



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Agenda

For the Scheduled Council Meeting
Council Chambers, Municipal Offices
62-68 Ovens Street, Wangaratta
6pm 25 February 2025

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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 to Country

We acknowledge 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..

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 Meeting of 10 December 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 Council Plan Actions and Indicators Quarter 2 (October - December 2024)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	25 February 2025
Category:	Operational
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 presents the 2024-25 Quarter 2 (October – December 2024) update for the Council Plan Strategic Indicators and Actions.

Recommendation:

That Council:

- Notes the Quarter 2 (2024-25) results for the Council Plan 2021-2025 Strategic Indicators and Actions as contained in the attached reports.

Background

Council Plan Actions

185 Council Plan Actions are to be completed during the 2024-25 financial year (**Attachment 1**). As this is the final year of the current Council Plan 2021-25, more emphasis will be placed on those items not reported as Completed or On Track.

As at the end of Quarter 2: 15 actions were recorded as complete; 165 actions as on track; and 4 actions as on hold, pending, off track or cancelled (see table below).

The items reported as on hold, pending or off track include the below (please refer to specific commentary in **Attachment 2**):

Action	Update
1.3.1.2 Advocate for the community by participating on the Regional Mental Health and Wellbeing Boards	Council was advocating for membership on the Regional Mental Health and Wellbeing Boards but these Boards are managed by the State Government and no longer exist.

2.2.4.4 Finalise the Municipal Early Years Plan.	The Municipal Early Years Plan is in development with the new completion date December 2025.
5.1.3.4 Develop a Traffic Management Plan to improve vehicle traffic flow throughout the central business district, including both short-term and long-term solutions.	A full review of previous work undertaken is to be completed. There are limited options with poor ROI. Council is proposing a town bypass as a long-term solution.
5.4.1.1 Expand the provision of street lighting throughout key pedestrian and cyclist routes.	An audit is currently being undertaken for our current street lighting infrastructure. This will help build a 5-year renewal program and also help identify locations with little to no lighting to be addressed.

Strategic Indicators

There are also 12 Strategic Indicators that can be reported on a quarterly basis. As at the end of Quarter 2, 8 were reported as meeting or exceeding the year-to-date target (within 5%) (**Attachment 3**). Pleasingly, the number of indicators meeting/exceeding the year-to-date target has increased significantly from previous years (8 currently compared with 5 and 6 in 2023/24).

The 4 Strategic Indicators not within 5% of the quarterly target were:

5.0.7 Active library borrowers within the municipality (YTD 5.96% - Target 14%) (note that this is no longer an official Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) measure)
 - *This is a cumulative figure and won't be final until June 2025. Expect to get close to the target by the end of the financial year.*

6.0.1 Annual number of building permits issued for new dwellings (YTD 36 – Target 75)

Commentary received

- *This is subject to wider building activity and available staff resources.*

6.0.3 Planning applications made within required timeframes (Actual YTD 64.33% - Target 82%)

- *This is subject to the efficiency of both Council and the applicant. The number has improved from quarter 1 and further improvement expected in quarter 3.*

6.0.4 Planning application processing days (Actual YTD 72.67 – Target 55)

- *This is subject to the efficiency of both Council and the applicant. Improving on this remains a focus. Some improvement seen compared to quarter 1.*

Implications

Policy Considerations

There are no specific Council policies or strategies that relate to this report.

Financial/Economic Implications

There are no financial or economic implications identified for the subject of this report. Funding to deliver the actions in the Council Plan has been allocated via council's Annual Budget.

Legal/Statutory

The obligation to report on progress of delivery of the actions and priorities set out in the Council Plan actions is prescribed by the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Social and Diversity

The intended social benefits from delivering these actions are outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The intended environmental/sustainability benefits from delivering these actions are also outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25.

Strategic Links**Council Plan 2021 – 2025**

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan by providing an update on the organisation's progress in implementing its actions.

Risk Management

Council risks a reputational failure by failing to adequately monitor and deliver its key objectives. By the regular reporting of its Strategic Indicators and Actions, Council can ensure the appropriate level of monitoring and transparency occurs to mitigate this risk.

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Failure to proactively monitor Council's progress against it's Council Plan	2 – Unlikely	Moderate	5 – Medium	Schedule a standing bi-annual Council Meeting report.

Consultation/Communication

Council Plan actions are being progressively implemented by the appropriate officers across the organisation. The status of Council Plan actions and strategic indicators are reported to the executive management team and Audit & Risk Committee on a quarterly basis alongside other regular updates.

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



Options for Consideration

There are no options for consideration.

Conclusion

The attached reports provide the community with an appropriate level of transparency on the progress of council's delivery against the actions and commitments set out in the Council Plan 2021-25.

Attachments

- 1 Completed and On Track Council Plan Actions 2024-25 - Quarter 2  
- 2 Off Track & Cancelled Council Plan Actions 2024-25 - Quarter 2  
- 3 Strategic Indicators 2024-25 - Quarter 2  

13.2 2024/2025 Quarter 2 Forecast Review

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	25 February 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Management Reporting Coordinator
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 provide an update of Council's financial performance and anticipated full year financial position based on developments over Quarter Two of this financial year.

Recommendation:

That Council approves the 2024/2025 Quarter 2 Forecast Review, including:

1. The increase in the projected full year accounting surplus from \$13.41m to \$14.80m.
2. The increase in capital works expenditure by \$450k to \$31.93m.
3. The Environmental Upgrade Agreement quarterly statement.

Background

Council has completed its second quarter financial reporting process to manage and monitor its financial performance against the 2024/25 Budget.

