planning district

In order to assess (and plan) the RCoW recreational open space network, the LGA has been divided into urban and rural planning districts.



	Planning district	Localities
Rural districts	Greta Valley District	Greta Greta South Greta West Hansonville
	King Valley District	Whitlands Whitfield Myrree King Valley Cheshunt Cheshunt South Wabonga
	Northern District	Boorhaman Boorhaman East Boorhaman North Boralma Boweya Bowser North Wangaratta
	Ovens Valley District	Tarrowingee Bowmans Forest Everton
	Snow Road District	Carboor Docker Whorouly Whorouly South Whorouly East
Urban districts	Wangaratta - Central East	East Wangaratta Wangaratta
	Wangaratta South	Wangaratta South
	Wangaratta West - Waldara	Waldara Wangandary

Recreation needs and demand considerations

With the formal sport considerations discussed in the previous section at an LGA level, an assessment of the recreation needs of the rural and urban communities have been undertaken by planning district.

The following section includes an assessment of open spaces within each planning district including recreation parks, sports parks (including recreation reserves) and provides commentary on connectivity, access to experiences and priority actions.

A number of existing Council Plans were reviewed and referenced as part of the review including:

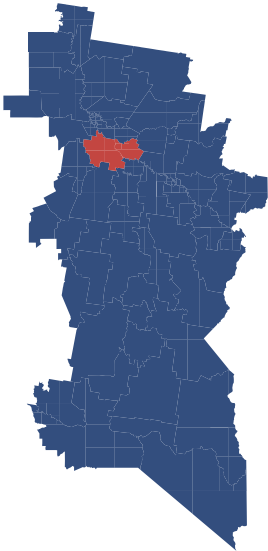
- Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2012
- Rural Place Making Projects 2018
 - Greta Valley District Plan
 - King Valley District Plan
 - Northern District Plan
 - Ovens Valley District Plan
 - Snow Road District Plan
- Township Development Plans
 - Glenrowan Township Development Plan 2015
 - Oxley Township Development Plan 2015
 - Milawa Township Development Plan 2015
 - Moyhu Township Development Plan (under development).

Urban planning districts

Wangaratta Central East District

The Wangaratta Central East Planning District is the population centre of the LGA providing the majority of RCoW's open space network.

The planning district provides the higher order open spaces for the LGA, including the only Citywide Recreation Parks. It also contains a number of significant natural area (both council owned and controlled as well as areas under private control and controlled by other agencies. These important sites include Kaluna Park Bushland Reserve and Wangaratta Common.



Demographic profile

Township	Population as at 2022	Median age
East Wangaratta	66	51
Wangaratta	19,712	44

Council's current planning

Relevant to the Strategy, the following projects have been identified within Council's current planning:

- Parklands Master Plan
- Merriwa Park Master Plan
- Wareena Park Master Plan
- WSAC expansion
- Parklands netball court upgrades.

Council's Open Space Strategy 2012 identified a number of actions which have been considered within the assessment of community demand for this Strategy:

- Improve the bicycle network along the Ovens River to provide continuous linkages, including the shared path linkage between the Northern Beaches and central Wangaratta
- Enhance the trail network along One Mile Creek and better link urban areas to the CBD
- Explore the possible location of a neighbourhood park in the eastern part of Kaluna Park near Wilson Road
- Enhance Kaluna Park as natural area with minimum infrastructure and continue current rehabilitation
- Conserve the heritage values of King George V Gardens and encourage use by visitors to the central business area by enhancing pedestrian connections.



Local recreation parks

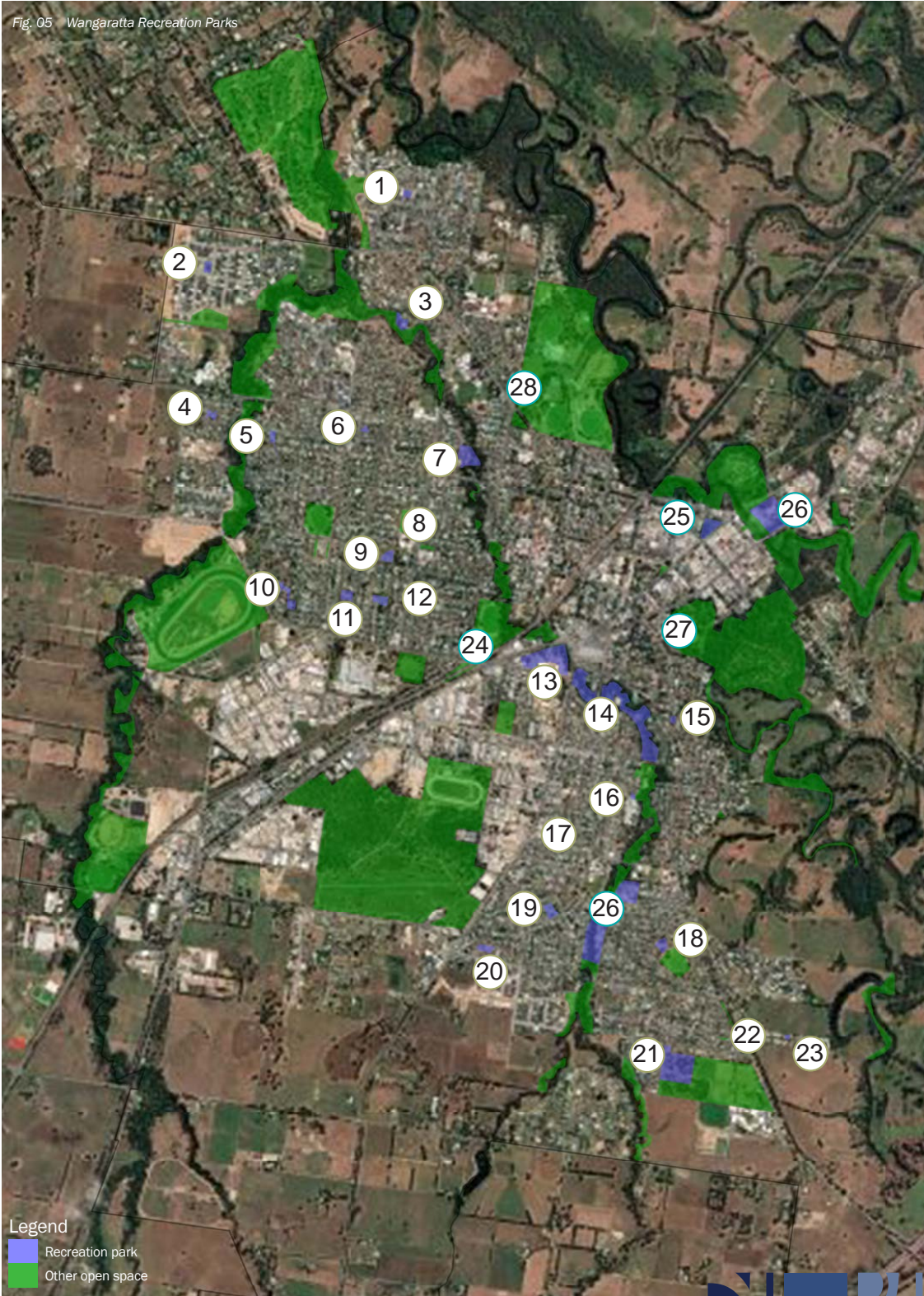
1. Swinburne Drive Playground
2. Baltimore Park
3. Dalton Reserve
4. Barooka Reserve
5. Jaycees Park
6. Evalyn Reserve
7. Sadler Reserve
8. Wonga Park
9. Brien Park
10. Rangeview Park
11. Dodsworth Reserve
12. Burns Reserve
13. Batchelors Green
14. Ryan Reserve
15. Dundas Reserve
16. Smith Reserve
17. Wangaratta Community Garden
18. Kiwanis Park
19. Burke Reserve
20. Kendall and Orange Court Reserve
21. Wenhams Lane Reserve
22. Murdoch Reserve
23. Pelican Court Place
24. Wareena Park

Citywide recreation parks

25. King George V Gardens
26. Apex Park
27. Mitchell Avenue Reserve
28. Merriwa Park
29. Wangaratta Skatepark



Rural City of Wangaratta



Local recreation parks

1. Swinburne Drive Playground

Swinburne Park has road frontage to Swinburne Drive and is connected to the local footpath network.

The park provides recreation opportunities for young children as well as shade, seating and water.

Recommendation - Continue to maintain the park as it is.



2. Baltimore Park

Baltimore Park has complete road frontage access and is connected to the local footpath network.

The newly developed park has basic play elements including a swing set and spring toy and provides a large grassed kick-about area for informal games.

Recommendation - opportunity to install a soccer goal or rebound ball wall to enhance opportunities for an older age range.



3. Dalton Reserve

Dalton Reserve is a recreation node within the One Mile Creek linear open space. The playground has access from Dalton Court as well as the One Mile Creek path network.

The park has natural shade and provides recreation opportunities for young children as well as seating.

Recommendation - opportunity to diversify the age range of the play equipment.



4. Baroona Court Playground

Baroona Reserve is an irregular shaped park, hidden behind a number of houses. It has limited road frontage and surveillance, with access points from Baroona Court, Cooba Court and Barkoo Avenue.

This type of park is undesirable due to a lack of surveillance from the road and solid fences from adjoining neighbours.

The park has a basic playground with little shade or amenity,

Recommendation - install shade over the playground and seek to diversify the age range of the play equipment.



5. Jaycees Park

Jaycees Park has road frontage to Franklin and Esmond Streets and provides pedestrian access through the park via a local footpath.

The playground is shaded with seating and provides play opportunities for younger children. The park has a large grassed area providing opportunities for informal games and kick-about.

There are a number of local recreation parks in close proximity to this park.

Recommendation - Investigate diversification of play equipment.

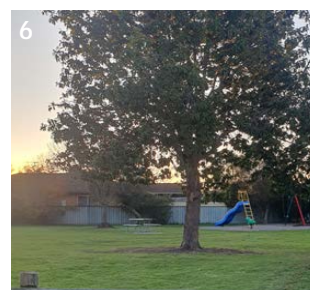


6. Evalyn Reserve

Evalyn Reserve has limited road frontage, with access from Evalyn and Doreen Courts. It provides pedestrian access between the two streets.

The park has very basic play equipment including a slide, a spring toy and a swing. There is a picnic table, however, no shade over the playground.

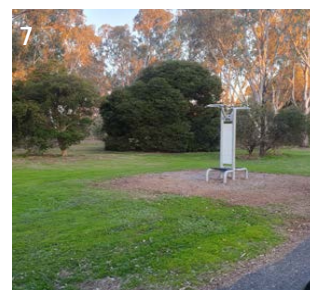
Recommendation - Remove the play equipment at the end of its useful life and investigate opportunities to rationalise the park or maintain as amenity only i.e. more plantings.



7. Sadler Reserve/One Mile Creek Outdoor Gym

Sadler Reserve is a recreation node along One Mile Creek linear parkland providing outdoor exercise equipment. The recreation node is connected by the One Mile Creek Trail and local footpath network.

Recommendation - monitor usage of the exercise equipment and consider running 'how to use' sessions for the community. Provision of QR Codes linking people with how to use the equipment is also recommended.



8. Wonga Park

Wonga Park is a large fenced recreation park that has a cricket pitch and one set of AFL goal posts. The Park adjoins Wangaratta West Primary School and gets regular use by the school. The site has outdated irrigation.

This is an important site that offers informal active recreation opportunities for the community as well as an opportunity for irregular sport training.

Recommendation - retain Wonga Park and look for opportunities to improve drainage, or to further involve the school in the management of the space.



9. Brien Crescent Park

Brien Park has complete road frontage on all sides, with Brien Crescent, Donald and Oleary Streets. The park is connected to the local footpath network on Donald and Oleary Streets.

The playground provides local recreation opportunities for young children and is shaded. The park provides grassed areas for kick-about and informal games. The mature trees provide local amenity.

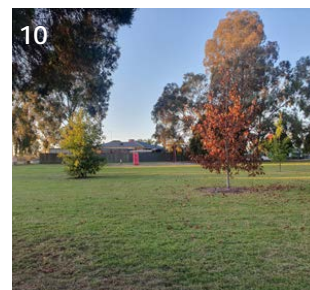
Recommendation - opportunity to diversify the age range of the play equipment by providing a climbing structure, monkey bars or similar activity for older children.



10. Rangeview Park

Rangeview park is an irregular shaped park with access from Rangeview Avenue, Ross, Lowe and Barrington Courts. The section on Rangeview Avenue and Tilson Grove has good road frontage, however, the remainder of the park runs behind houses and has limited surveillance. The park has a limited range of play equipment including a slide, swing set and a spring toy. The playground is not shaded, however, the park itself has a number of mature trees.

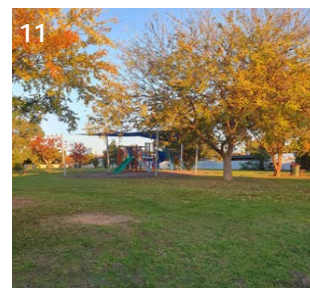
Recommendation - investigate opportunities to develop a fenced dog-off leash and rationalise area within the linear section of the park that runs behind the houses.



11. Dodsworth Reserve

Dodsworth Reserve has road frontage to Hinchley and Dodsworth Streets and is connected to the local footpath network. The park has a sheltered playground catering for younger children and has a large grassed area for informal games and kick-about. There are a number of local recreation parks in close proximity to this park.

Recommendation - Continue to maintain the park as it is.



12. Burns Reserve

Burns Reserve has road frontage to both Burns and Donald's Street and is connected to the local footpath network. The park provides basic recreation opportunities including a slide, swings and a spring toy. The playground is not shaded however the park itself has a number of mature trees.

There are a number of local recreation parks in close proximity to this park.

Recommendation - Investigate opportunities to rationalise play equipment and create a fenced off-leash dog park.



13. Batchelors Green - Wangaratta Lions Park

Batchelors Green has road frontage to three sides and is connected to the One Mile Creek Trail. While the park forms part of the One Mile Creek linear parkland it is severed by Tone Road.

The park is shaded and provides recreation opportunities for toddlers as well as a liberty swing for children in wheel chairs.

The park contains a number of picnic tables and shelters as well as barbecues.

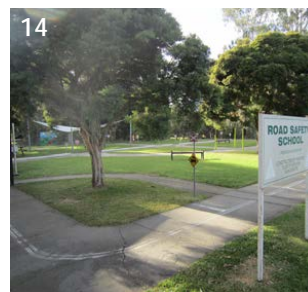
Recommendation - Continue to maintain the park as it is.



14. Ryan Reserve - Apex Road Safety School

The Road Safety School is a locked facility owned and managed by Apex. The facility is open for hire and private bookings only.

Recommendation - investigate the opportunity to open the facility for public use on a regular basis to increase public access and use.

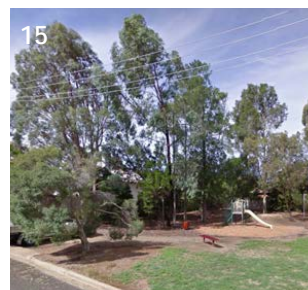


15. Dundas Reserve

Dundas Reserve has good road frontage to half the park and is connected to the local footpath network. The park contains a slide and a seat.

There are a number of local recreation parks in close proximity to this park.

Recommendation - Investigate opportunities to preserve Dundas Reserve for passive recreation (including additional planting in line with the Urban Tree Plan at the end of asset useful life).



16. Smith Reserve

Smith Reserve has very little road frontage and poor surveillance. The park backs on to the One Mile Creek linear park and is connected to the One Mile Creek trail.

The playground equipment has been recently upgraded.

Recommendation - Continue to maintain the park as it is.



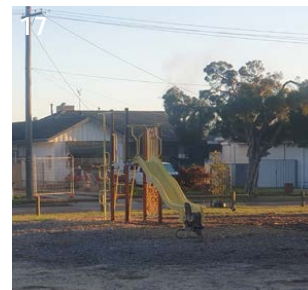
17. Kiwanis Park

Kiwanis Park has road frontage to Mather Street and adjoins Bindle Avenue Sports Reserve. The park is connected to the local footpath network.

The park contains a slide, a swing set and two spring toys. The park has no shade and provides little amenity or recreation opportunity in its current state.

There are a number of local recreation parks in close proximity to this park as well as the high quality Mitchell Avenue Reserve.

Recommendation - Investigate opportunities to rationalise the equipment from Kiwanis Park and improve amenity through plantings, seating and informal recreation opportunities. The addition of play equipment for older children should be installed at the adjoining Bindall Avenue Reserve.



18. Wangaratta Community Garden

The community garden is a fenced facility run by volunteers. The garden is connected to the local footpath network and provides plots and equipment for members to grow food and connect socially with other members.