Council's 2024/25 Quarter 2 Forecast Report indicates increases to the forecast full year Accounting Surplus of \$1.39m and a decrease to the Adjusted Underlying Operating Result by \$142k. This is primarily driven by accounting recognition of unearned revenue relating to Capital Projects and the reduction of user fees at the Bowser Landfill.

Implications

Financial/Economic Implications Quarter 2 Forecast Review:

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 \$1.39m largely due to accounting recognition of unearned revenue adjustments relating to capital grants. These funds have been largely received however the timing of its recognition is tied to the completion of works delivery.

Council's capital works expenditure has increased from \$31.48m to \$31.93m, a net increase of \$450k. The increase can be largely attributed to expansion of the Flood Mitigation Strategy & Design program by \$367k.

Rural City of Wangaratta	FY24/25 Adopted Budget	FY24/25 Projected Full Year Forecast as at September	FY24/25 Projected Full Year Forecast as at Decemeber	Projected Full Yeat to Adopted Budget Variance
30th December 2024	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income	96,267	95,900	97,195	1,295
Expenses	82,369	82,487	82,390	97
Accounting Surplus/Deficit	13,898	13,413	14,805	1,392
<i>Add/(Less) Non-Operating Adjusted Underlying Result</i>	10,940	13,143	14,677	(1,534)
	2,958	270	128	(142)
Capital Works Expenditure	29,931	31,483	31,933	(450)
Net Fav/(Unfav) Q2 Variance				(592)

The favourable increase in the accounting surplus is primarily due to positive movements in Capital Grants, Reimbursements, Employee Benefits, and Other Expenses. However, these gains are partially offset by unfavourable variances in Statutory Fees and Fines, as well as User Fees.

Statutory Fees and Fines, net decrease \$81k:

- Planning Permit revenue has decreased by \$100k because of fewer applications being submitted, driven by economic factors beyond the Council's control, such as the rising cost of living and higher development expenses.

User Fees, net decrease \$383k:

- Bowser landfill has seen reduced waste acceptance of \$300k due to cheaper alternatives at neighbouring councils, due to them benefiting from economies of scale and avoiding EPA levies, particularly in Albury. This reduction in waste intake will extend Bowser's lifespan by 7-8 years, delaying costly capital works.

Capital Grants, net increase \$1.49m:

- Increase due to recognition of unearned income from 24/25, Wangaratta Flood Mitigation Strategy and Design, \$677k.
- Increase due to recognition of unearned income from 24/25, Newman Street - Drainage Upgrade, \$213k.
- Increase due to recognition of unearned income from 24/25, Safe System Pedestrian Program, \$93k.
- New grant funding relating to Federal Blackspot Program, \$245k. This favourable variance is largely due to previously unexpected funding.

Reimbursements, net increase \$124k

- Rebate on Container Deposit Scheme from Cleanaway.

Employee Benefits, net decrease \$176k:

- Although there are some unfavourable trends in Employee Benefits totalling \$324k, a favourable impact of \$500K from unspent salaries due to vacancies has been recognised. A comprehensive review of the residual salaries forecast will take place in Q3 and it is anticipated further savings will be recognised.

Other Expenses, net decrease \$132k

- Related to the removal of a bad debts budget.

Refer to the Income Statement in the 2024/25 Quarter 2 Finance Report (Attachment 1) for full detail of the changes to Council's 2024/25 projected position.

Depreciation

Please note that the Year-to-Date and forecast depreciation figures are currently under review for Q3 to ensure accuracy.

Capital Works

Council's capital works expenditure has increased from \$31.48m to \$31.93m, a net increase of \$450k. The increase can be largely attributed to expansion of the Flood Mitigation Strategy & Design program by \$367k.

Year-to-date delivery of the Capital Works Program is \$6.3m, with a further \$11.1m of commitments in place. A full review of delivery status of 24/25 Capital Works is currently underway with the Capital Works to be deferred to 25/26 to be presented as part of Council's Quarter 3 forecast.

Balance Sheet

Council's working capital is in a strong position at 324% due to a high cash position from grant funding received in advance.

The second rates instalment was due in November and rates receivables continue to progress well with outstanding rates for the year of \$21.8m as of 31 December 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 \$4,263.48 with quarterly instalments of \$1,065.87 payable.

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 2024/25 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 2 Forecast Review report – recommended.

2. That Council advises of any changes to the Adopted Budget and proposes an alternative recommendation for changes to the 2024/25 Budget.
3. That Council endorses the Environmental Upgrade Agreement quarterly statement.

Conclusion

This report compares actual performance with Council's 2024/25 adopted Q1 Forecast, adopted by Council on 10 December 2024. Council's Quarter 2 Forecast Review continues to be based on the best estimates of the Organisation as to its financial outlook.

Attachments

- 1 2024/25 Q2 Finance Report [↓](#) 

14. Community and Infrastructure

14.1 Rural City of Wangaratta Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-27

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	25 February 2025
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 presents the Rural City of Wangaratta Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-27 (The Strategy) for adoption.

The Strategy has been developed in response to the rapidly changing waste management environment, and the legislative and policy framework changes. The Strategy will set the direction for the development and delivery of waste management and resource recovery services by the Rural City of Wangaratta up to 2027.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Adopts the Rural City of Wangaratta Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-27.

Background

The Strategy has been developed in response to the rapidly changing waste management environment, and the legislative and policy framework changes that have been implemented in to support best practice in the face of these changes.

The Waste and Resource Recovery sector in Victoria is one of the most regulated and legislated in Australia. Council is subject to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 2017, the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021, the Recycling Victoria Policy (2020) in addition to the Planning and Environment Act (1987) and the Local Government Act (2020). From the Federal Government, Council is required to consider the National Waste Policy (2018) and the subsequent National Waste Policy Action Plans (2019&2020).

With recent changes to State and Federal government policies increasing the focus in the circular economy, increasing resources recovery for highest value use as close to the waste generation locations as possible. This “once in a generation” industry wide shift in approach to waste

management provided the opportunity to review infrastructure and service delivery models in order to ensure compliance and best service for the community.

The Rural City of Wangaratta (Council) is responsible for delivering waste and recycling services the residential and public places it manages. Commercial services are also offered to those businesses that are best serviced by a regular kerbside collection. Additionally, Council also own and operate the Bower Landfill, the Wangaratta Organics Facility and publicly accessible transfer stations across the municipality. The Strategy can only consider those parts of the waste and resource recovery management cycle that it has direct influence over.

The Strategy is only looking to 2027. It is anticipated that this will bring it into alignment with future State Government requirements for the development of updated Local Government Strategies and Plans once the State Level Documents have been completed. Most of the actions from the current strategy have been completed, and with significant changes in the industry over the past couple of years a new direction was required.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Strategy will update the current Waste Management Strategy 2018-23. The Strategy will provide more appropriate actions and guidance on delivery of infrastructure and services considering changes to the industry.

Financial/Economic Implications

There are no financial or economic implications identified for the subject of this report. Actions resulting from the Strategy will be costed through the long term financial plan, ongoing operations or costed into service delivery charges. These will be presented to Council through the life of the Strategy.

Legal/Statutory

The Strategy has been developed in response to the Environmental Protection Act 2017, the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021, the Recycling Victoria Policy (2020) in addition to the Planning and Environment Act (1987) and the Local Government Act (2020).

Social and Diversity

The Strategy works alongside the Waste Services Policy, which also considers how services are provided to allow equitable access and delivery of services.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

EIA's will be undertaken for any major operational changes or infrastructure project upgrades.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The Strategy works to fulfil the requirements of the previously mentioned legislation, and supporting regulations, that all provide frameworks to improve environmental and sustainability outcomes. Improving resource recovery reduces the requirement for raw materials extraction, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and decreases the need for landfilling.

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 Reduce waste and enhance resource recovery
- 3.2.1.1 Develop the new Waste Strategy in consultation with the community.
- 3.2.1.2 Ensure service delivery is in accordance with the Recycle Victoria Policy
- 3.2.1.3 Ensure services and facilities are operated in compliance with the updated Environmental Protection Act.
- 3.2.1.4 Explore feasibility of commercial options to divert materials from waste and recycling streams.
- 3.2.1.5 Introduce a third glass-only bin into the community. Provide educational resources to households to ensure a successful uptake.

Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision

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

Environment – Reduce Waste and Enhance Resource Recovery

- M1 Service our community by managing our waste and recycling streams
- M2 Strengthen positive behaviours throughout the community to minimise the negative impact of waste
- M3 Reduce waste and waste generation from Council Operations
- M4 Establish our community as leaders in the organics waste processing and associated resource recovery

Risk Management

Under the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021, Councils as providers of waste and recycling or resource recovery services will have certain positive obligations including:

To provide certain services including a municipal residual waste service, recycling service including for glass, food and garden organics To comply with pre-sorting and separating of waste or recycling material (the detail of what requirements will apply will be specified in regulations yet to be made)

Council, as providers of a waste, recycling or resource recovery services:

Have a duty to give Recycling Victoria prescribed information, Any agreement entered into in connection with the provision of their services must incorporate the service standard that applies, As providers of essential waste, recycling or resource recovery services, a requirement to

minimise the risk of serious failure disruption or hindrance of services so far as reasonably practicable, Duties to keep records and information about the service provided, so far as reasonably practicable, and Duties to comply with service standards. Notably, failure to comply with any of the above obligations will be an offence, punishable by civil and criminal penalties of up to \$454,350 for Council.

However, the Act provides “checks and balances” in the form of review mechanisms applying to the numerous powers which Recycling Victoria will be able to exercise. For example, use of the exemption powers and the issuance of information gathering notices, improvement notices and prohibition notices will be reviewable at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Non compliance with legislation and regulations	2 – Unlikely	3 - Moderate	5 - Medium	Ensuring internal processes are followed, appropriate training undertaken and Staff have oversight of new regulations are they are created.

Consultation/Communication

This Strategy has been developed following an extensive community consultation. Between February and April 2023 Council received more than 270 responses from members of the community. This engagement primarily took the form of a survey and investigated the community’s use and value of Rural City of Wangaratta waste and resource recovery facilities and services, and what the community would like to see from future works in this space.

Following Council endorsement of the draft strategy it was placed on public exhibition between November & December 2023, receiving only a limited response Council Officers proceeded to further engage directly with representatives of the following community groups, organisations and internal RCoW departments:

- Wangaratta Urban Landcare Group.
- Sustainability Steering Group.
- Greta Landcare Group.
- Boomerang Bags
- Gateway Health
- Waste Department

In considering the further feedback received several minor changes to what was previously presented to Council in September 2023 were made including:

- Reference to existing ‘Council Plan 2021 – 2025’ objectives relating to waste mitigation & resource recovery.
- Reference to existing Council ‘Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021 – 2026’ objectives relating to waste related emission reduction.
- Further detail of Victoria’s circular economy goals.
- An additional action to review the existing Council branding and slogan (‘recycle right’) in relation to waste mitigation & resource recovery.
- Summary Findings of the 2023 Community Waste Survey.