Recommendation - Collaborate with the community garden committee to prioritise delivery of projects identified in the Community Garden Master Plan.



19. Burke Reserve

Burke Reserve has road frontage to Burke Street and Manley Crescent and is connected to the local footpath network.

The park provides a shaded playground for young children as well as a large grassed kick-about area and seating. There are a number of local recreation parks in close proximity to this park as well as the high quality Mitchell Avenue Reserve.

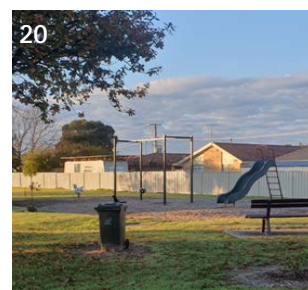
Recommendation - Investigate opportunities to diversify the recreation opportunities at Burke Reserve to cater for older children and youth.



20. Kendall and Orange Court Reserve

Kendall and Orange Court Reserve has limited road frontage with access from both Kendall and Orange Courts. The park is connected to the local footpath network. The park has an unshaded playground with little recreation experience; a swing, spring toy and slide. The park has a large grassed area for kick-about and has a number of mature trees.

Recommendation - Investigate opportunities to diversify the recreation opportunities at Kendall and Orange Court Reserve to cater for older children and youth.



Rural City of Wangaratta

21. Wenhams Lane Reserve

The park has road frontage to Wenhams Lane and adjoins Wenhams Lane Bushland Reserve and Tarooga Park. The playground caters for young children and toddlers with a shaded seating area. The playground itself is not shaded. The park is connected to the local footpath network, the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail and One Mile Creek Trail.

The park lacks shade and amenity.

Recommendation - Investigate opportunities to improve the amenity of the park and provide additional plantings for shade.



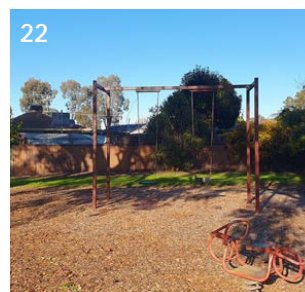
22. Murdoch Reserve

Murdoch Reserve has frontage to Wangaratta-Whitfield Road/Murdoch Road and is connected to the local footpath network and Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. The park forms part of the rail trail/road corridor easement.

The park has a swing set and spring toy that appears to be well past the end of their useful life.

The park's mature trees provide amenity to the local area.

Recommendation - Remove the swing set and spring toy and increase plantings. Maintain the park for local amenity.



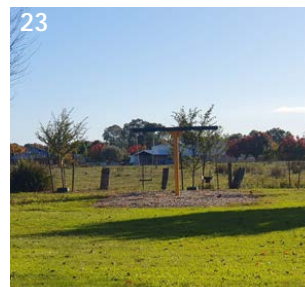
23. Pelican Court Place

The park has road frontage to Pelican Court and is connected to the local footpath network.

The park has a swing set and a seat.

The park lacks amenity and recreation experience in its current state.

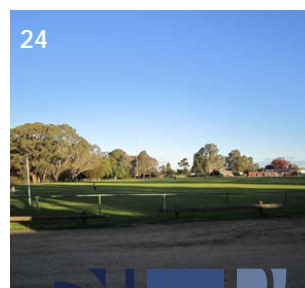
Recommendation - Install additional play equipment such as a climbing net and increase plantings.



24. Wareena Park

Wareena Park is predominately a Sports Park, providing an AFL and cricket oval, and a bowls club. There is a need to formalise a training area for AFL and potentially combine the bowls club with the Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club. To enhance the parks appeal and available recreation opportunities, there is a need to develop formal play opportunities that cater for a number of age groups. Utilise the central location of the Park, as well as its existing connections it has to walk and cycle networks and transport.

Recommendation - develop an inter-generational play node and exercise space at Wareena Park.



Citywide recreation parks

25. King George V Gardens

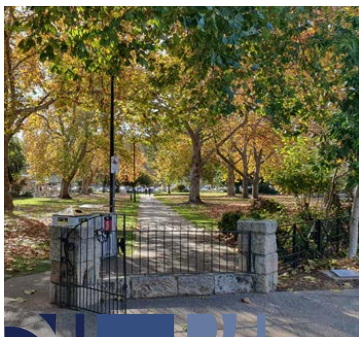
King George V Gardens is an important park within the Wangaratta town centre for its role in providing amenity and recreation for the City's residents and visitors. The park is connected to the local footpath network and has road frontage to Ovens and Templeton Streets.

The park has a shaded playground catering for young children as well as picnic facilities including a covered gazebo.

The internal pathway is surrounded by an avenue of trees providing both shade and amenity for park users.

King George V Gardens rated highly within the community consultation as a site requiring additional planning and infrastructure. Whilst the intent of the park as a formal garden and amenity park needs to be maintained, a master planning process would confirm the future direction as confirmed by the community.

Recommendation - undertake a master planning process with the local community to confirm its future direction, whilst maintaining the parks intent as a formal garden and amenity park.



26. Apex Park

Apex Park is one of RCoW's citywide recreation parks providing community and visitors with a wide range of recreation opportunities for toddlers, small children, older children and youth with a children's adventure playground and parkour park. It provides picnicking facilities and plenty of grassed areas for informal games and kick-about. The Park has toilets and barbecues with large shelters for groups. It is the start and finish for Wangaratta ParkRun.

The park experiences regular flooding given its riverside location.

The park is well connected to the local footpath network, as well as to higher order pathways including the Bullawah Cultural Trail and the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. The Park contains the Marmungan Rock which is the starting point for the Bullawah Trail.

The park is one of the few in the LGA that caters for older children and youth.

Recommendation - Remove the CFA training track and open up the views from the park to the river, Replace the training track with interpretive signage about the historical use of the site.



27. Mitchell Avenue Reserve

The Mitchell Avenue Reserve is a citywide recreation park that provides a number of high quality elements in a linear corridor. The park caters for all ages and abilities:

- Splash Park
- Converted tennis court - model cars, basketball hoop
- Flying fox with accessible swing
- Barbecues
- Seating and shelters
- Toilets
- Shaded young children's playground
- Swings
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Children's garden
- Skate park and pump track.

The park is well connected to the local footpath network and the One Mile Creek shared path.

Recommendation - investigate the provision of a public toilet and drinking water at the skate park. For the outdoor fitness equipment, consider running 'how to use' sessions for the community. Provision of QR Codes linking people with how to use the equipment is also recommended



28. Merriwa Park

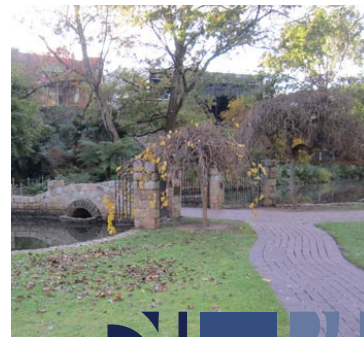
Merriwa Park is a citywide park for its function as a community and events space as well as recreation park and sports park. The recreation opportunities predominately cater for young children and toddlers.

Families are well provided for with barbecues, picnic tables, toilets, a fernery and plenty of grassed areas for informal games and kick-about.

The Park lacks recreation opportunities for older children/youth.

Recommendations:

- Investigate the removal of the sound shell. It is poorly located and does not adequately provide for events
- In line with the Merriwa Park Masterplan, upgrade the playground at the end of its useful life with more diverse play elements catering for toddlers, young children and youth. The Park's setting would be ideal for an adventure style nature playground, as well as for hosting adventure-style events including obstacle courses, colour-run and giant inflatable courses.



29. Wangaratta Skatepark

The Wangaratta Skatepark is suitably located in close proximity to two high schools, as well as on the periphery of the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct with good passive surveillance.

The skatepark is well used by the community.

Recommendation - add older youth recreation opportunities to the skatepark with additional wheeled sports elements to increase its functionality and appeal.





Wangaratta Clay Target Club

Recreation accessibility

When considering an ideal accessibility of most residences within 400m of a recreation park (within urban areas only), a number of access deficiencies exist. The adjoining map shows 400m buffers of existing recreation parks within Wangaratta, with an assessment below of the areas with an identified access deficiency.

Inset 1

There is a pocket of low density residential in the vicinity of Firkbank Drive with an access shortfall to recreation parks. These are large residential lots with varying minimum lot sizes.

The Wangaratta North West Growth Area adjoins this area and has passive open space in the form of local recreation parks proposed. Given the large lot sizes and the proximity of the proposed local recreation parks, no further recreation parks are required.

Inset 2

The general residential zone in the vicinity of Pauline Terrace and Red Gum Way has an accessibility deficiency. This area is well connected to the local footpath network and Three Mile Creek pathway. While this area has an access deficiency to recreation parks, it has direct access to the Fifteen Mile Creek linear open space corridor. No additional recreation parks are required to meet the deficiency.

Inset 3

There is a small deficiency area zoned general residential in the vicinity of Mayfair Court and Berry Place. It is an isolated pocket of residents adjoining the Ovens River. This area has no footpath network and there is little opportunity to improve accessibility to recreation parks. It is recommended that Council seek to purchase private land along the Ovens River (where opportunities become available) to improve open space connectivity along the waterway.

Inset 4

An area of general residential zone along Park Crescent has an accessibility deficiency. Parts of the area are connected to the local footpath network, and residents have direct access to the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct for active and passive recreation needs. There is no need for an additional recreation park.

Inset 5

This area has an access deficiency, however, is highly walkable with a comprehensive local footpath network. It is zoned neighbourhood residential and has direct access to Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct for active or passive recreation. There is no need for an additional recreation park.

Inset 6

There is a small pocket around Wilson Road with an access deficiency zoned general residential. This area has direct access to Kaluna Island. The Merriwa Park Master Plan recommends improved connectivity and access in this area.

Inset 7

This deficiency area is zoned industrial 1 and, therefore, will not require any additional provision of recreation parks.

Inset 8

This is a small pocket of deficiency that is zoned industrial 1 and commercial 2 zones. With no residential there is no additional need for the provision of a recreation park.

Inset 9

This deficiency area is zoned industrial 1 and, therefore, will not require any additional provision of recreation parks.

Inset 10

This deficiency area is zoned industrial 1 and, therefore, will not require any additional provision of recreation parks.

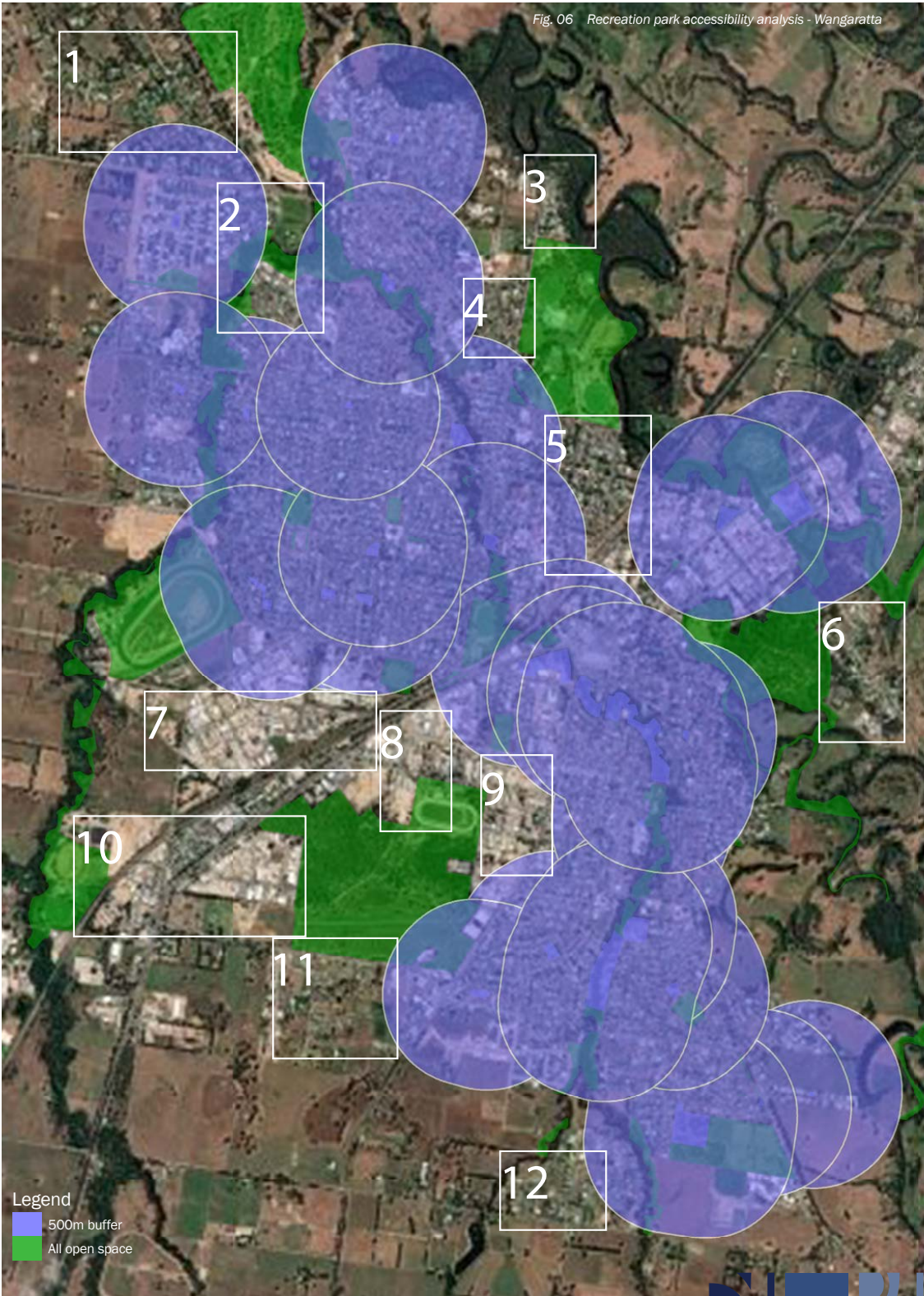
Inset 11

There is a small area of access deficiency in the vicinity of Tavern Terrace and Liddell Drive. The area is low density residential zone. The area has direct access to Wangaratta Common. The Wangaratta South Growth Area is in close proximity which proposes passive recreation in the form of local parks. These proposed local parks in conjunction with the close access to the Wangaratta Common negates the need for additional recreation parks in this area.

Inset 12

There is a small area of access deficiency in the vicinity of Tathra Place. The area is low density residential zone with varied minimum lot sizes. The area has direct access to One Mile Creek linear open space. The Wangaratta South Growth Area is in close proximity which proposes passive recreation in the form of local parks. These proposed local parks in conjunction with the close access to the One Mile Creek will relieve this deficiency.





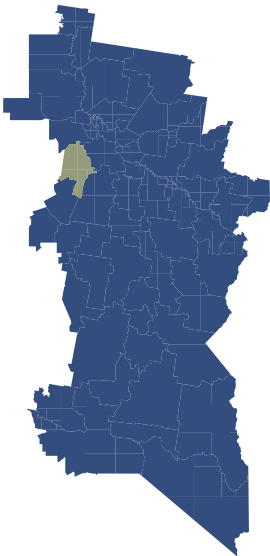
Wangaratta South District

This planning district contains no formal recreational open space, however contains significant public conservation and resource zone in the Warby-Ovens National Park.

The planning district is mostly comprised of rural living zone and farming zone under Council's Planning Scheme.

Demographic profile

Township	Population as at 2022	Median age
Wangaratta South	550	49



Wangaratta West Waldara District

This planning district contains part of the Wangaratta North West Growth Area and currently contains no formal recreational open space, however, contains significant public conservation and resource zone in the Warby-Ovens National Park.

The planning district is comprised of low density residential rural living zone and farming zone under Council's Planning Scheme.

Demographic profile

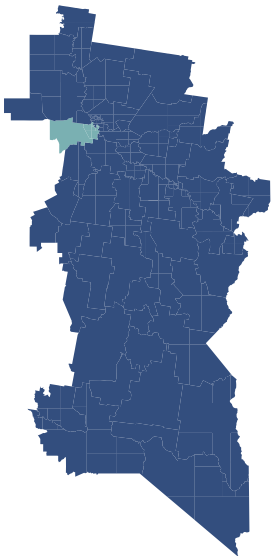
Township	Population as at 2022	Median age
Waldara	677	47
Wangandary	217	52

Open spaces

The Planning District is home to the Wangaratta and Jubilee Golf Clubs.

Shared path

The town of Waldara is well-connected into Wangaratta via a shared pathway.