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	An extensive comms campaign was undertaken during the the consultation period.	Websites, social media and newspapers.
Consult	Between February and April 2023 Council received more than 270 responses from members of the community	Survey
Involve	Stakeholder groups were directly consulted/engaged	One on one meetings with stakeholders
Collaborate	Feedback was integrated into final draft documents and then placed on exhibition	
Empower	The final Strategy will be considered by Council in February 2025.	Council meeting to consider adoption of the strategy.

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

Options for Consideration

Option 1: Recommended

Adopts the Rural City of Wangaratta Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-27

Option 2: Not Recommended

Council could decide not to adopt a Waste Management Strategy and complete further community engagement.

Conclusion

The Strategy has been updated to reflect sector best practice and the provisions of the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021. The Draft Policy is ready to be adopted by Council.

Attachments

- 1 RCOW Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-2027  

14.2 Community Asset Committee Nominations

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	25 February 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Community & Recreation Coordinator
Approver:	Director Community and Infrastructure

This report is presented to Council to endorse the nominations of volunteers to committees of management (COM) under the Community Asset Committee Instrument of Delegation. These are additional community members who have requested spots on their local committees of management, and Council officers are in support:

1. Whitfield Recreation Reserve
2. Old Murrumungee Hall
3. Bowmans Murrumungee
4. Edi Upper
5. Everton Hall & Recreation Reserve
6. Oxley Shire Hall
7. Myrree Hall
8. Moyhu Soldiers Memorial Hall
9. Eldorado Town Hall

The nominations are for a period of three years. A list of nominated members is attached.

Recommendation:

That Council endorses and discloses the nominations in the attached report to the following Community Asset Committees

1. Whitfield Recreation Reserve
2. Old Murrumungee Hall
3. Bowmans Murrumungee
4. Edi Upper
5. Everton Hall & Recreation Reserve
6. Oxley Shire Hall
7. Myrree Hall
8. Moyhu Soldiers Memorial Hall
9. Eldorado Town Hall

Background

All appointments to Community Asset Committees are made in line with Council's policy governing appointments to Council Committees.

The Instrument of Sub-Delegation details in section 3.1(8) that all appointments to the committees will be made by Council in accordance with the Council policy governing appointments to Council Committees.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Community Asset Committee Instrument of Delegation and the Appointment to Council Committees Policy apply to these nominations.

Financial/Economic Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

The requirement for nominations is made in accordance with the Local Government Act

Social and Diversity

The Community Asset Committees provide an important service to their communities, providing a gathering place and social centre for their rural communities. A strong and vibrant committee will benefit the community, and close links between the committee and Council will create greater awareness of needs in that community.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

COM's are responsible for the management of any environmental issues relating to the land upon which their facilities are situated.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

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

1. Strengthening our Leadership

1.3.2.1 Continue to support the delivery of the Rural Placemaking Plans in partnership with our rural communities.

2. Nurturing our Wellbeing

2.3.2.1 With support and training, ensure that our community groups and committees have strong governance and are inclusive and viable.

2.3.3 Increase opportunities for people to connect to their community and each other.

2.3.4.1 Provide quality and accessible community facilities based on community needs.

3. Expanding our Economy

4.4.2 Enhance the activity in our rural townships

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Governance risk associated with the sub-delegation of powers from the CEO to Community Asset Committees	3 - Possible	3 - Moderate	6 - Medium	The appointment of members by a formal resolution of Council reduces governance risk by ensuring that all members appointed to a committee are covered by Council's public liability insurance.

Consultation/Communication

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

Options for Consideration

- That Council endorses the nominations to the following Community Asset Committees
- That Council does not endorse the nominations to the Community Asset Committees.

Conclusion

Council officers have reviewed the nominations received for endorsement to the relevant Community Asset Committees which will delegate the control, management and maintenance of its council owned community assets and uphold Councils requirements under the Local Government Act.

Attachments

- 1 Community Asset Committee Nominations - Confidential

15. Sustainability and Culture

15.1 Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C83 - Consideration of Submissions and Next Steps in the Amendment Process

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	25 February 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Strategy Planner
Approver:	Director Sustainability and Culture

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

The Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy 2021 (Rural Component) addresses provision of housing at the Low Density scale (minimum lot size 2000 square metres) and Rural Living scale (typically ranging from 2 ha – 8 ha minimum lot size) and is applicable to all areas of the municipality with the exception of recommendations relating to urban Wangaratta.

This strategy is split into two components: (1) the Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy (Rural Component), adopted by Council in December 2021, which this report focuses on, and (2) the Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy, Wangaratta Component Additional Investigations Report (which was adopted by Council in September 2024).

The Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy (Rural Component), provides the strategic justification for, and underpins Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C83. Amendment C83 proposes changes to local policy, zoning and overlays, and makes appropriate corresponding administrative changes to the Wangaratta Planning Scheme to implement the recommendations of the rural components of the Strategy. Local policy changes are applicable across the municipality, while zone and overlay changes focus on areas in Glenrowan, Milawa and Oxley.

Amendment C83 was conditionally authorised by the Minister for Planning (under delegation) on 23 April 2024 to proceed to exhibition. The amendment proceeded to exhibition between 22 August - 30 September 2024. During this period 16 submissions were received, with most in support of the amendment, some requesting changes to the amendment and 2 with outstanding objections to the amendment.

This report is presented to Council to consider the submissions received and matters raised in response to the public exhibition process. This report also informs and advises Council about the content of submissions, key issues raised and how issues are addressed. It further seeks Councils agreement to:

- Make changes to the exhibited amendment to respond to submissions (as detailed in this report).

- Refer Amendment C83 and all submissions to a Planning Panel for independent review as the next step in the amendment process in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
- Seek Councils agreement to allow Officers to continue to work with submitters to respond to and resolve any outstanding matters in the lead up to the Planning Panel Hearing.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Considers all submissions to Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C83 – Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy 2021 (Rural Component) and makes changes to the exhibited amendment as detailed and recommended in this report and its attachments, pursuant to Sections 22 and 23 of the *Planning and Environment Act, 1987*
2. Refers Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C83 and its submissions to a Panel appointed under Part 8 of the *Planning and Environment Act, 1987*
3. Formally requests the appointment of a Panel in accordance with Section 23 (1)(b) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
4. Continues to work with submitters with unresolved submissions to attempt to reach a solution that can be presented to a Panel
5. Notify submitters of Council's decision

Background

The Wangaratta Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy 2021 was undertaken to understand and respond to the need for low density and rural residential zoned land in the municipality as part of an overall response to provision of housing and responding to population growth.

The Strategy was adopted in part by Council, in December 2021. The part adopted related to recommendations to all areas of the municipality except for urban Wangaratta, (where Council resolved to undertake additional investigations). The additional investigations were undertaken and are the subject of a separate report adopted by Council in September 2024.

The Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy, 2021 (Rural Component) provides the basis for changes to the Wangaratta Planning Scheme under Amendment C83. **Attachment 1** provides the explanatory report which gives more detailed information about Amendment C83.

What Amendment C83 Proposes

The amendment proposes to:

- Amend local Settlement Policy (at Clause 11.01-1L-01,02 and 03) to avoid future subdivision in the Northern Foothills of Glenrowan (this also requires the deletion of the Development Plan Overlay Map from this precinct) and change the direction of future subdivision and development

to the east of the existing townships of Oxley and Milawa to better address bushfire risks (noting currently the growth front is directed north in Oxley and west in Milawa).

- Amend local subdivision design policy in Low Density Residential and Rural Living Zones (at Clause 15.01-3L) to ensure subdivision design responds to amenity, safety (particularly in the context of bushfire risk), diversity and sustainability principles.
- Amends Schedules 1 and 2 to Clause 32.03 Low Density Residential Zone to set out minimum subdivision size that responds to preferred built form outcomes.
- Introduce Schedules 8 and 9 to Clause 43.02 Design and Development Overlay to articulate sustainability, character, safety (particularly bushfire design) and infrastructure requirements that make a positive contribution to the built environment in areas impacted by rezoning in Oxley and Milawa.
- Rezones land in Precinct E (b) of the Milawa Township Development Plan from Farming Zone to Low Density Residential Zone (with an indicative lot capacity of 50 lots in the short term).
- Rezones land in Precinct H of the Oxley Township Development Plan from Farming Zone to Rural Living Zone Schedule 2 to reflect the scale of development and remove the administrative burden of planning permits for activities that align with rural residential living. (This will not result in additional subdivision).
- Rezones land in Precinct F (b) of the Oxley Township Development Plan from Farming Zone to Low Density Residential Zone (with an indicative capacity of 78 lots in the short to medium term)
- Makes other administrative changes to the Wangaratta Planning Scheme (at Clauses 72.03, 72.08 and 74.02). planning maps and overlay maps to facilitate these changes.

Public Exhibition of Amendment C83

Amendment C83 was publicly exhibited formally between 22 August – 30 September 2024. Public notification of the amendment included:

- Direct notification to prescribed Ministers, government departments and statutory authorities.
- Direct notification to approximately 4000 property owners and occupiers impacted by the proposed changes.
- Display of Amendment exhibition material and mapping at Council Offices
- Display of Amendment exhibition material and mapping online.
- Public notices published in the Wangaratta Chronicle on 16 August 2024 and in the Victorian Government Gazette on 22 August 2024

Submissions to Amendment C83

To date, Council have received 16 submissions in response to the exhibition of the amendment. Of these submissions:

- 8 were received from authorities and 8 were received from landowners and community members.
- 10 support the amendment/had no objection to the amendment,
- 2 objected to the amendment or part of the amendment,
- 4 partly supporting and partly objecting to the amendment,
- 8 requested changes to the exhibited document.

Attachment 2 provides a summary of the submissions received and responses to those.

Key Issues

An analysis of the submissions, along with a response and outcome is contained in **Attachment 2**. The key issues raised in submissions can be summarised as:

- *Environmental Impacts* – particularly relating to vegetation, ground and surface water, potentially contaminated land, land fill gas separation distances and industrial land use separation distances.
- *Environmental Risks* - particularly flooding and impacts on additional development and Bushfire risk – its noted that both outstanding submissions are dealing with issues relating to bushfire risk and mitigation measures.
- *Infrastructure and Servicing requirements* – particularly reticulated water and sewer; and road safety and connectivity.

Submissions in support of the amendment generally:

- Supported the change in direction of the development fronts in Oxley and Milawa to minimise risk posed by bushfire
- Support development in townships as they are serviced locations
- Indicated that development will assist in alleviating pressure posed by the 'housing crisis'

Submissions objecting to the amendment raised very specific issues relating to:

- Future development: specifically, the ongoing ability of individual landowners to develop property into the future, based on being able to mitigate bushfire risk.
- Avoiding battle axe lots: specifically, a submission raised concern about the impacts of a strategy relating to avoiding battle-axe handles as a means of access when creating new lots.