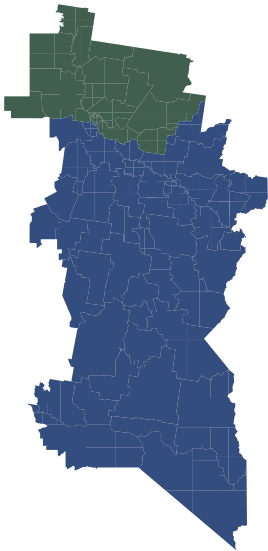
Rural planning districts

Northern District

The Northern District has a small population base distributed over the main localities of Springhurst, North Wangaratta, Peechelba and Boorhaman.

Outside these towns, the planning district is predominately zoned farming followed by public conservation and resource.

The planning district is home to the Warby-Ovens and Chiltern- Mount Pilot National Parks.



Demographic profile

Township and rural townships	Population as at 2022	Median age
North Wangaratta	282	48
Springhurst	349	47
Boorhaman	135	48
Peechelba	177	48

North Wangaratta

North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve

The North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve is a stand-alone reserve on the entrance to Wangaratta. The reserve is home to AFL and netball and has a shaded playground for young children. The Wangaratta Clay Target Club are also housed at the site.

The Reserve has competition standard lighting to the oval and has recently developed the second netball court. The Reserve has some aged infrastructure in need of removal, including a derelict toilet block.

There is an opportunity to investigate development of unused land within the Reserve for AFL training. The site is in need of female friendly change facilities and additional amenities. The development of a site concept plan would guide future infrastructure decision-making.

The Reserve is connected to the local footpath network.



Springhurst

Springhurst Recreation Reserve

Springhurst Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. It is home to the North East Windsport Club. The Reserve has an unused oval and derelict tennis courts. The Springhurst Community Hall and CFA are located on site.

If the current attempt to reinvigorate use proves unsuccessful, there is a need to remove the derelict tennis courts to improve amenity.

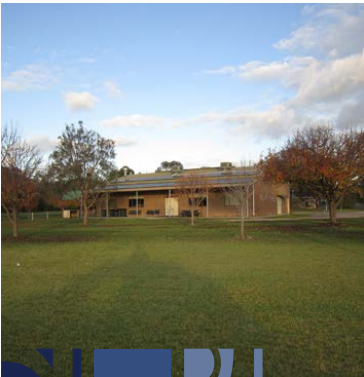


Springhurst Park Reserve

Springhurst Park Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. It has a shaded slide and swing set. The Park has public toilets and seating. With a sealed car park, the park acts as a rest stop for visitors.

In addition to the Recreation Reserve and Springhurst Park, Springhurst is home to a number of other important community and open spaces as outlined in the adjoining table and map.

Map ref	Site
1	Springhurst Recreation Reserve
2	Springhurst Park Reserve
3	Springhurst Primary School
4	Springhurst Community Hall



Boorhaman

Boorhaman Recreation Reserve and Golf Club

The Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve and is home to golf, foot golf, tennis, a play node and the Boorhaman Community Hall. Some of the tennis courts were upgraded in 2017 and are lit.

A covered seating area needs to be installed near the barbecue and the play node requires a shade sail.

Boorhaman North

Boorhaman North Recreation Reserve

The Boorhaman North Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. It largely functions as a undeveloped riverside park. The former tennis courts are in disrepair and the amenities are beyond their useful life. The Reserve is currently being used for cattle agistment. The site requires a complete re-think if it is to be retained as public open space. The possibility of a boat ramp should be investigated with appropriate bodies.

Peechelba

Peechelba Bushland Reserve

The Peechelba Bushland Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. It is a heavily vegetated site that caters for passive recreation including bushwalking and birdwatching. The site has outdoor fitness equipment, a lit tennis court as well as a community hall with access to toilets, barbecue facilities and a playground.

Northern District planning area findings

The Northern District has a low population based and is characterised by dispersed communities.

The opportunity exists to enhance the capacity of the North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve through developing part of the unused land within the reserve for AFL training. Additionally, removal of the derelict toilet block to increase amenity of the site.

There is a need to remove the derelict tennis courts at the Springhurst Recreation Reserve to improve amenity. A cost-effective method of re-developing one court should be investigated.

The Boorhaman Recreation Reserve requires a covered seating area near the barbecue and the play node requires a shade sail.

The possibility of a boat ramp should be investigated at the Boorhaman North Recreation Reserve with appropriate bodies.



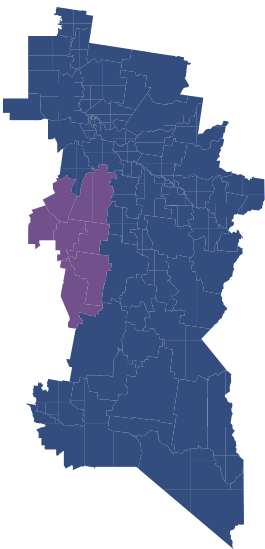
Greta Valley District

The Greta Valley planning district’s main township is Glenrowan, with other minor localities including Greta, Laceby and Hansonville.

The planning district has the Warby Ranges to the north and the Warby-Ovens National Park to the west. Outside of Glenrowan, the planning district is almost completely zoned farming.

The planning district has a small population which is supported by a suitably-sized open space network.

The two sporting reserves in this area are owned by the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA) and operated by committees of management.



Demographic profile

Township and rural townships	Population as at 2022	Median age
Glenrowan	1,049	45
Greta	86	47
Laceby	304	42
Hansonville	155	43

Greta

Greta Recreation Reserve

The Greta Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a committee of management with limited Council input. It is a stand-alone reserve that houses the Greta Hansonville Public Hall, football, netball and cricket. The Reserve has basic field lighting, a large pavilion, cricket nets and tennis courts in disrepair.

The Reserve is not supported by a township or residential population and the football club's training is conducted in both Greta and Wangaratta (given the vast majority of players come from Wangaratta).

The level of embellishment at this Reserve is appropriate for the population it supports and careful consideration should be taken prior to any facility upgrades.

The Committee is looking to add a playground at the Recreation Reserve.

There is a need to remove the old tennis courts as they are beyond repair.

Hansonville Recreation Reserve

Hansonville Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a committee of management with limited Council input and is an undeveloped site that is heavily vegetated and home to a large population of kangaroos.



Glenrowan

Glenrowan Recreation Reserve

The Glenrowan Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a committee of management with limited Council input. It is located within the township of Glenrowan and houses the Glenrowan and District Community Centre and rugby league. The Reserve has two netball courts (one that is new) and neither are currently in use.

The Reserve has a condemned scouts building, another netball court and cricket practice nets that are in disrepair.

There is a need to remove the old netball court and cricket nets from the Reserve in order to improve amenity.

Glenrowan Lions Park

This newly developed park provides residents and visitors with passive recreation opportunities including a playground for young children, pathways and picnic facilities. The park supports the Ned Kelly Museum and provides a rest stop for visitors in the heart of town.



Other open spaces and community places

In addition to the Recreation Reserve and Lions Park, Glenrowan is home to a number of other important community and open spaces:

Map ref	Site
1	Glenrowan Recreation Reserve
2	Glenrowan Lions Park
3	Glenrowan Rifle Range and Rifle Club
4	Glenrowan Kindergarten
5	Glenrowan Scout Hall
6	Fosters Lake picnic area
7	Spring Creek Reserve
8	Glenrowan Primary School

Glenrowan Recreation Reserve Dam is a popular spot for recreational fishing as the Victorian Fisheries Authority stock the lake regularly as part of their family fishing lakes program. It was identified during the community consultation for this Strategy that access to this dam is difficult for those with mobility issues.

Connectivity

A pathway runs along the Old Hume Highway from the Recreation Reserve at Glenrowan to Glenrowan North.



Glenrowan Recreation Reserve



Greta Valley district planning area findings

There is a lack of active recreation opportunities for young people within the planning district. The sole playground at Glenrowan provides opportunities for young children and families. There is an opportunity to develop an appropriately sized pump track or other youth recreation facility within Glenrowan.

Opportunity exists to utilise the Glenrowan and District Community Centre and Scout Hall for physical activity programming.

Activation of the Glenrowan Recreation Reserve for additional community use outside of the formal sports that occur there.

Opportunity to rationalise/cap support of sporting infrastructure upgrades (such as large pavilions, function rooms and competition-level lighting) at Greta Recreation Reserve to prevent over-development in line with the residential population.

Priority recommendations for the Greta Valley include:

- Remove the old netball court and cricket practice nets from the Glenrowan Recreation Reserve
- Investigate the development of a small youth appropriate recreation opportunity within Glenrowan, such as a pump track or outdoor basketball court
- Investigate the feasibility of improving access to Fosters Lake for recreational fishers with mobility needs
- Support the removal of the tennis courts from Greta Recreation Reserve
- Support the Committee in their desire to add a playground to the Greta Recreation Reserve.



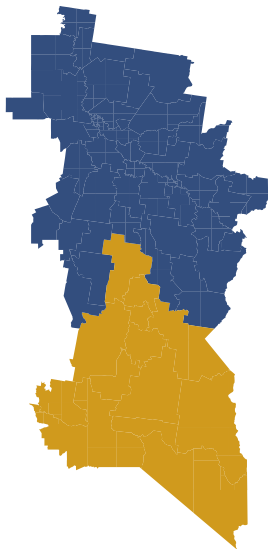
King Valley District

The King Valley planning district’s main townships are Moyhu and Whitfield, with other localities including Cheshunt, Myrree and Edi Upper.

The planning district is home to the Alpine National Park with Mount Buffalo National Park and Mount Samaria State Park bordering the LGA.

Outside the towns of Moyhu, Whitfield, Cheshunt and Myrree the planning district is almost completely zoned public conservation and resource or farming.

The Moyhu and Myrree Recreation Reserves are owned by DEECA and operated by a Committee of Management.



Demographic profile

Township and rural townships	Population as at 2022	Median age
Moyhu	436	48
Whitfield	219	53
Cheshunt	212	50
Myrree	168	49

Whitfield

Whitfield Recreation Reserve

The Whitfield Recreation Reserve is Council owned and managed by a Committee of Management. It is located within Whitfield and is home to AFL and netball and has one functional tennis court that is lit.

The Reserve has an extensive pavilion as well as a disused tennis building.

The Reserve has a new netball court and shaded playground that adjoins a picnic shelter with seating and a barbecue.

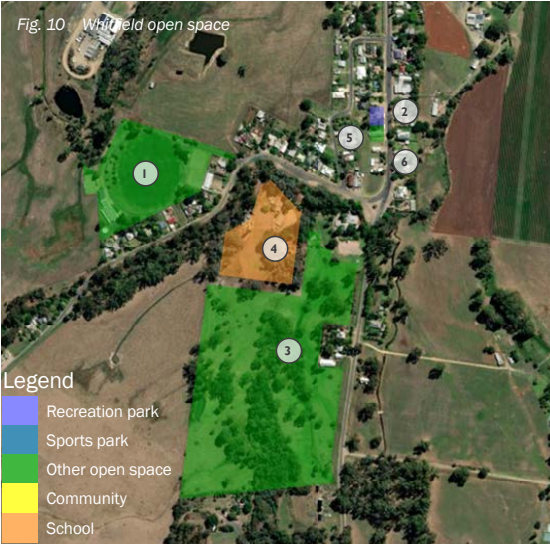
There is a need to remove the former tennis courts with the potential for future development as netball courts if demand exists.

Other open spaces and community places

In addition to the Recreation Reserve, Whitfield is home to a number of other important community and open space including:

Map ref	Site
1	Whitfield Recreation Reserve
2	Rest stop park
3	Whitfield Golf Course
4	Whitfield District Primary School
5	King Valley Community Memorial Hall
6	Whitfield Community Child Care Centre

The rest stop park provides a new playground, public toilets, seating and shelter and is a trail head for the King Valley Gravel routes. The park contains signage for the trails and a bike repair station.



Connectivity

There are limited footpaths within the township of Whitfield, however, the town is the hub of King Valley Gravel riding routes and planning is underway to create further connections via a shared 'rail trail' style path.



Moyhu

Moyhu Recreation Reserve

The Moyhu Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. It is located on the outskirts of Moyhu and houses AFL, netball, cricket, tennis/ basketball and has a small toddler playground. The Reserve is also the home of gymnastics within the RCoW.

The playground is in need of an upgrade, including the addition of play elements for older children to broaden its appeal. The playground upgrade should include inclusive elements to cater for children with mobility needs.

The clubhouse is in need of an electrical capacity upgrade to allow field lighting and the clubhouse to operate at the same time.



Moyhu Lions Park

Moyhu Lions Park has a young children’s playground, picnic tables, toilets, a memorial and historical elements including the Lions Federation Hall. The park hosts regular local markets and is a trail head for the King Valley Gravel routes. The park contains signage and a bike repair station.

The park is not well connected to the town due to the lack of local footpaths.

Other open spaces and community places

In addition to the Recreation Reserve and Lions Park, Moyhu is home to a number of other important community and open spaces including:

Map ref	Site
1	Moyhu Recreation Reserve
2	Moyhu Lions Park
3	Carl Schultz Reserve and the Moyhu Bowls Club
4	Moyhu Soliders Memorial Hall
5	Moyhu Primary School (outside of map)
6	Moyhu and District Preschool
7	King Valley Learning Exchange (outside of map)

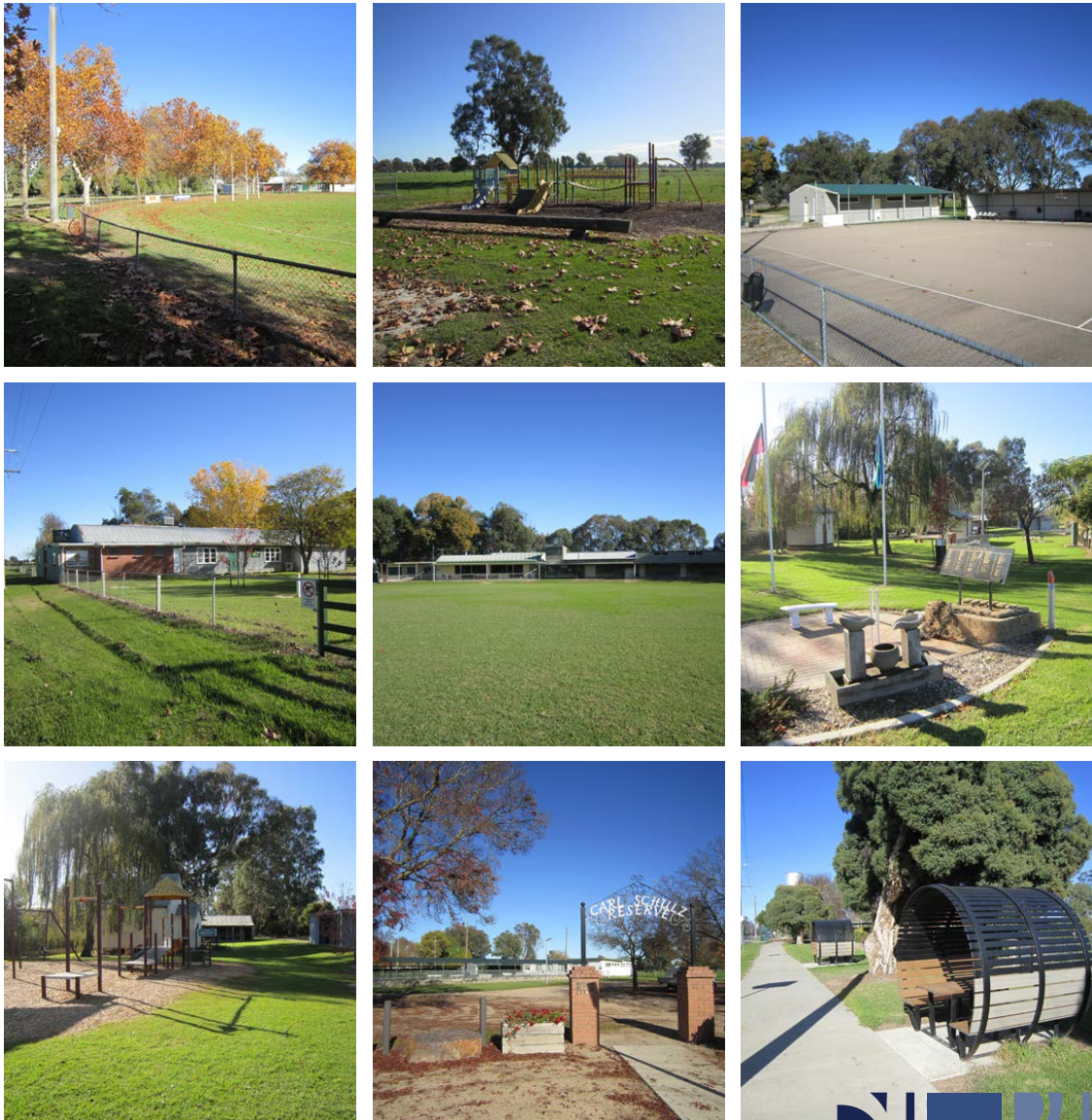
The King Valley Learning Exchange is a key community resource within Moyhu and includes a Men’s Shed, offers community development activities and physical activity programs. The facility also maintains an edible garden for the community.