Requested changes to the exhibited documents generally:

- Proposed strategies to be elaborated on and make points clearer on specific areas of interest from authorities.

- Make requests that are at odds with technical information underpinning the amendment.
- Requests to make changes to the amendment documents that are outside the scope of the amendment, for example:
 - o Property rating.
 - o Making changes to planning policy not impacted by the amendment.

It is noted whilst these requested changes raise important and valid considerations, they are not always addressed by making changes to exhibited amendment documents.

Attachment 2 explains how requests for changes to the Amendment are proposed to be addressed and responded to and explains how exhibited documents will be updated, if considered appropriate. Key changes proposed include:

- Update Explanatory Report to reflect (potential) contaminated land investigations
- Changes to Clause 11.01-1L-03 – Oxley Township
- Changes to Clause 15.01-3L
- Changes to DDO8 (Design and Development Overlay 8)
- Changes to DDO9 (Design and Development Overlay 9)

Further information about proposed changes can be found in **Attachment 2**.

Pre-Set Panel Hearing Dates

Pre-set Panel Hearing dates were approved and exhibited as part of the Amendment. A delay in considering this report (in part attributed to Council elections) resulted in Council being unable to meet the exhibited pre-set Panel Hearing dates. The revised and confirmed Pre-Set Panel Hearing dates are as follows:

- Directions Hearing: Week beginning Monday, 25 March 2025
- Panel Hearing: Week beginning Monday, 29 April 2025

Next Steps in the Amendment Process

The diagram below shows the steps in the planning scheme amendment process.



The first 2 steps have been completed for Amendment C83. This report deals with step 3 and provides Council with the opportunity to consider submissions received and recommends proceeding to a panel as the next step. Should this occur, following the completion of the Panel a further report detailing the Panel's recommendations will be presented to Council for decision.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Other relevant Council policies considered in the development of this amendment include consideration of key actions from the:

- **Domestic Wastewater Management Plan:** in managing impacts of wastewater in unsewered areas
- **Environmental Sustainability Strategy:** in planning for growth and particularly subdivision design that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, protects the natural environment and makes efficient use of existing resources.
- **Roadside Conservation Management Plan:** Noting an earlier version of the Strategy underpins the Vegetation Protection Overlay Schedule 2 – Vegetation of Conservation Significance which applies to an area of Oxley under consideration for low density residential development and includes relevant management strategies that protect significant flora and fauna must be considered and adhered to.
- **Walking and Cycling Strategy:** which identifies recreational and off-road cycling and walking networks to improve non-vehicular transport opportunities for shorter trips in Oxley and Milawa.

Financial/Economic Implications

Financial – Costs associated with the amendment including statutory fees and Panel costs (administrative fees and required technical expert witness/es) are covered by Councils operational budget.

Economic – The addition of residential housing could be considered to benefit viability of the townships like Milawa and Oxley and small businesses operating in them.

Legal/Statutory

Amendment C83 abides by the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and other relevant legal/statutory processes.

Social, Diversity and Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

In relation to the requirements of the *Gender Equity Act 2020* Planning Scheme Amendments are putting existing changes (i.e. changes proposed by a strategy already adopted by Council) into legislation are not considered to be a policy program or service. Therefore, an Equity Impact Assessment has not been undertaken.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Sustainability impacts have been considered throughout the development of the Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy and policy implemented into the Wangaratta Planning Scheme has an obligation to consider and attempt to minimise risk to the natural environment.

Specific areas that have been considered and addressed include flooding by avoiding development in areas impacted by flood activity and bushfire, by planning for settlements that avoid locating new development in areas assessed as high risk at the landscape scale in settlement planning.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

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

1. Valuing our Environment

3.4.2 Look after our rivers and waterways:

3.4.4.2 Work in partnership with our community to preserve and improve our waterways.

3.4.2.3 Work to ensure that access and use of our waterway's balances water preservation and health

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

2. Growing with Integrity

3. 6.1.1 Facilitate attractive long-term residential growth opportunities

6.1.1.2 Identify opportunities for residential land supply to accommodate future population growth

6.1.2 Ensure a range of housing options to meet the needs of the community including affordable housing

6.1.2.1 Ensure sufficient land supply is available to accommodate a range of housing options

6.1.2.2 Encourage a variety of lot sizes in new residential estates.

6.1.2.5 Facilitate a sustainable balance between growth and development, and the protection of existing agricultural land.

6.3.1 Ensure decision making upholds a balance between environmental sustainability, the need for development and the acknowledges the risks to the landscape.

6.1.3.2 Ensure future settlements are designed and located to consider the risks of climate change including fire, flood and other natural hazards.

Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision

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

Building Environmentally Sustainable Communities: L2 Facilitate design and development that creates sustainable communities.

Growth in the right areas: AA1 Facilitate attractive long-term residential growth opportunities

AA2 Ensure a range of housing options to meet the needs of the community including affordable housing.

Communities that are safe and protected: Ensure decision making upholds a balance between environmental sustainability, the need for development and acknowledges the risk to landscape.

Risk Management

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives and or solutions	Public exhibition as required by the Planning and Environment Act.
Consult	To obtain public feedback on analysis alternatives and or decisions.	Public exhibition as required by the Planning and Environment Act.
Involve	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered	Post exhibition engagement with submitters to work through issues raised in submissions and find solutions that address the matters (where possible)

Consultation has occurred in the development of the Low Density and Rural Living Strategy which underpins the policy and strategy that are proposed for inclusion in the Wangaratta Planning Scheme. Consultation has occurred in accordance with the requirements of the public exhibition process of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

Option 1: Recommended Option

That Council consider all submissions and refer the Amendment and submissions to a Planning Panel for independent review.

This option ensures the statutory process is followed and provides the best opportunity to proceed with the amendment whilst ensuring that community and landowner concerns are appropriately considered.

Option 2: Not recommended

Make all changes requested by submitters and submit the amendment for approval.

This is not recommended as some submissions are requesting changes that are in direct opposition to the recommendations of the underpinning technical assessments.

Option 3: Not recommended

Abandon the amendment.

This is not recommended as it will not fulfill Council's previous decision to implement the recommendations of the Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy (Rural Component). Further it would reduce diversity for future housing stock and not represent value in the way Councils resources are used. Abandoning the amendment effectively ends the process.

Conclusion

Wangaratta Planning Scheme Amendment C83 proposes to implement the recommendations of the Low Density and Rural Residential Strategy (Rural Component). Considering the submissions to the amendment and the recommendation to refer the amendment to the Panel will allow for an independent body to review the effectiveness of planning tools used to implementing the Strategy's recommendations into the planning scheme. It is a further opportunity for submitters to talk about the concerns raised in submissions to ensure all matters have been understood and appropriately addressed, whilst following statutory obligations of the amendment process. Should Council agree, a Panel will be held, and a report will be provided by the Panel Chair, making recommendations about the best way to resolve outstanding matters raised in submissions. It's noted a further report to Council will outline any recommendations from a Panel process, prior to making any final decision about the adoption of the amendment in its final form.

Attachments

- 1 Attachment 1 - Explanatory Report  
- 2 Attachment 2 - Submission Summary  

15.2 Draft Events & Attractions Strategy

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	25 February 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Event Attraction Coordinator
Approver:	Director Sustainability and Culture

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

The draft Events & Attractions Strategy 2025-2029 (refer **Attachment 1**) is ready for public exhibition.

The Events and Attractions Strategy sets out the Rural City of Wangaratta's future intentions in the support, curation and delivery of events within the municipality. Aligning with the vision of the community, and the Council Plan, this Strategy provides direction on decision making, event opportunities, goals and aspirations for the delivery of Council events, attraction of marquee events and the support of community events.

Key priorities were identified from consultation conducted. These priorities have been developed into the strategic objectives outlined below and in the Strategy.

The five strategic objectives are:

1 – Collaboration

Develop partnerships that support the delivery of events within the Municipality.

2 – Attraction & Marketing

Increase the tourism and economic benefit to the community through marquee event delivery and support, via council funded or commercially operated events.

3 – Resource Management

Reduce environmental impacts, improve sustainability and increase community accessibility at events held within the Municipality.

4 – Alignment

Formalise event funding criteria and post event evaluation to ensure investment aligns with the council plan.

5 – Review & Assess

Review the current council event program and event attraction program to ensure community satisfaction, and assess council supported events in line with community and council priorities.

Actions are identified within the draft Strategy to achieve these objectives.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft Events & Attractions Strategy 2025-2029 for a 30-day public exhibition period, to share the plan with the community and stakeholder groups.
2. Reviews and adopts the Events & Attractions Strategy 2025-2029 at a future meeting, taking into consideration any submissions made.
3. If no submissions are received requiring changes to the Events & Attractions Strategy 2025-2029, adopts the report without further resolution.

Background

In 2018 Council adopted the 2018-2023 Events & Attractions Strategy which set out the future direction in support, curation, and delivery of events within the municipality. The Strategy outlined some key challenges and shortcomings to be addressed throughout the implementation plan such as –

- required consolidation of event funding;
- development of policies, procedures and application forms pertaining to events and their delivery;
- collate venue maps of public spaces and fact sheets that support event organisers;
- increased resourcing in the events team to support community and commercial organisations to work with Council;
- develop signage to be used at Council supported events;
- support community events with knowledge, reduced rates and identifying funding opportunities;
- formalise the old rodeo grounds as the preferred events precinct for major events; and
- support the attraction and delivery of major events to boost the economy and tourism.

The events landscape has changed, and it is timely that the Strategy is reconsidered to meet the needs of the community where they are today and looking into the future.

It is evident that there is a strong desire from our community to ensure that we are a welcoming, accessible and inclusive community with a culturally diverse event calendar. This is something that Council will be focusing on in the revised Strategy to build a community that is strong and connected.

Implications**Policy Considerations**

This Strategy is directly linked to the Council Plan and has further connections to -

- Recreation Strategy 2024-2033
- Economic Development & Tourism Strategy 2024-2029
- Waste Management Strategy 2018-2023
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026
- Community Access & Inclusion Plan 2019-2022

Financial/Economic Implications

While there are no direct financial implications to this report, the Strategy does recommend and prioritise actions for Council to deliver. These costs will need to be reflected in project bids, through grants and operational budgets as identified within the Strategy.

Legal/Statutory

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

Social and Diversity

The social, well-being and emotional benefits of events present in various ways including an increased appeal of liveability and a connectedness that can see a ripple effect through our community.

The Connection needs analysis commissioned by the Grit & Resilience Program says that *“Connected communities are engaged, safer and are more likely to have higher rates of volunteerism than those with less connection. Social connection provides meaning, purpose, support and a sense of belonging. With connection, we are better able to regulate stress”*.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

Objective 3 within the draft strategy has deliverables in relation to community accessibility at events to ensure everyone is welcome, and event planning to increase diversity and cultural inclusion at Council delivered events.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Council are committed to developing waste wise event guidelines as part of the draft strategy which will be applicable to Council events, and events taking place on Council land and will address waste, recycling and noise minimisation.