Connectivity

Moyhu is in need of improved footpaths, with the only existing sections on Byrne Street. There is a need to connect town to the Recreation Reserve and school.



Rural City of Wangaratta



Myrrhee

Myrrhee Recreation Reserve

The Myrrhee Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a committee of management with limited Council input. It has two recently developed lit tennis courts with small club building. The Reserve has a playground catering for young children and a sheltered barbecue area.

In addition to the Recreation Reserve, Myrrhee is home to a number of other important community and open spaces including:

- Myrrhee Soldiers Memorial hall
- Myrrhee Primary School.



Cheshunt

Cheshunt Hall and rest stop

Cheshunt Hall and rest stop are the sole open spaces within Cheshunt and both owned by DEECA. The rest stop provides a sheltered barbecue area with tables and seating.



Edi Upper

Edi Upper Recreation Reserve and Tennis Courts

The Edi Upper Recreation Reserve has four tennis courts, two of which are lit, public hall and a playground.

The Edi Upper community is also supported by the Edi Upper Primary School.



King Valley district planning area findings

There is a lack of active recreation opportunities for young people within the planning district, and specifically the population centre of Moyhu. The two playgrounds within Moyhu provide opportunities for toddlers and young children only. There is an opportunity to develop an appropriately sized pump track or other youth recreation facility such as basketball half court, rebound wall or climbing structure within the Moyhu Recreation Reserve.

Develop a path to connect Moyhu town to the Recreation Reserve and school.

There is a need for Council to lead the planning of the Moyhu Lions Park to ensure a cohesive and planned approach to any future infrastructure including playground upgrades or additions.

Opportunity exists to utilise the Myrree, Cheshunt, Edi Upper, Moyhu and King Valley community halls for physical activity programming.

The former tennis courts at the Whitfield Recreation Reserve should be removed and replaced with an additional netball court (if need can be demonstrated).

Support the King Valley Learning Exchange in their community garden in order to support the need for improved knowledge and skills in growing fruit and vegetables and inter-generational connection.

Ovens Valley District

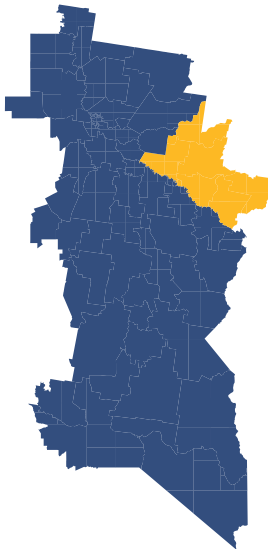
The Ovens Valley district has a small population base distributed over the main localities of Tarrawingee, Eldorado, Everton, Everton Upper and Murmungee.

Outside these towns, the planning district is predominately zoned farming followed by public conservation and resource.

The planning district is home to the Chiltern- Mount Pilot National Park.

Demographic profile

Township and rural townships	Population as at 2022	Median age
Tarrawingee	416	46
Everton	193	52
Everton Upper	154	50
Eldorado	382	52
Murmungee	69	54



Tarrawingee

Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve

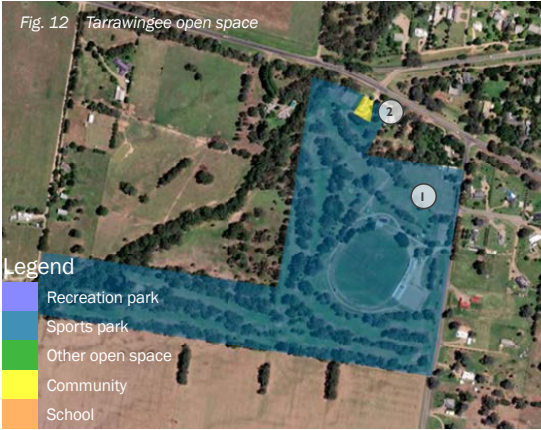
Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. It houses AFL, netball, cricket, golf and tennis. The single oval facility has two netball courts and four tennis courts (in various conditions).

The Recreation Reserve is home to the North Eastern Car Club and the Tarrawingee Race Circuit, the Tarrawingee Golf Club and the Tarrawingee Hall Reserve and tennis courts. The former Tarrawingee Primary School adjoins the reserve.

The tennis courts are cracked and in poor condition. An opportunity exists to repair two of the courts and allow free community use to activate the space and encourage physical activity.

Tarrawingee also has the Tarrawingee Streamside Reserve as a natural open space for the community to enjoy.

Tarrawingee lacks recreation opportunities for youth.



Map ref	Site
1	Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve
2	Tarrawingee Hall Reserve



Eldorado

Centennial Park

Centennial Park is a single oval park which is home to rugby league and tennis. It is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. Tennis has two ageing courts that are lit. The oval is not lit and has a basic clubhouse and toilet block.

The Park appears to have little use and has large areas of under-utilised open space.

Gunhouse Park

Gunhouse Park has a shaded playground catering for young children as well as formal gardens, toilets, picnic areas and a barbecue. The local FoodShare operates out of this park.

Connectivity

Eldorado is well connected for pedestrians with a footpath running the length of Main Street from Centennial Park past Gunhouse Park.

Other open spaces and community places

In addition to Centennial Park and Gunhouse Park, Eldorado has a number of important open space and community places:

Map ref	Site
1	Centennial Park
2	Gunhouse Park
3	Eldorado Dredge Historic Reserve - ParksVic including the historic swing bridge
4	Top Cut Lake, Slum Dam and Eldorado Dredge
5	Eldorado Community Hall





Everton

Everton Public Park Reserve

The Everton Public Park Reserve is a Council owned reserve. It is home to tennis with four lit courts. The Park also has a multi-use court for netball and basketball, a large shelter with a barbecue and picnic tables.

The Park has large grassed areas for kick-about and informal games. The Everton Public Hall and Primary School adjoin the site.

There are no playgrounds or passive recreation opportunities within the town of Everton.



Connectivity

Everton has no local footpath network. The Murray to Mountains Rail Trail runs to the east of Everton. An extension of this trail along Diffey Road would bring the trail into town.

Other open spaces and community places

In addition to the Everton Public Park Reserve, Pioneer Bridges Rest Area and Everton Upper has disused tennis courts.

Map ref	Site
1	Everton Public Park Reserve
2	Everton Public Hall
3	Everton Primary School



Murmungee

Murmungee Sports Ground Reserve

Murmungee Sports Ground is an isolated site used for equestrian. It is a locked site that appears to have infrequent use. Murmungee also has a community hall and tennis courts.



Ovens Valley planning area findings

The Tarrawingee tennis courts are cracked and in poor condition. An opportunity exists to repair two of the courts and allow free community use to activate the space and encourage physical activity.

Tarrawingee lacks recreation opportunities for youth. Consider use of the Old Tarrawingee school site for the development of a pump track/skate/bike area. It is acknowledged that this site is Crown Land and that Council will need to work in partnership with the State Government.

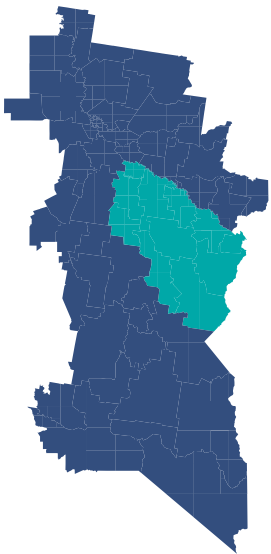
Opportunity to seek interest from local community groups to lead the trial of a community garden bed in a location such as the Tarrawingee Tennis courts/old school.

Develop a shared path to extend the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail along Diffey Road to provide a local connection and bring the trail into town.

Snow Road District

The Snow Road district has a small population base distributed over the main localities of Milawa, Whorouly, Oxley and Carboor.

Outside these towns, the planning district is predominately zoned farming.



Demographic profile

Townships and rural townships	Population as at 2022	Median age
Milawa	588	47
Whorouly	383	48
Oxley	503	40
Carboor	97	47

Oxley

Oxley Memorial Park

Oxley Memorial Park is a fenced park with a shaded playground for toddlers and young children. The park has public toilets, shelters with picnic tables, a barbecue and a memorial. The Park acts as a trail head along the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail.

Oxley Recreation Reserve

The Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. It is predominately an equestrian facility with a full size cross country course, sand arenas and horse yards. The Reserve also has a cricket oval, tennis courts and a newly constructed playground.

Connectivity

The Murray to Mountains Rail Trail passes through Oxley. The Oxley Memorial Park creates an ideal rest stop for trail users. The addition of bicycle parking racks would enhance the user experience for trail users.

Other open spaces and community places

In addition to Oxley Memorial Hall and Recreation Reserve, Oxley has a number of other important open space and community places:

Map ref	Site
1	Oxley Memorial Park
2	Oxley Shire Hall
3	Laceyby Streamside Reserve
4	Oxley Recreation Reserve (outside of map screen)
5	Oxley Primary School (outside of map screen)



Rural City of Wangaratta



Milawa

Milawa Recreation Reserve

The Milawa Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. It is home to AFL, netball, cricket and lawn bowls. One of the two netball courts has been newly developed and is lit.

The site has a disused tennis/netball court that is in need of removal.

John McAleese Community Park

The Park adjoins the Milawa Public Hall and forms a community hub in the centre of town. Many community events are hosted at the Hall and Park, with the sound shell providing a focal point.

The playground is shaded and provides recreation opportunities for toddlers and small children. The Park has a barbecue and a few bench seats. The Park does not provide any picnic tables for barbecue users.

Connectivity

The Murray to Mountains Rail Trail runs through part of Milawa ending at the Recreation Reserve.

Other open spaces and community places

In addition to the Milawa Recreation Reserve and John McAleese Community Park, Milawa has a number of important open space and community places:

Map ref	Site
1	Milawa Recreation Reserve
2	John McAleese Community Park
3	Milawa Public Hall
4	Milawa Racquets Club
5	Milawa Primary School





Whorouly

Whorouly Recreation Reserve

Whorouly Recreation Reserve is a single oval facility that is home to AFL, netball, lawn tennis and cricket. The Reserve has a shaded, fenced playground catering for young children. The netball half court also has a basketball hoop for informal games and practice.

Some of the tennis courts are un-used and in disrepair. The Reserve has a large picnic shelter with barbecues, picnic tables and public toilets.

Development of a second netball court at the Reserve is underway, as well as the re-upgrade of the existing court.

Connectivity

Whorouly has no local footpath network.



Other open spaces and community places

In addition to the Whorouly Recreation Reserve, Whorouly has the following important open space and community places:

Map ref	Site
1	Whorouly Recreation Reserve
2	Whorouly Public Library Hall
3	Whorouly Primary School
4	Whorouly and District Kindergarten



Carboor

Carboor Recreation Reserve

The Carboor Recreation Reserve has a large field area that appears to be un-used as well a number of derelict tennis courts.

Carboor Soldiers Memorial Hall and Playground

The Soldiers Memorial Hall adjoins the Recreation Reserve and provides a playground for young children. The Hall is well maintained and in good condition.

Connectivity

Carboor has no local footpath network.



Carboor Soldiers Memorial Hall



Carboor Recreation Reserve

Snow Road planning area findings

Install bike racks at the Oxley Memorial Park to enhance the user experience for trail users.

The Oxley Recreation Reserve is in need of improvements to support equestrian uses. These include installation of a watering system to suppress dust from the sand arenas and installation of lighting to allow for greater hours of use. Additionally, upgrades to the oval as well as consideration of a cover over the large sand arena to cater for all-weather use.

There is a need to develop a trail head for the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail in Milawa. This trail head could be located at the community hall and John McAleese Park. In conjunction with the high level of community events held at the park and the need for the trail head, stand-alone toilets outside of the hall need to be considered for community use.

Extension of the rail trail at Milawa along Kerrs Road, Oxley Flats Road and Sportsground Lane to create a local circuit.

John McAleese Community Park requires the installation of a picnic table for barbecue users.

Consider the removal of the derelict tennis courts at Carboor Recreation Reserve to improve amenity.



Future directions

Moving forward

The Rural City of Wangaratta community currently has access to a broad range of recreation, open space and sport opportunities.

The Strategy includes a range of recommendations to meet community demand. Additionally, to assist Council focus park development across a smaller number of parks (whilst maintaining suitable accessibility for residents) a number of parks have been identified for rationalisation.

This Strategy is an opportunity for Council to maintain and build upon the existing recreational open space network. There are recommendations throughout this Strategy that relate to specific parks and these are listed in this section, after ‘over-arching recommendations’. Some of the recommendations will be more challenging than others. Implementation of the recommendations will require strong leadership, appropriate resources from Council and a commitment to making some difficult decisions.

There are a number of Crown land reserves within the RCoW’s open space network. These reserves are managed by voluntary Committees of Management (CoM) with support from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). In addition, there are a number of Council reserves that are overseen by a CoM.

This Strategy is tenure blind in regards to Council land V crown land reserves and makes recommendations for both types of land based on identified demand. This is a collaborative Strategy with dual responsibility for actioning recommendations by Council, CoM’s, clubs and community groups.

Importantly, many of the recommendations will require further consideration and refinement through Council’s wider planning processes including community engagement.

Priorities are assigned for each action. A description of the priority timeframes is included in the table below. Indicative costs are provided for the total project cost. More detailed costing should be undertaken for each project as its nears commencement.

Priority	Preferred timing
HIGH	Undertaken as soon as resources allow
MEDIUM	Undertaken in the next 5-10 years
LOW	Undertaken in the next 10-15 years

While this Plan provides Council and the community with strategic direction for the provision of recreation and sport over the next 10 years, further information sharing, consultation and involvement of the community in decision making will be necessary.

Overarching recommendations**Partnerships** - Working in partnership and collaboratively with organisations and community

Recommendation	Justification	Priority
Council to commit to engage with relevant organisational stakeholders on the delivery of this Strategy	To ensure broad input into Council decision making including concept planning and detailed design and achieve the best outcomes for each project	High
Ensure standard Council processes are followed in the implementation of this Strategy including consultation, concept planning and design	To ensure quality outcomes and community buy-in	High
Work closely with internal and external partners to ensure mitigation and adaptation to climate change, biodiversity and other environmental outcomes are considered in all facility planning, renewal and development processes	To ensure the relationship between recreation and climate change (climate impacts) is clearly considered	High
Formalise the maintenance of rail trails with relevant stakeholders and community partners	To ensure regular maintenance is carried out and that responsibility is clear	High
Ensure that the Community and Recreation team are included early in planning and development processes	To ensure sport and recreation development reflects a sustainable approach driven by evidence-based demand	High
Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders to ensure there is suitable access to formalised water-based recreation sites	To enhance the recreation opportunities available in line with the high level of community use and desire for supporting infrastructure. The cultural and ecological significance of sites needs to be recognised and protected	High
Determine interest from community groups to lead and maintain the trial of community garden beds. Trial locations could include Wareena Park	In order to increase knowledge and skills in growing fruit and vegetables. Improving nutrition, food security and inter-generational connection	Medium
Encourage physical activity through alternate uses of spaces such as walking sports. Partner with existing sporting clubs and community groups	To encourage participation by those who may not be interested in traditional sports, or where low-impact activities are required	Medium
Continue to support Committees of Management	In order to provide sport and recreation opportunities for the community	Ongoing

**Equity** - Support gender equity and the inclusion of under represented groups

Recommendation	Justification	Priority
Ensure an equity impact statement is undertaken on new projects as part of the preliminary planning process	To ensure that real and perceived barriers to participation are identified and the planning and design process seeks to overcome these	High
Support the implementation of the fair access policy, including club training and development	To provide clubs with the appropriate tools to support their members and the community	High
Support Inclusive Wangaratta recommendations around sport, physical activity and recreation	To ensure the whole community can access sport, physical activity and recreation opportunities	High



Promotion - Promotion of new and existing opportunities in sport and recreation

Recommendation	Justification	Priority
Develop and deliver an affordable physical activity program (using external providers and partnerships) in parks and community halls across the RCoW	Offering free or low cost activities will not only have physical health benefits but social/mental health benefits for participants. This will also assist to activate parks	High
Promote accessibility to existing public toilets in proximity to key natural areas and river-side walking tracks	To ensure natural area and trail users have close access to amenities	High
Develop and promote a map of bike racks and public toilets	To assist the community in effectively utilising the open space network and pathways	Medium
Initiate the development of a series of up-to date community directories to promote existing spaces, activities and programs within the community. This could include sporting clubs and groups, social and activity groups as well as regular programs and events	To ensure the community are aware of what opportunities exist and improve participation in physical activity	Medium
Develop a map of designated dog off-leash areas and promote to the community	To ensure the community are aware of appropriate off-leash places	Medium



Sustainability - Ensure sustainability in planning, design, delivery and maintenance

Recommendation	Justification	Priority
Incorporate the recommendations into Council's capital and operational works plans	To ensure suitable budget allocations to achieve desired outcomes	High
Ensure sufficient resources are allocated in Council's operational budget for the maintenance of open space	The current allocation falls well-short of providing appropriate maintenance of Council's open space network	High
As more sport and recreation organisations are established and participation continues to grow, Council will require additional staffing	To ensure suitable resources in order to address burgeoning community demand	High
Ensure sports assets are included on Council's asset register for renewals	To ensure suitable funds are available to replace assets at the end of their useful life	High
Ensure climate change and environmental impacts are considered as part of all facility planning, renewal and development processes	To ensure the relationship between recreation and climate change (climate impacts) is clearly considered	High
Council to develop a formal tree planting program for parks and reserves	To provide clear direction on sites to be planted, preferred tree species, management and maintenance of new trees as well as identifying trees at the end of their useful life expectancy	High
In line with Council's Urban Tree Plan, ensure additional planting occurs within the open space network, especially those parks where playground equipment is recommended for removal	To enhance the urban forest canopy and encourage the environmental, social and economic benefits to the community	High
Investigate alternatives to reduce reliance on drinking water for irrigation of public open space	To preserve natural resources	High
Develop and implement a Council landscape document for developer contributed parks	To ensure Council receive appropriate park infrastructure including plant species at handover	Medium
Ensure careful planning of new infrastructure within parks and reserves including pathways and implement tree protection zones in order to protect existing trees	To ensure tree health is maintained both during and after construction	Ongoing
Review the outcomes of the Recreation Strategy every five years	A review ensures the document remains a current working document and meets the changing needs of the community	Ongoing
Actively seek external grants to fund the capital works	Council cannot rely on the parks budget and developer contributions to achieve the breadth of recommendations	Ongoing
Work with North East Catchment Authority and other relevant land managers/owners in the preservation of land along the Owens River	To improve open space accessibility and connectivity along the waterway	Ongoing


Evidence based community need - Using evidence and community need to guide decisions

Recommendation	Justification	Priority
Review outdoor council managed sports assets to create a plan for maintenance based on the principles of this strategy	To ensure sports courts and facilities are renewed and maintained based on evidence and community need	High
Undertake a review of Council's Playspace Strategy	To reflect the findings of this Strategy and ensure playspaces are diverse and equitable	High
Undertake a review of Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy	To adequately plan and develop necessary walk and cycle projects and their supporting infrastructure in line with demand	High
Continue to support the directions of key Council master plans including Parklands Master Plan, Wareena Park Master Plan and Merriwa Park Master Plan	To ensure key Council and community priorities are progressed	High
Undertake an investigation into suitable sites to house a second soccer facility (two to four fields) as well as a hockey pitch (one pitch and capacity for training area)	To accommodate the growing needs of soccer and provide a home for hockey	High
Undertake an asset condition and demand audit for all hard courts across the LGA	To assess current infrastructure conditions and ensure a sustainable approach to current and future provision	High
Investigate the provision of additional dog off-leash areas across the LGA (particularly Rangeview Park and Burns Reserve)	To ensure equitable provision of facilities	High
Complete an analysis of cycling infrastructure across the LGA	To determine the feasibility for cycling infrastructure including the development of a precinct	High

Venue specific recommendations

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendation	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
Urban Wangaratta								
W1	Apex Park	Recreation	Council managed	Remove the CFA training area and replace with interpretive signage about the historical use of the site	Medium	Council		\$25,000
W2	Avian Park	AFL	Crown Land	Facility upgrades to accommodate AFL training - currently managed by a Committee of Management, could investigate coming under Council management	Medium	CoM and Council		\$100,000
W3	Baltimore Park	Recreation	Council managed	Install a soccer goal or re-bound wall to enhance recreation opportunities for an older age group	High	Council		\$5,000
W4	Barooka Court Playground	Recreation	Council managed	Install shade over the playground and seek to diversify the age range of the recreation experience by developing an element for older children/youth	High	Council		\$50,000
W5	Bill Eaton Reserve	Athletics and soccer	Council managed	Master Plan the site with the intent to replace and widen the long jump run up to allow for a 100m synthetic sprint/warm-up surface. The shot put and discus pits require repair/upgrade. Improve the interior grass surface and source portable soccer goals for training	Medium	Council	Club	\$30,000 (MP)
W6	Bindall Avenue Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Upgrade the toilets and install an older children's playground in Bindall Avenue Reserve following the removal of equipment at the adjoining Kiwanis Park	High	Council		\$100,000
W7		AFL	Council managed	Lighting installation to allow for junior training in summer and winter	Medium	Council		\$250,000
W8	Brien Crescent Park	Recreation	Council managed	Seek to diversify the age range of the recreation experience by developing an element for older children/youth i.e. climbing structure, monkey bars etc	Medium	Council		\$50,000
W9	Bullawah Cultural Trail	Recreation	Council	Work with the Bangerang community to expand the Bullawah Trail with additional cultural elements including artwork, interpretive signage and AV elements in order to share stories	High	Council		\$25,000 (initial planning)
W10	Burke Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Diversify the recreation opportunities at Burke Reserve to cater for older children and youth	Medium	Council		\$50,000
W11	Burns Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Investigate opportunities to rationalise play equipment and create a fenced off-leash dog park	Medium	Council		\$25,000
W12	Cathedral College	Hockey	School land	Temporary lighting towers to be installed to allow night hockey training	High	Club and School		TBD
W13				Council to lead conversations with Cathedral College and the Club to investigate opportunities for a temporary building (with amenities and changerooms) to be placed near to the pitch	Medium	Club and Council		TBD
W14	Dalton Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Seek to diversify the age range of the recreation experience by developing an element for older children/youth	Medium	Council		\$50,000
W15	Dundas Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Investigate opportunities to preserve Dundas Reserve for passive recreation (including additional planting in line with the Urban Tree Plan at the end of asset useful life)	High	Council		\$10,000
W16	Evalyn Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Remove the play equipment at the end of its useful life and investigate opportunities to rationalise the park or maintain as an amenity park i.e. additional plantings	High	Council		TBD
W17	Frank Garth Reserve	Outdoor recreation	Council managed	There is a need to formalise Frank Garth Reserve with signage, seating, picnic tables and designated car parking areas. This site also lends itself to the installation of a floating pontoon for canoe/kayak launching. It is recommended that a basic concept plan be undertaken to ensure the multiple values of the site are protected and that the space is best utilised	Medium	Council and Water Corporation		\$140,000 (Pontoon TBD)
W18	Jaycees Park	Recreation	Council managed	Diversify play opportunities at Jaycees Park	Low	Council		\$50,000
W19	Kendall and Orange Court Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Diversify the recreation opportunities at Kendall and Orange Court Reserve to cater for older children and youth	Medium	Council		\$50,000

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendation	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
W20	King George V Gardens	Recreation	Council managed	Undertake a master planning process with the local community to confirm the Park's future direction, whilst maintaining the parks intent as a formal garden and amenity park	Medium	Council		\$25,000
W21	Kiwanis Park	Recreation	Council managed	Investigate opportunities to rationalise the equipment from Kiwanis Park and improve amenity through plantings, seating and informal recreation opportunities. The addition of play equipment for older children should be installed at the adjoining Bindall Avenue Reserve	High	Council		\$15,000
W22	Merriwa Park	Tennis, pickleball and croquet	Council managed	Provision of all-abilities access to the clubhouse	High	Club	Council	\$20,000
W23				Upgrade amenities to support all-abilities access	High	Club	Council	\$20,000
W24				Replacement of court fencing with black plastic-coated fencing	Medium	Club	Council	\$120,000
W25				Car park resurfacing	Medium	Club	Council	\$140,000
W26		Recreation	Council managed	Investigate the removal of the sound shell	Medium	Council		TBD
W27		Recreation	Council managed	Upgrade the playground at the end of its useful life with more diverse play elements catering for toddlers, young children and youth	Medium	Council		\$250,000
W28	Mitchell Avenue Reserve	Active recreation	Council managed	Investigate the provision of a public toilet and drinking water at the skate park	Medium	Council		\$200,000
W29		Active recreation	Council managed	For the outdoor fitness equipment, consider running 'how to use' sessions for the community. Provision of QR Codes linking people with how to use the equipment is also recommended	Medium	Council		TBD operational
W30	Murdoch Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Remove the swing set and spring toy from Murdoch Park and increase plantings for amenity	High	Council		\$10,000
W31	Northern Beaches	Outdoor recreation	Council managed	There is a need to formalise the recreation use of the Northern Beaches, with signage, seating, picnic tables. It is recommended that a basic concept plan be undertaken to ensure the multiple values of the site are protected and that the space is best utilised	Medium	Council		\$10,000 (concept plan) \$140,000
W32	North West Growth Area - greenfield site	Rectangular sports	Council managed	Master plan and develop the greenfield sports site to accommodate rectangular sports (preference for soccer and hockey) - soccer requires 2-4 fields, one lit synthetic hockey pitch, future area for hockey training, a central clubhouse, spectator facilities and suitable car parking	High	Council and club		\$30,000 (MP)
W33	Pelican Court Park	Recreation	Council managed	Install additional play equipment such as a climbing net and increase plantings	Low	Council		\$15,000
W34	Rangeview Park	Recreation	Council managed	Investigate opportunities to develop a fenced dog off leash and rationalise area within the linear section of the park that runs behind the houses	Medium	Council		\$25,000
W35	Ryan Reserve - Apex Road Safety School	Recreation	Lions Club	Investigate the opportunity to increase usage of the facility	High	Council and Lions		Nil
W36	Sadler Reserve/ One Mile Creek Outdoor Gym equipment	Recreation	Council managed	Monitor usage of outdoor gym equipment and consider running 'how to' sessions for the community. The addition of QR codes to connect users with instructional videos on the equipment is also recommended	High	Council		TBD operational

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendation	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
W37	South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve	All sports	Council managed	Undertake a master plan to ensure the site meets future demand and user needs (including consideration of a new clubhouse and junior synthetic practice pitch for soccer)	High	Council		\$25,000
W38		Soccer	Council managed	Undertake field upgrades to the two southern fields (irrigation upgrades, drainage upgrades and surface upgrades)	High	Council	Club	\$340,000
W39				Install lighting to the main field	High	Council	Club	\$350,000
W40		Archery	Club managed	Construct a small amenities building (with access to power and water)	High	Club	Council	\$200,000
W41		Motorsports	Club managed	The Club has outlined a number of facility upgrades required to retain Speedway Australia Track accreditation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting upgrade Concrete wall and fencing upgrade Power supply upgrade Canteen upgrade. 	Medium	Club		TBD
W42	Sydney Beaches	Outdoor recreation	Council managed	There is a need to formalise Sydney Beaches for recreation use, with signage, seating and picnic tables. It is recommended that a basic concept plan be undertaken to ensure the multiple values of the site are protected and that the space is best utilised	Medium	Council		\$10,000 (concept plan) \$140,000
W43	Targoora Park	Baseball and softball	Council managed	Undertake drainage works across all diamonds and base cut outs to ensure more resilient diamonds	High	Club	Council	\$120,000
W44		Baseball and softball	Council managed	Upgrade lighting on Diamond 1 to meet training standards	High	Club	Council	\$180,000
W45	Tennis across RCoW	Tennis	Various	Undertake a rationalisation process for tennis across the LGA	High	Council		Nil
W46			Various	Nominate under-utilised tennis courts and allow for free public access i.e. Tarrowingee Tennis Courts	High	Clubs/CoM	Council	Operational
W47	Wangaratta Community Gardens	Recreation	Committee managed	Collaborate with the community garden committee to prioritise delivery of projects identified in the Community Gardens Master Plan	High	Committee	Council	Nil
W48	Wangaratta Pony Club and Adult Riding Club facility	Equestrian	Council managed	Construct an additional 20 day yards to meet demand for clinics and rallies	High	Club	Council	\$80,000
W49				Construct a 60m x 20m sand arena to allow for warm-up activities	Medium	Club	Council	\$85,000
W50				Investigate potential opportunities for the facility to be activated as a camping area	Medium	Council	Club	TBD

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendation	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
W51	Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct - Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club	Lawn Bowls	Club managed	Undertake amenities upgrades to increase capacity as well as compliant access	High	Club	Council	\$100,000
W52				Cover the south-west green to provide an all-weather venue	Medium	Club	Council	\$900,000
W53				Open up one of the greens for sports requiring a similar surface i.e. croquet	Medium	Club	Council	Nil
W54				Light at least two of the greens	Medium	Club	Council	\$150,000
W55				Provide a spectator viewing area overlooking the covered green	Medium	Club	Council	\$65,000
W56				Formalise car parking	Medium	Club	Council	\$80,000
W57				Investigate the amalgamation of the Wareena Bowls Club with the Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club	Medium	Council	Club	Nil
W58				Investigate shared amenities for multiple sports	Low	Council		\$300,000
W59	Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct	Various	Council managed	Revisit the Parklands master plan in line with the recommendations of this Strategy	High	Council		\$40,000
W60		AFL and cricket	Council managed	Develop a pavilion to provide suitable ancillary facilities	High	Council	Club	\$800,000
W61		Cricket and AFL	Council managed	Develop female friendly change facilities at WJ Findlay Oval	High	Club	Council	\$500,000
W62		AFL	Council managed	Investigate facility upgrades to accommodate AFL training at the former Rodeo Grounds	High	Club	Council	\$300,000
W63		Cycling	Council Managed	Remove the velodrome at the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct	High	Council		TBD
W64		Pickleball	Council Managed	Redevelop (re-surface) a number of under-utilised tennis courts into at least 8 pickleball courts	High	Clubs (tennis and pickleball)		\$120,000
W65		Table Tennis, Pickleball, Roller sports, Cricket	Council Managed	Develop an indoor sport facility to cater for non-traditional indoor sports including table tennis, pickleball and indoor cricket training (and considerations for other sports including in-line hockey, netball training, roller sports). Opportunity to house 10 table tennis tables and suitable spectator areas and cater for the demand of off-season cricket practice	High	Council	Club	\$40,000 (concept plan)
W66		Cricket	Council managed	Convert Barr 1 to synthetic wicket to cater for the predicted increase in junior participation	Medium	Council		\$10,000
W67		Netball	Council managed	Following the completion of the current upgrades to the Wangaratta Netball Association courts, investigate demand for further court upgrades	Medium	Council		TBD
W68		Active recreation	Council managed	Expand the Wangaratta Skatepark by adding older youth recreation opportunities with additional wheeled sport elements to increase its functionality and appeal	Low	Council		\$150,000
W69	Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct- WSAC	Swimming	Council Managed	Continue to work closely with tenant groups using pool space to ensure equitable access that reflects user demands	High	Council		Nil
W70		Waterpolo	Council managed	There is a need to activate the purpose-built waterpolo pool through actively supporting the development of a local competition at WSAC	High	Council	Clubs	Nil
W71		Basketball	Council managed	Investigate opportunities for partnerships with schools to cater for long-term demand for indoor courts	Medium	Council		Nil

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendation	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
W72	Wareena Park	AFL	Council managed	Facility upgrades to accommodate AFL training including drainage upgrades and development of a second smaller field for training	High	Council		\$380,000
W73		Recreation	Council managed	Upgrade the Park to include intergenerational play and exercise space	High	Council		\$400,000
W74		AFL	Council managed	Develop female friendly change facilities	High	Council		\$500,000
W75		AFL	Council Managed	Should the Wareena Park Bowls Club amalgamate with the Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club, revisit the Wareena Park Master Plan with the potential to utilise the site for AFL training or community garden	Medium	Council		TBD
W76	Wenhams Lane Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Improve the amenity of the park and provide additional plantings for shade	High	Council		\$10,000
W77	Wonga Park	Recreation	Council managed	Retain Wonga Park and look for opportunities to improve drainage, or to further involve the school in the management of the space	Medium	Council		\$40,000 (drainage)
W78	Various	Cricket	Various	Council to work with the District Cricket Association and local schools to formalise arrangements for community use and provision of additional synthetic wickets	Medium	Council		Nil
W79	Various	Cycling	Various	Complete an analysis of cycling infrastructure across the LGA (including feasibility for development of a precinct) and/or suitable locations for an off-road criterium track	High	Club	Council	\$20,000
W80	Various	Mountain biking	Parks Victoria	There is a need to investigate opportunities for mountain biking in close proximity to urban Wangaratta. Discussions with Parks Victoria are encouraged to determine the suitability of their existing trails in key locations such as the Warby-Ovens National Park	High	Council	Club	Nil
W81	Various	Mountain biking	Various	Investigate the King Valley and Mt Pilot National Park as potential areas for further investigation for mountain bike facility given the potential opportunities to build upon the tourism activities being attracted to these locations	High	Club and Council	Council	Nil
W82	Various	AFL	Various	Investigate opportunities for AFL training grounds, including the old Rodeo Grounds	High	Council	Council	Nil
Northern Planning District								
N1	North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve	AFL	Council	Remove the derelict toilet block	High	Council		\$20,000
N2			Council	Develop female friendly change facilities	High	Council	Club	\$500,000
N3			Council	Prepare a site concept plan (that includes consideration of new amenities)	High	Council	Club	\$20,000
N4			Council	Investigate the development of the unused land at the back of the reserve for AFL training	Medium	Council	Club	Nil
N5	Springhurst Recreation Reserve	Tennis	Crown Land	Work with the community to determine a use for the under-utilised tennis courts to improve amenity. A cost-effective method of re-developing one court should be investigated	Medium	CoM		Nil
N6	Boorhaman Recreation Reserve	Various	Crown Land	Investigate the provision of a covered seating area near the barbecue and the play node requires a shade sail	Low	CoM		\$50,000
N7	Boorhaman North Recreation Reserve	Water activities	Crown Land	Investigate the possibility of a boat ramp at the Boorhaman North Recreation Reserve with appropriate bodies	Low	CoM		TBD

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendation	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
Greta Valley Planning District								
GV1	Glenrowan Recreation Reserve	Netball and cricket	Crown Land	Work with the community to determine a use for the under-utilised netball court and cricket practice nets	High	CoM	Council	Nil
GV2		Rugby	Crown Land	Upgrade the lighting to allow night fixtures	Medium	Club and CoM	Council	\$150,000
GV3		League		Install reserve benches	Medium	Club and CoM	Council	\$30,000
GV4		Outdoor recreation	Victorian Fisheries Authority	Work with Victorian Fisheries Authority to improve access to Glenrowan Recreation Reserve Dam for recreational fishers with special mobility needs	High	CoM	Council	Nil
GV5	Glenrowan town	Active recreation	Various	Identify a suitable site within Glenrowan to develop a small scale pump track or youth recreation facility	Medium	Council		TBD
	Greta Recreation Reserve	Tennis	Crown Land	Support the removal of the tennis courts from Greta Recreation Reserve	Medium	CoM		\$10,000
GV6		Recreation	Crown Land	Support the Committee in their desire to add a playground to the Greta Recreation Reserve	Medium	CoM		\$50,000
King Valley Planning District								
KV1	Whitfield Recreation Reserve	Netball	Council managed	Remove the former tennis courts with the potential for development as netball courts if demand exists in the future	Medium	CoM and Council		TBD
KV2	Moyhu Recreation Reserve	Recreation and active recreation	Crown Land	Upgrade the playground at the Moyhu Recreation Reserve including the addition of play elements for older children and inclusive play elements	High	CoM	Council	\$100,000
KV3				Upgrade the electrical capacity to allow for simultaneous field lighting and clubhouse use	High	Club and CoM	Council	\$80,000
KV4				Consider the development of a small-scale pump track at the Moyhu Recreation Reserve	Medium	CoM	Council	\$60,000
KV5		Tennis	Crown Land	Re-build the existing tennis courts	High	Council		\$110,000
KV6		Netball	Crown Land	Construct a second lit netball court	Medium	Club, CoM and Council		\$200,000
KV7				Resurface the original netball court at the end of its useful life	Low	Club, CoM and Council		\$10,000
KV8	Moyhu Bowls Club	Bowls	Council managed	Replace the synthetic green	High	Club	Council	\$400,000
KV9	Moyhu	Active recreation and transport	Various	Develop footpaths to connect town to the Recreation Reserve and to the school	High	Council		\$750,000
KV10	Community halls	Physical activity	Various	Opportunity to utilise Myrree, Cheshunt, Edi Upper, Moyhu and King Valley Community Halls for physical activity programming	Medium	CoM and Council		Nil

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendation	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
Ovens Valley Planning District								
OV1	Tarrawingee	Tennis	Crown Land	Repair two of the tennis courts and allow for free community use	High	CoM		\$40,000
OV2	Tennis Courts			Investigate the use of un-used tennis courts for a wheeled sports precinct (skate, BMX, bikes)	Medium	CoM	Council	Nil
OV3	Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve	AFL	Crown Land	Ensure the facility allows AFL for training	Medium	Club, CoM	Council	Nil
OV4	Everton	Active recreation	Various	Investigate the extension of the Rail Trail along Diffey Road to create a circuit and bring the trail into Everton	Medium	Council		Nil
OV5	Pioneer Bridges Rest Area	Recreation	Council managed	There is a need to formalise Pioneer Bridges Rest Area for recreation use, with signage, seating and picnic tables. It is recommended that a basic concept plan be undertaken to ensure the multiple values of the site are protected and that the space is best utilised	Medium	Council		\$10,000 (concept plan) \$80,000
OV6	Centennial Park	Rugby league	Crown Land	Monitor the growth of the Wolfpack and investigate the development of changeroom facilities. Consider a relocatable building in the short-term	High	Club and CoM	Council	TBD
OV7				Additional storage and minor canteen upgrade	Medium	Club and CoM	Council	\$60,000
Snow Road Planning District								
SR1	Milawa Recreation Reserve	Tennis and netball	Crown Land	Work with the community to determine a use for the under-utilised tennis/netball court	Medium	CoM, Club		Nil
SR2	John McAleese Community Park	Recreation	Committee and Council managed	Relocate the existing barbecue within the park further away from the sound shell to create more free space for community events as well as the installation of a picnic table for barbecue users	High	CoM and Council		\$10,000
SR3	Milawa Public Hall	Recreation	Committee	Develop a trail head for the rail trail at Milawa including the development of a public toilet at the Milawa Public Hall	High	CoM and Council		\$180,000
SR4	Rail Trail	Active recreation	Council managed	Build on the rail trail with an off-road shared path along Kerrs Road, Oxley Flats Road and Sportsground Lane to create a local circuit	Medium	Council		TBD
SR5	Oxley Memorial Park	Active recreation	Council managed	Install bike racks at the Oxley Memorial Park to enhance the user experience for trail users	High	Council		\$3,000
SR6	Oxley Recreation Reserve	Equestrian sports	Crown Land	Install a watering system to suppress dust from the sand arenas	Medium	CoM and Club	Council	\$12,000
SR7				Development of lighting across the sand arenas to allow for greater hours of use during the cooler months and for evening use (when it is cooler) during the hotter months	Medium	CoM and Club	Council	\$85,000
SR8				Consider upgrades to the oval to improve equestrian use	Medium	CoM and Club	Council	\$20,000
SR9				Council could investigate the development of a cover over the large sand arena to create an all-weather facility	Low	CoM and Club	Council	TBD
SR10	Carboor Recreation Reserve	Tennis	Council managed	Consider the removal of the derelict tennis courts at Carboor Recreation Reserve to improve amenity	Low	Council		\$10,000



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Recreation Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2024



Recreation Strategy – Executive Summary

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Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Rural City of Wangaratta acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands, on which the Rural City of Wangaratta communities reside. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and celebrate and respect their continuing cultures. We are committed to walking beside all traditional owners as we move toward reconciliation.



The Rural City of Wangaratta Recreation Strategy
is supported by the Victorian Government



This strategy was developed in
partnership with ROSS planning

Front Cover Image: Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve

Welcome

Welcome

At the Rural City of Wangaratta we believe that everyone should have the opportunity to be active and connected through sport and recreation. We know that public and recreational open space plays a vital role in better health and environmental outcomes for the community, but that there are also important social and economic benefits that also can't be overlooked.

As our community grows and changes, so do our needs in both recreation and the spaces we provide for it. New trends and activities, the changing age of our rural city and the changing climate are all considerations in planning for these facilities.

The Recreation Strategy 2024-2034 is our commitment to our recreational facilities, spaces, parks, playgrounds, and sporting fields. It looks at our municipality as a whole, and incorporates the actions in our master plans, township plans, and rural placemaking strategy. The strategy goes into the detail of the community engagement, community needs, trends in public recreational open space and our legislated requirements that were considered in its development.

This executive summary outlines our approach to managing, developing and activating our recreational spaces. It's our hope it will guide you through the strategy to see the highlights, and what the next decade will bring to the Rural City of Wangaratta.



Brendan McGrath
Chief Executive Officer



Cr Dean Rees
Mayor

Recreation Strategy – Executive Summary

Key Terms

The strategy defines **Open Space** as the over-arching term for sports parks and recreation parks. It includes land and water bodies that are broadly available for public recreation, pedestrian and cycle movement, or sport purposes.

A **Recreation Park** is a setting that provides for informal recreation and social activities that enhance physical and mental health through activity that provides relaxation, amusement or stimulation such as play. A **Sport Park** is designed to primarily support a range of formal structured sport activities such as competitions, physical skill development and training. These parks are designed to accommodate the playing surface and infrastructure requirements of specific sports.

Active Recreation is recreation activities that require physical exertion but are unstructured, that is not part of a competition. **Passive Recreation** encompasses a range of unstructured activities and social interactions undertaken for enjoyment, relaxation, and mental health, with limited physical exertion

A full list of key terms can be found on Page 4 of the Recreation Strategy

Below: Wangaratta Sports & Aquatic Centre



wangaratta.vic.gov.au

Vision & Objectives

Vision: Everyone has the opportunity to be active and connected through sport and recreation.

Mission: Plan and manage our facilities and open spaces to enhance community use, enjoyment and well-being

These are reflected in the Objectives of the Strategy

- Maximising the impact of recreation and open space on health and well-being for residents and visitors
- Consideration of local information and overarching trends (p11-15)
- Place-based recommendations based on best practice and the utilisation of all available data (p46-95)
- Building on existing masterplans and strategies for major reserves and open spaces (pg 8-10)

Principles of Delivery

The following principles underpin the development and delivery of the Recreation and Open Space Strategy:

Partnerships

Working in partnership and collaboratively with organisations and community

- Community groups
- Sporting Clubs
- Land management authorities
- Government Agencies

Equity

Support gender equity and the inclusion of under-represented groups

- Proximity to open space and recreation activities
- Accessibility of facilities and programs for all ages, genders, cultural backgrounds, abilities, socio economic needs
- Following relevant policies, strategies and guidelines with respect to inclusion

Promotion

Promotion of new and existing opportunities in sport and recreation

- Activate existing spaces with innovative programs
- Encourage (and where applicable fund) low cost physical activity programs
- Support developing sports and community clubs to grow

Sustainability

Ensure sustainability in planning, design, delivery and maintenance

- Financial – is the program or facility financially viable for whole of life
- Community – are the community engaged in the facility or program, do the trends show this is a desired recreation activity
- Environmental – does this cater for climate change considerations, is this sound from a biodiversity perspective

Evidence based community need

Using evidence and community need to guide decisions

- Strategic documents
- Current trends
- Community desire
- Standards (facility guidelines, safety regulations)
- Proximity of other facilities
- Cultural considerations, particularly where new infrastructure is being considered

Recreation Strategy – Executive Summary

Key Findings

The Recreation Strategy Project began in April 2023 with the engagement of ROSS Consulting. The development included extensive research and consultation.

- Consultation with the community, key stakeholders and Council (p16-18)
- Review of existing documents, with a particular focus on masterplans already prepared (p8-10)
- Qualitative and quantitative assessment and mapping of existing and potential services, facilities and spaces
- Needs based assessment of priority projects
- Analysis of essential demographic data and future population projections (p11)

Fig 1: Strategy Process

Below: Apex Park



Research & Discovery



Review key documents



Site visits and inspections



Initial Engagement



Community drop-ins and survey



Interviews and meetings



Analysis & Development



Delivery and review of initial draft



Public Exhibition




Community comment and revision




Final Strategy Adoption




Research Findings




Technological Advances



Informal Recreation



Inclusive Parks



Sustainable Spaces

Fig 2: The way we interact with open spaces is changing (pg 12-15)

Engagement Findings


Community Consultation

Surveys


Classroom Workshops

Stakeholder Interviews


Community Meetings



Soccer 19%




Netball 29%




Hockey 16%

Top Sports



Tennis 12%



AFL 21%

Popular Recreation Activities	Walking Bushwalking Gardening	Cycling Playing in the Park
Open Space Highlights	Being in Nature Access to Waterways	Quality Family Time Social Interaction
Top Priorities	Playgrounds Improvements to Water Access	Pathways Fenced Off-lead Dog Parks

Fig 3: Community engagement process and findings. (p16-18)

Recreation Strategy – Executive Summary

Engagement Findings cont.

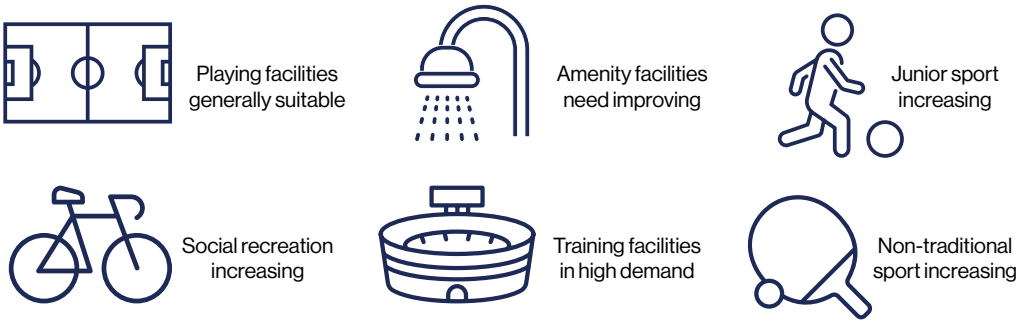


Fig 4: Findings for sport (p30-44)

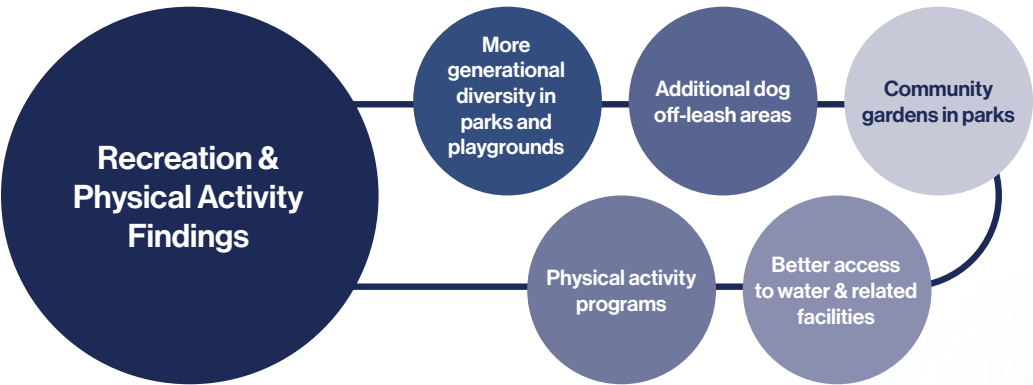


Fig 5: Findings for recreation and physical activity (p29)



Looking Forward

Moving Forward

The Rural City of Wangaratta community currently has access to a broad range of recreation, open space and sport opportunities. The Strategy includes a range of recommendations to meet community demand. Additionally, to assist Council focus park development across a smaller number of parks (whilst maintaining suitable accessibility for residents) a number of parks have been identified for rationalisation.

While this Plan provides Council with strategic direction for the provision of recreation and sport over the next 10 years, further information sharing, consultation and involvement of the community in decision making will be necessary. The recommendations are included in this summary and should be considered in conjunction with the full strategy.



Below: Swinburne Park; Right: Targoora Park



Recreation Strategy – Executive Summary

Action Plan

Overarching Recommendations



Partnerships
Working in partnership and collaboratively with organisations and community

Recommendation	Justification	Priority
Council to commit to engage with relevant organisational stakeholders on the delivery of this Strategy	To ensure broad input into Council decision making including concept planning and detailed design and achieve the best outcomes for each project	High
Ensure standard Council processes are followed in the implementation of this Strategy including consultation, concept planning and design	To ensure quality outcomes and community buy-in	High
Work closely with internal and external partners to ensure mitigation and adaptation to climate change, biodiversity and other environmental outcomes are considered in all facility planning, renewal and development processes	To ensure the relationship between recreation and climate change (climate impacts) is clearly considered	High
Formalise the maintenance of rail trails with relevant stakeholders and community partners	To ensure regular maintenance is carried out and that responsibility is clear	High
Ensure that the Community and Recreation team are included early in planning and development processes	To ensure sport and recreation development reflects a sustainable approach driven by evidence-based demand	High
Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders to ensure there is suitable access to formalised water-based recreation sites	To enhance the recreation opportunities available in line with the high level of community use and desire for supporting infrastructure. The cultural and ecological significance of sites needs to be recognised and protected	High
Determine interest from community groups to lead and maintain the trial of community garden beds. Trial locations could include Wareena Park	In order to increase knowledge and skills in growing fruit and vegetables. Improving nutrition, food security and intergenerational connection	Medium
Encourage physical activity through alternate uses of spaces such as walking sports. Partner with existing sporting clubs and community groups	To encourage participation by those who may not be interested in traditional sports, or where low-impact activities are required	Medium
Continue to support Committees of Management	In order to provide sport and recreation opportunities for the community	Ongoing



Equity

Support gender equity and the inclusion of under represented groups

Recommendation	Justification	Priority
Ensure an equity impact statement is undertaken on new projects as part of the preliminary planning process	To ensure that real and perceived barriers to participation are identified and the planning and design process seeks to overcome these	High
Support the implementation of the fair access policy, including club training and development	To provide clubs with the appropriate tools to support their members and the community	High
Support Inclusive Wangaratta recommendations around sport, physical activity and recreation	To ensure the whole community can access sport, physical activity and recreation opportunities	High



Promotion

Promotion of new and existing opportunities in sport and recreation

Recommendation	Justification	Priority
Develop and deliver an affordable physical activity program (using external providers and partnerships) in parks and community halls across the RCoW	Offering free or low cost activities will not only have physical health benefits but social/mental health benefits for participants. This will also assist to activate parks	High
Promote accessibility to existing public toilets in proximity to key natural areas and river-side walking tracks	To ensure natural area and trail users have close access to amenities	High
Develop and promote a map of bike racks and public toilets	To assist the community in effectively utilising the open space network and pathways	Medium
Initiate the development of a series of up-to date community directories to promote existing spaces, activities and programs within the community. This could include sporting clubs and groups, social and activity groups as well as regular programs and events	To ensure the community are aware of what opportunities exist and improve participation in physical activity	Medium
Develop a map of designated dog off-leash areas and promote to the community	To ensure the community are aware of appropriate off-leash places	Medium

Recreation Strategy – Executive Summary

**Sustainability**

Ensure sustainability in planning, design, delivery and maintenance

Recommendation	Justification	Priority
Incorporate the recommendations into Council's capital and operational works plans	To ensure suitable budget allocations to achieve desired outcomes	High
Ensure sufficient resources are allocated in Council's operational budget for the maintenance of open space	The current allocation falls well-short of providing appropriate maintenance of Council's open space network	High
As more sport and recreation organisations are established and participation continues to grow, Council will require additional staffing	To ensure suitable resources in order to address burgeoning community demand	High
Ensure sports assets are included on Council's asset register for renewals	To ensure suitable funds are available to replace assets at the end of their useful life	High
Ensure climate change and environmental impacts are considered as part of all facility planning, renewal and development processes	To ensure the relationship between recreation and climate change (climate impacts) is clearly considered	High
Council to develop a formal tree planting program for parks and reserves	To provide clear direction on sites to be planted, preferred tree species, management and maintenance of new trees as well as identifying trees at the end of their useful life expectancy	High
In line with Council's Urban Tree Plan, ensure additional planting occurs within the open space network, especially those parks where playground equipment is recommended for removal	To enhance the urban forest canopy and encourage the environmental, social and economic benefits to the community	High
Investigate alternatives to reduce reliance on drinking water for irrigation of public open space	To preserve natural resources	High
Develop and implement a Council landscape document for developer contributed parks	To ensure Council receive appropriate park infrastructure including plant species at handover	Medium
Ensure careful planning of new infrastructure within parks and reserves including pathways and implement tree protection zones in order to protect existing trees	To ensure tree health is maintained both during and after construction	Ongoing
Review the outcomes of the Recreation Strategy every five years	A review ensures the document remains a current working document and meets the changing needs of the community	Ongoing
Actively seek external grants to fund the capital works	Council cannot rely on the parks budget and developer contributions to achieve the breadth of recommendations	Ongoing
Work with North East Catchment Authority and other relevant land managers/owners in the preservation of land along the Ovens River	To improve open space accessibility and connectivity along the waterway	Ongoing



Evidence based community need
Using evidence and community need to guide decisions

Recommendation	Justification	Priority
Review outdoor council managed sports assets to create a plan for maintenance based on the principles of this strategy	To ensure sports courts and facilities are renewed and maintained based on evidence and community need	High
Undertake a review of Council's Playspace Strategy	To reflect the findings of this Strategy and ensure playspaces are diverse and equitable	High
Undertake a review of Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy	To adequately plan and develop necessary walk and cycle projects and their supporting infrastructure in line with demand	High
Continue to support the directions of key Council master plans including Parklands Master Plan, Wareena Park Master Plan and Merriwa Park Master Plan	To ensure key Council and community priorities are progressed	High
Undertake an investigation into suitable sites to house a second soccer facility (two to four fields) as well as a hockey pitch (one pitch and capacity for training area)	To assess current infrastructure conditions and ensure a sustainable approach to current and future provision	High
Undertake an asset condition and demand audit for all hard courts across the LGA	To assess current infrastructure conditions and ensure a sustainable approach to current and future provision	High
Investigate the provision of additional dog off-leash areas across the LGA (particularly Rangeview Park and Burns Reserve)	To ensure equitable provision of facilities	High
Complete an analysis of cycling infrastructure across the LGA	To determine the feasibility for cycling infrastructure including the development of a precinct	High

Below: Wangaratta Skatepark



Action Plan

Venue Specific Recommendations

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendations	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
Urban Wangaratta								
W1	Apex Park	Recreation	Council managed	Remove the CFA training area and replace with interpretive signage about the historical use of the site	Medium	Council		\$25,000
W2	Avian Park	AFL	Crown Land	Facility upgrades to accommodate AFL training - currently managed by a Committee of Management, could investigate coming under Council management	Medium	CoM and Council		\$100,000
W3	Baltimore Park	Recreation	Council managed	Install a soccer goal or re-bound wall to enhance recreation opportunities for an older age group	High	Council		\$5,000
W4	Baroona Court Playground	Recreation	Council managed	Install shade over the playground and seek to diversify the age range of the recreation experience by developing an element for older children/youth	High	Council		\$50,000
W5	Bill Eaton Reserve	Athletics and soccer	Council managed	Master Plan the site with the intent to replace and widen the long jump run up to allow for a 100m synthetic sprint/warm-up surface. The shot put and discus pits require repair/upgrade. Improve the interior grass surface and source portable soccer goals for training	Medium	Council	Club	\$30,000 (MP)
W6	Bindall Avenue Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Upgrade the toilets and install an older children's playground in Bindall Avenue Reserve following the removal of equipment at the adjoining Kwanis Park	High	Council		\$100,000
W7		AFL	Council managed	Lighting installation to allow for junior training in summer and winter	Medium	Council		\$250,000
W8	Brien Crescent Park	Recreation	Council managed	Seek to diversify the age range of the recreation experience by developing an element for older children/youth i.e. climbing structure, monkey bars etc.	Medium	Council		\$50,000
W9	Bullawah Cultural Trail	Recreation	Council	Work with the Bangerang community to expand the Bullawah Trail with additional cultural elements including artwork, interpretive signage and AV elements in order to share stories	High	Council		\$25,000 (initial planning)

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendations	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
Urban Wangaratta								
W10	Burke Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Diversify the recreation opportunities at Burke Reserve to cater for older children and youth	Medium	Council		\$50,000
W11	Burns Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Investigate opportunities to rationalise play equipment and create a fenced off-leash dog park	Medium	Council		\$25,000
W12	Cathedral College	Hockey	School land	Temporary lighting towers to be installed to allow night hockey training	High	Club and School		TBD
W13				Council to lead conversations with Cathedral College and the Club to investigate opportunities for a temporary building (with amenities and changerooms) to be placed near to the pitch	Medium	Club and Council		TBD
W14	Dalton Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Seek to diversify the age range of the recreation experience by developing an element for older children/youth	Medium	Council		\$50,000
W15	Dundas Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Investigate opportunities to preserve Dundas Reserve for passive recreation (including additional planting in line with the Urban Tree Plan at the end of asset useful life)	High	Council		\$10,000
W16	Evalyn Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Remove the play equipment at the end of its useful life and investigate opportunities to rationalise the park or maintain as an amenity park i.e. additional plantings	High	Council		TBD
W17	Frank Garth Reserve	Outdoor Recreation	Council managed	There is a need to formalise Frank Garth Reserve with signage, seating, picnic tables and designated car parking areas. This site also lends itself to the installation of a floating pontoon for canoe/kayak launching. It is recommended that a basic concept plan be undertaken to ensure the multiple values of the site are protected and that the space is best utilised	Medium	Council and Water Corporation		\$140,000 (Pontoon TBD)
W18	Jaycees Park	Recreation	Council managed	Diversify play opportunities at Jaycees Park	Low	Council		\$50,000
W19	Kendall and Orange Court Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Diversify the recreation opportunities at Kendall and Orange Court Reserve to cater for older children and youth	Medium	Council		\$50,000
W20	King George V Gardens	Recreation	Council managed	Undertake a master planning process with the local community to confirm the Park's future direction, whilst maintaining the parks intent as a formal garden and amenity park	Medium	Council		\$25,000
W21	Kiwanis Park	Recreation	Council managed	Investigate opportunities to rationalise the equipment from Kiwanis Park and improve amenity through plantings, seating and informal recreation opportunities. The addition of play equipment for older children should be installed at the adjoining Bindall Avenue Reserve	High	Council		\$15,000

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendations	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
Urban Wangaratta								
W22	Merriwa Park	Tennis, pickleball and croquet	Council managed	Provision of all-abilities access to the clubhouse	High	Club	Council	\$20,000
W23				Upgrade amenities to support all-abilities access	High	Club	Council	\$20,000
W24				Replacement of court fencing with black plastic-coated fencing	Medium	Club	Council	\$120,000
W25				Car park resurfacing	Medium	Club	Council	\$140,000
W26		Recreation	Council managed	Investigate the removal of the sound shell	Medium	Council		TBD
W27		Tennis	Crown Land	Remove the old tennis courts	Medium	Club CoM and Council		\$10,000
W28		Recreation	Council managed	Upgrade the playground at the end of its useful life with more diverse play elements catering for toddlers, young children and youth	Medium	Council		\$250,000
W29	Mitchell Avenue Reserve	Active recreation	Council managed	Investigate the provision of a public toilet and drinking water at the skate park	Medium	Council		\$200,000
W30	Murdoch Reserve	Active recreation	Council managed	For the outdoor fitness equipment, consider running 'how to use' sessions for the community. Provision of QR Codes linking people with how to use the equipment is also recommended	Medium	Council		TBD Operational
W31		Recreation	Council managed	Remove the swing set and spring toy from Murdoch Park and increase plantings for amenity	High	Council		\$10,000
W32		Outdoor recreation	Council managed	There is a need to formalise the recreation use of the Northern Beaches, with signage, seating, picnic tables. It is recommended that a basic concept plan be undertaken to ensure the multiple values of the site are protected and that the space is best utilised	Medium	Council		\$10,000 (concept plan) \$140,000
W33	North West Growth Area - Greenfield site	Rectangular Sports	Council managed	Master plan and develop the greenfield sports site to accommodate rectangular sports (preference for soccer and hockey) - soccer requires 2-4 fields, one 11 synthetic hockey pitch, future area for hockey training, a central clubhouse, spectator facilities and suitable car parking	High	Council and Club		\$30,000 (MP)
W34	Pelican Court Park	Recreation	Council managed	Install additional play equipment such as a climbing net and increase plantings	Low	Council		\$10,000
W35	Rangeview Park	Recreation	Council managed	Investigate opportunities to develop a fenced dog off-leash and rationalise area within the linear section of the park that runs behind the houses	Medium	Council		\$25,000
W36	Ryan Reserve - Apex Road Safety School	Recreation	Lions Club	Investigate the opportunity to open the facility for free public use on a regular basis	High	Council and Lions		N/A

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendations	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
Urban Wangaratta								
W37	Sadler Reserve/ One Mile Creek Outdoor Gym equipment	Recreation	Council managed	Monitor usage of outdoor gym equipment and consider running 'how to' sessions for the community. The addition of QR codes to connect users with instructional videos on the equipment is also recommended	High	Council		TBD Operational
W38	South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve	All Sports	Council managed	Undertake a master plan to ensure the site meets future demand and user needs (including consideration of a new clubhouse and junior synthetic practice pitch for soccer)	High	Council		\$25,000
W39		Soccer	Council managed	Undertake field upgrades to the two southern fields (irrigation upgrades, drainage upgrades and surface upgrades)	High	Council	Club	\$340,000
W40				Install lighting to the main field	High	Council	Club	\$350,000
W41		Archery	Club managed	Construct a small amenities building (with access to power and water)	High	Club	Council	\$200,000
W42		Motorsports	Club managed	The Club has outlined a number of facility upgrades required to retain Speedway Australia Track accreditation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting upgrade • Concrete wall and fencing upgrade • Power supply upgrade • Carrievan upgrade 	Medium	Club		TBD
W43	Sydney Beaches	Outdoor Recreation	Club managed	There is a need to formalise Sydney Beaches for recreation use, with signage, seating and picnic tables. It is recommended that a basic concept plan be undertaken to ensure the multiple values of the site are protected and that the space is best utilised	Medium	Council		\$10,000 (Concept Plan) \$140,000
W44	Targoora Park	Baseball and softball	Club managed	Undertake drainage works across all diamonds and base cut outs to ensure more resilient diamonds	High	Club	Council	\$120,000
W45		Baseball and softball	Club managed	Upgrade lighting on Diamond 1 to meet training standards	High	Club	Council	\$180,000
W46	Tennis across RCoW	Tennis	Various	Undertake a rationalisation process for tennis across the LGA	High	Council		N/A
W47			Various	Nominate under-utilised tennis courts and allow for free public access i.e. Tarravongee Tennis Courts	High	Clubs/CoM	Council	Operational
W48	Wangaratta Community Gardens	Recreation	Committee managed	Collaborate with the community garden committee to prioritise delivery of projects identified in the Community Gardens Master Plan	High	Committee	Council	N/A

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendations	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
Urban Wangaratta								
W49	Wangaratta Pony Club and Adult Riding Club facility	Equestrian	Club managed	Construct an additional 20 day yards to meet demand for clinics and rallies	High	Club	Council	\$80,000
W50				Construct a 60m x 20m sand arena to allow for warm-up activities	Medium	Club	Council	\$85,000
W51				Investigate potential opportunities for the facility to be activated as a camping area	Medium	Council	Club	TBD
W52	Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct - Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club	Lawn Bowls	Club managed	Undertake amenities upgrades to increase capacity as well as compliant access	High	Club	Council	\$100,000
W53				Cover the south-west green to provide an all-weather venue	Medium	Club	Council	\$900,000
W54				Open up one of the greens for sports requiring a similar surface ie. croquet	Medium	Club	Council	Nil
W55				Light at least two of the greens	Medium	Club	Council	\$150,000
W56				Provide a spectator viewing area overlooking the covered green	Medium	Club	Council	\$65,000
W57				Formalise car parking	Medium	Club	Council	\$80,000
W58				Investigate the amalgamation of the Wareena Bowls Club with the Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club	Medium	Council	Club	Nil
W59				Investigate shared amenities for multiple sports	Low	Council		\$300,000
W60	Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct	Various	Council Managed	Revisit the Parklands master plan in line with the recommendations of this Strategy	High	Council		\$40,000
W61		AFL and Cricket	Council Managed	Develop a pavilion to provide suitable ancillary facilities	High	Council	Club	\$800,000
W62		Cricket and AFL	Council Managed	Develop female friendly change facilities at WJ Findlay Oval	High	Club	Council	\$500,000
W63		AFL	Council Managed	Investigate facility upgrades to accommodate AFL training at the former Rodeo Grounds	High	Club	Council	\$300,000
W64		Cycling	Council Managed	Remove the velodrome at the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct	High	Council		TBD
W65		Pickleball	Council Managed	Redevelop (re-surface) a number of under-utilised tennis courts into at least 8 pickleball courts	High	Clubs (tennis and pickleball)		\$120,000

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendations	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
Urban Wangaratta								
W66	Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct cont.	Table Tennis, Pickleball, Roller sports, Cricket	Council Managed	Develop an indoor sport facility to cater for non-traditional indoor sports including table tennis, pickleball and indoor cricket training (and considerations for other sports including in-line hockey, netball training, roller sports). Opportunity to house 10 table tennis tables and suitable spectator areas and cater for the demand of off-season cricket practice	High	Council	Club	\$40,000 (concept plan)
W67		Cricket	Council Managed	Convert Barr 1 to synthetic wicket to cater for the predicted increase in junior participation	Medium	Council		\$10,000
W68		Netball	Council Managed	Following the completion of the current upgrades to the Wangaratta Netball Association courts, investigate demand for further court upgrades	Medium	Council		TBD
W69		Active Recreation	Council Managed	Expand the Wangaratta Skatepark by adding older youth recreation opportunities with additional wheeled sport elements to increase its functionality and appeal	Low	Council		\$150,000
W70	Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct – WSAC	Swimming	Council Managed	Continue to work closely with tenant groups using pool space to ensure equitable access that reflects user demands	High	Council		Nil
W71		Water polo	Council Managed	There is a need to activate the purpose-built water polo pool through actively supporting the development of a local competition at WSAC	High	Council	Club	Nil
W72		Basketball	Council Managed	Investigate opportunities for partnerships with schools to cater for long-term demand for indoor courts	Medium	Council		Nil
W73	Wareena Park	AFL	Council Managed	Facility upgrades to accommodate AFL training including drainage upgrades and development of a second smaller field for training	High	Council		\$380,000
W74		Recreation	Council Managed	Upgrade the Park to include intergenerational play and exercise space	High	Council		\$400,000
W75		AFL	Council Managed	Develop female friendly change facilities	High	Council		\$500,000
W76		AFL	Council Managed	Should the Wareena Park Bowls Club amalgamate with the Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club revisit the Wareena Park Master Plan with the potential to utilise the site for AFL training or community garden	Medium	Council		TBD
W77	Wenhams Lane Reserve	Recreation	Council Managed	Improve the amenity of the park and provide additional plantings for shade	High	Council		\$10,000

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendations	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
Urban Wangaratta								
W78	Wonga Park	Recreation	Council Managed	Retain Wonga Park and look for opportunities to improve drainage, or to further involve the school in the management of the space	Medium	Council		\$40,000 (drainage)
W79	Various	Cricket	Various	Council to work with the District Cricket Association and local schools to formalise arrangements for community use and provision of additional synthetic wickets	Medium	Council		N/A
W80	Various	Cycling	Various	Complete an analysis of cycling infrastructure across the LGA (including feasibility for development of a precinct) and/or suitable locations for an off-road criterium track	High	Club	Council	\$20,000
W81	Various	Mountain Biking	Parks Victoria	There is a need to investigate opportunities for mountain biking in close proximity to urban Wangaratta. Discussions with Parks Victoria are encouraged to determine the suitability of their existing trails in key locations such as the Warby-Ovens National Park	High	Council	Club	N/A
W82	Various	Mountain Biking	Various	Investigate the King Valley and Mt Pilot National Park as potential areas for further investigation for mountain bike facility given the potential opportunities to build upon the tourism activities being attracted to these locations	High	Club and Council	Council	N/A
W83	Various	AFL	Various	Investigate opportunities for AFL training grounds, including the old Rodeo Grounds	High	Council	Council	N/A
Northern Planning District								
N1	North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve	AFL	Council	Remove the derelict toilet block	High	Council		\$20,000
N2			Council	Develop female friendly change facilities	High	Council	Club	\$500,000
N3			Council	Prepare a site concept plan (that includes consideration of new amenities)	High	Council	Club	\$20,000
N4			Council	Investigate the development of the unused land at the back of the reserve for AFL training	Medium	Council	Club	N/A
N5	Springhurst Recreation Reserve	Tennis	Crown Land	Work with the community to determine a use for the under-utilised tennis courts to improve amenity. A cost-effective method of re-developing one court should be investigated	Medium	CoM		N/A
N6	Boorhaman Recreation Reserve	Various	Crown Land	Investigate the provision of a covered seating area near the barbecue and the play node requires a shade sail	Low	CoM		\$50,000
N7	Boorhaman Recreation Reserve	Water Activities	Crown Land	Investigate the possibility of a boat ramp at the Boorhaman North Recreation Reserve with appropriate bodies	Low	CoM		TBD

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendations	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
Greta Valley Planning District								
GV1	Glenrowan Recreation Reserve	Netball and Cricket	Crown Land	Work with the community to determine a use for the under-utilised netball court and cricket practice nets	High	CoM	Council	N/A
GV2		Rugby League	Crown Land	Upgrade the lighting to allow night fixtures	Medium	Council and CoM	Council	\$150,000
GV3				Install reserve benches	Medium	Council and CoM	Council	\$30,000
GV4		Outdoor Recreation	Victorian Fisheries Authority	Work with Victorian Fisheries Authority to improve access to Glenrowan Recreation Reserve Dam for recreational fishers with special mobility needs	High	CoM	Council	N/A
GV5	Glenrowan town	Active Recreation	Various	Identify a suitable site within Glenrowan to develop a small scale pump track or youth recreation facility	Medium	Council		TBD
GV6	Greta Recreation Reserve	Tennis	Crown Land	Support the removal of the tennis courts from Greta Recreation Reserve	Medium	CoM		\$10,000
GV7		Recreation	Crown Land	Support the Committee in their desire to add a playground to the Greta Recreation Reserve	Medium	CoM		\$50,000
King Valley Planning District								
KV1	Whitfield Recreation Reserve	Recreation and active recreation	Council Managed	Remove the former tennis courts with the potential for development as netball courts if demand exists in the future	Medium	CoM and Council		TBD
KV2	Moyhu Recreation Reserve		Crown Land	Upgrade the playground at the Moyhu Recreation Reserve including the addition of play elements for older children and inclusive play elements	High	CoM	Council	\$100,000
KV3				Upgrade the electrical capacity to allow for simultaneous field lighting and clubhouse use	High	Club and CoM	Council	\$80,000
KV4				Consider the development of a small-scale pump track at the Moyhu Recreation Reserve	Medium	CoM	Council	\$60,000
KV5		Tennis	Crown Land	Re-surface the existing tennis courts (that were poorly constructed)	High	Council		\$20,000
KV6		Netball	Crown Land	Construct a second lit netball court	Medium	Club, CoM and Council		\$200,000
KV7			Crown Land	Re-surface the original netball court at the end of its useful life	Low	Club, CoM and Council		\$10,000
KV8	Moyhu Bowls Club	Bowls	Council Managed	Replace the synthetic green	High	Club	Council	\$400,000
KV9	Moyhu Lions Park	Recreation	Council Managed	Oversee the planning of Lions Park to ensure cohesive and planned approach to any future infrastructure upgrades or additions	High	Council		N/A

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendations	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
King Valley Planning District								
KV10	Moyhu	Active recreation and transport	Various	Develop footpaths to connect town to the Recreation Reserve and to the school	High	Council		\$750,000
KV11	Community Halls	Physical Activity	Various	Opportunity to utilise Myrhee, Cheshunt, Edli Upper, Moyhu and King Valley Community Halls for physical activity programming	Medium	CoM and Council		N/A
Ovens Valley Planning District								
OV1	Tarrawingee Tennis Courts	Tennis	Crown Land	Repair two of the tennis courts and allow for free community use	High	CoM		\$40,000
OV2				Investigate the use of un-used tennis courts for a wheeled sports precinct (skate, BMX, bikes)	Medium	CoM	Council	N/A
OV3	Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve	AFL	Crown Land	Ensure the facility allows AFL for training	Medium	Club, CoM	Council	N/A
OV4	Everton	Active Recreation	Various	Investigate the extension of the Rail Trail along Diffey Road to create a circuit and bring the trail into Everton	Medium	Council		N/A
OV5	Pioneer Bridges Rest Area	Recreation	Crown Managed	There is a need to formalise Pioneer Bridges Rest Area for recreation use, with signage, seating and picnic tables. It is recommended that a basic concept plan be undertaken to ensure the multiple values of the site are protected and that the spaces best utilised	Medium	Council		\$10,000 (concept plan) \$80,000
OV6	Centennial Park	Rugby League	Crown Land	Monitor the growth of the Wolfpack and investigate the development of changeroom facilities. Consider a relocatable building in the short-term	High	Club and CoM	Council	TBD
OV7				Additional storage and minor canteen upgrade	Medium	Club and CoM	Council	\$60,000
Snow Road Planning District								
SR1	Milawa Recreation Reserve	Tennis and Netball	Crown Land	Work with the community to determine a use for the under-utilised tennis/netball court	Medium	Club, CoM		N/A
SR2	John McAleese Community Park	Recreation	Committee and Council Managed	Relocate the existing barbecue within the park further away from the sound shell to create more free space for community events as well as the installation of a picnic table for barbecue users	High	CoM and Council		\$10,000
SR3	Milawa Public Hall	Recreation	Committee	Develop a trail head for the rail trail at Milawa including the development of a public toilet at the Milawa Public Hall	High	CoM and Council		\$180,000
SR4	Rail Trail	Active Recreation	Council Managed	Build on the rail trail with an off-road shared path along Kerrs Road, Oxley Flats Road and Sportsground Lane to create a local circuit	Medium	Council		TBD

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendations	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
Snow Road Planning District								
SR5	Oxley Memorial Park	Active Recreation	Council Managed	Install bike racks at the Oxley Memorial Park to enhance the user experience for trail users	High	Council		\$3,000
SR6	Oxley Recreation Reserve	Equestrian Sports	Crown Land	Install a watering system to suppress dust from the sand arenas	Medium	CoM and Club	Council	\$12,000
SR7				Development of lighting across the sand arenas to allow for greater hours of use during the cooler months and for evening use (when it is cooler) during the hotter months	Medium	CoM and Club	Council	\$85,000
SR8				Consider upgrades to the oval to improve equestrian use	Medium	CoM and Club	Council	\$20,000
SR9	Carboor Recreation Reserve	Tennis	Council Managed	Council could investigate the development of a cover over the large sand arena to create an all-weather facility	Low	CoM and Club	Council	TBD
SR10				Consider the removal of the derelict tennis courts at Carboor Recreation Reserve to improve amenity	Low	Council		\$10,000



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Key Change	Reason
Change of name to Recreation Strategy	Removal of Open Space allows for a focus on active recreation, and the use of open spaces for recreation. While Open Spaces are popular for recreational pursuits, their development and maintenance are more closely aligned with environmental and horticultural concerns and as such would benefit from their own focussed strategy should those teams deem that appropriate.
Emphasise commitment to working with internal and external partners to ensure mitigation and adaptation for climate change, biodiversity and other environmental outcomes are considered in all new and renewed facilities (perhaps this would sit well in the section about council planning processes). In overall recommendations add in a recommendation about considering mitigation of climate and environmental considerations as part of planning process for renewal and new facilities	Agree that climate change is important to include, however do not see this strategy as the place to individually analyse the climate impact of every recreational activity. The individual projects need to be analysed as they go through the normal Council planning processes.
Ensure wording is strengthened around Council following standard processes before implementing any of these recommendations - consultation, design, environmental	Quite a few different feedback pieces showed concern that the recommendations in this strategy would automatically be rolled out based only on this strategy
Changing of wording on Dundas St Reserve to remove 'rationalisation' and better reflect the intention to keep the parkland as a passive recreation space at the end of the life of the playground equipment.	A lot of feedback for this one, based on a lack of confidence that rationalisation does not mean selling.
Indoor facility to include specific reference to the inclusion of roller sports	Worthwhile providing a space for roller sports in the mix of indoor non-traditional sports
Recommendation for audit of hardcourts across the whole LGA	There is a need for an audit of conditions and useful life of our courts, including planning for future repair / replacement / removal
Include sailing in sport summary	An oversight, due to lack of contribution in initial stages of consultation
Include Wangaratta Equestrian Centre	An oversight, due to lack of contribution in initial stages of consultation
Recommendation for a North Wangaratta Reserve mini masterplan	Recognition that Council have only just taken over management of this precinct and while the oval and courts are great, the facilities in the whole area need to be planned for.
Change of priority for recommendation regarding investigating cycling infrastructure needs	Changed to high priority to reflect the need to support the Wangaratta Cycling Club after the removal of the Velodrome



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Minutes

Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Meeting

5:30pm Wednesday 3 April 2024

Gallery 2 | Wangaratta Art Gallery, 56 Ovens Street, Wangaratta

Chair – Cr Dave Fuller

Attendees

Cr Dave Fuller, Cr Irene Grant (6.23pm), Pam Procter, Margaret Pullen, Margaret Brickhill, Rachel Vallender, Tim Dickinson, Marc Bongers

Council Officers

Simone Nolan, Acting Director Sustainability and Culture
Rachel Arndt, Wangaratta Art Gallery Director

Apologies

Fran O'Neil
Stephen Swart, Director Sustainability and Culture
Elisha Naish, Events and Attractions Coordinator
Loueen Twyford, Wangaratta Library Coordinator
Rachel Harrop, Youth Development Officer
Brady Sharp, Youth Resilience Coordinator
Tanya Camplin, Acting Manager Arts, Culture and Events

Conflict of Interest Declarations

Nil

Welcome

Acknowledgment

Agenda Item

Previous Minutes

Review of previous minutes (from meeting held 5/2/24)
Business arising / actions from previous minutes (February 2024)
Accept previous minutes

DF suggested an offline session to creatively map the connections – base map of Wangaratta and where the groups are.

ACTION: A Wednesday in May to be coordinated with group. TD offered venue.

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SN update on Arts and Culture Strategy development
RCoW budget very tight for 2024/25, savings need to be made

SN some baseline work on the A&C strategy can be done internally, without a full revision.
Community consultation would need to be done.

ACTION: SN will look at possibility of what can be done and bring to the group next meeting.

Changes in ACE – SN as Acting Director, Sustainability and Culture, TC as Acting Manager, ACE. Back to substantive roles end of April.

MP moved
MB seconded

Galley Update – Rachel Arndt

Tour of new Gallery Collection store and back of house areas
Overview of current & future 2024 Exhibitions

The committee toured the new back of house areas including the new collection store with industry standard racking and shelving for safety and preservation of artwork.

RA gave short update on the current and upcoming exhibition program.

Highlights include upcoming solo presentation of work by local artist Fran O'Neill who has moved back to the region permanently following years overseas and a significant international career.

At the end of the year the gallery will present a collaboration between Hannah Gartside and Britt Salt, both innovative textile artists who have been featured numerous times in the Wangaratta Contemporary Textile Awards. The exhibition will recontextualise works held in the collection alongside new works, tracing the development of each artist's practice and their shared interests.

Next gallery opening *Petite Miniature Textiles* 2024 and Shadow Murmurs, Friday 3 May.

Creative Precinct Project Detailed Design Phase – Simone Nolan

Design story
Draft renders
Timeline & next steps

SN presented background to the project and the visualisations developed by Sibling Architecture as part of the detail design phase for the new creative precinct.

Application currently under consideration through Growing Regions for Stage 1 – make gallery good. Next stage will be the full gallery redevelopment, which has the greater need and expense. Precincts funding will become available for application later in the year.

Plans currently under embargo. Planning application will be submitted later this month and plan will be open for public feedback.

Comments and discussion about wayfinding, access to kitchen facilities, busking spaces, and around fundraising for new precinct.

Follow up actions and conversations from February meeting: How do we grow arts & culture in our community? – Cr Fuller & Cr Grant

Community directory
Wangaratta CBD Masterplan & Township Plans
Map personal connections
Creative Strategy development - motion by Cr Fuller & Cr Grant

Further discussion on meeting to map personal art and creative connections.

ACTION: offline date to be sought to do some personal connections mapping. TD offered space. Date to be suggested. Second or third Wednesday of May. Review Indigo council arts strategy.

General ACE Update – Simone Nolan

Presentation of Business Unit Report
Highlights from Report

SN provided update on ACE activities including:

- Prosecco Road Public Art development progressing. Consulting with Oxley Residents Association, Oxley School community, Moyhu Action Group.
- Murray to Mountains Public Art Trail coordinated by Tourism North East. Public art developed through this project will be donated to RCoW.
- Meetings with the Wangaratta Historical Society re long term loan of Marian Gibson Quilt. AGM held and members working through any concerns.

General Business – Cr Fuller
General Questions / Matters

TD asked for update on library funding. State government has announced that library and arts funding will be cut.

SN explained RCoW part of high country library network. Already cuts have been evident. RCoW's funding hasn't changed but we rely on state government to maintain High Country network.

ACTION: SN to check with council governance (Andrew Scoffern) if Advisory Committee can write to state government to advocate for arts and culture, including libraries and report back.

MB noted that Wangaratta Arts Council committee has recently experienced a loss of members. GANEAA has offered to assist with programming. AGM will be coming up. Committee to assist in promotion to potential new members.

GANEAA exhibition at Bainz Gallery on wetlands and grass trees.

DF at Wangaratta Art Society easter exhibition opening and Auckland Art Gallery exhibition of Japanese textile work.

Wangaratta Jazz Festival new board working to resurrect the event.

SN applied for funding to enhance signage to and seating on Bullawah Cultural Trail.

ACTION: Discuss Peter and Gita's contribution to the arts in Wangaratta at next meeting.

Next Meeting

Monday 3 June 2024 - 5.30-7.30pm

Meeting Closure

Meeting closed at 7.42pm

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