Strategic Links**Council Plan 2021 – 2025**

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

2 Nurturing our Wellbeing

2.1.1.2 Deliver arts, culture and exhibition programs that recognise, support and address issues of mental health and social inequities.

2.3.1.1 Deliver annual events and initiatives that focus on celebrating diversity, connection, belonging for everyone within our community.

Include the delivery of drug, smoke and alcohol-free events into the annual events calendar.

3 Valuing our Environment

3.2.3.1 Reduce waste, paper and water usage in Council facilities and events through education.

5 Enhancing our Lifestyle

5.2.1.1 Increase the representation of our cultural story and history throughout our community and recognise its impact on our sense of place.

5.2.1.2 Deliver projects in partnership with our indigenous and cultural groups to celebrate the diversity and history of our region.

- 5.2.2.2 Organise the Wangaratta Australia Day ceremony and support rural community to deliver Australia Day events.
- 5.2.2.3 Continue to promote recognise and celebrate NAIDOC week within our community.
- 5.2.2.4 Partner with local community groups to increase the support and inclusion of our population that were born overseas.
- 5.5.1.1 Deliver a diverse and engaging annual program of events that caters to the needs of the community.
- 5.6.1.1 Deliver a diverse annual calendar of accessible community events throughout the municipality that provide opportunities for community members to connect.
- 5.6.1.2 Plan for and develop infrastructure in key strategic spaces that can facilitate the delivery of community-based events.
- 5.6.2.1 Support groups and clubs to deliver events to their members and the broader community.
- 5.7.1.1 Ensure planning for new and redeveloped community facilities incorporates universal design principles

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
The community may not feel that their personal feedback has been heard in the draft strategy	3 - Possible	Minor	5 - Medium	Council will adopt best practise techniques when the public exhibition period starts to clearly communicate and educate people about the draft strategy and how they can provide feedback. In addition key user groups and members of industry will be directly engaged to review and provide feedback.
Community may feel that their organisation or community group are underrepresented.	3 - Possible	Minor	5 - Medium	Council will adopt best practise techniques when the public exhibition period starts to clearly communicate and educate people about the draft strategy and how

				they can provide feedback. In addition key user groups and members of industry will be directly engaged to review and provide feedback.
Sever adverse weather or public safety may impact on our ability to deliver on the strategy.	1 - Rare	Moderate	4 - Low	Thorough event planning including scenarios for adverse weather and public safety.

Consultation/Communication

To date the following community engagement activities have occurred throughout 2023* to inform the development of the draft Plan (*the development of the plan was stalled due to staff secondment):

- Community session at the Wangaratta Performing Arts & Convention Centre
- Community session at the Wangaratta Sports & Aquatic Centre
- Informative session with Councillors
- Workshop held with Youth Council
- Workshop held with Corporate Management Team at Council
- Workshop held with the Waste Management & Sustainability Teams
- Workshop held with Horticulture Team
- Electronic survey was open for 46 days to the public

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

Options for Consideration

1. That Council endorses the draft Events & Attractions Strategy 2025-2029 for public exhibition for 30 days (Recommended).
2. That Council does not endorse the draft Events & Attractions Strategy 2025-2029 for public exhibition.

Conclusion

The draft Events & Attractions Strategy 2025-2029 is ready for public exhibition and community feedback.

Attachments

- 1 Events & Attractions Strategy - DRAFT  

15.3 CBD Car Parking Payment System

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	25 February 2025
Category:	Operational
Author:	Manager - Economic Development, Environment & Compliance
Approver:	Director Sustainability and Culture

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

The current car parking payment machines in the Wangaratta CBD are at the end of their life. Maintaining a workable payment system in the CBD is important as it continues a 'user pays' system and contributes to the provision and maintenance of car parking in the CBD. This report is presented to Council to consider options for the replacement of the car parking payment system within the Wangaratta CBD.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Endorses the replacement the 72 current car parking payment machines in the Wangaratta CBD by reducing the number of new parking meters to 16 and maintaining the EasyPark App as a payment method throughout the CBD (Option 1 described within this report).

Background

Having sufficient, good quality and accessible car parking in the Wangaratta CBD contributes to an attractive CBD to the benefit of both visitor and businesses. Council has a paid parking system in place in the Wangaratta CBD to help cover the cost of providing and maintaining car parking in the CBD. Paid parking has been in place in the Wangaratta CBD for many years.

The current car parking payment system in use in Wangaratta's CBD includes:

- 72 car parking payment machines located throughout the Wangaratta CBD area. These machines take cash only.
- EasyPark App for payment via phones or similar devices.

The current payment machines were installed in 2015 and have reached the end of their life. They run off the 3G network which is no longer being supported. Whilst the machines are still able to accept coin payments, alerts when faults occur are not transmitted resulting in Council officers having to undertake additional checks to ensure machines are still operating correctly. The current machines are breaking down regularly. A review of the usage of the current machines show that 20 of them have recorded minimal usage.

The EasyPark App was introduced more recently as a payment option for car parking in relevant areas in Wangaratta’s CBD. Since the App’s introduction its usage has doubled and in the 2023/24 financial year 43% of parking payments received were via the App. The App allows users to pay only for time used and can be used throughout the CBD parking area including the privately operated parking area of the Co-Store.

A review of the CBD car parking payment system has been completed. It included consideration of types of machines, locations, running costs, revenue and opportunities to reduce the number of physical machines within the CBD. Options for the replacement of the payment system considered as part of this work and their key implications for Council and our community are shown in the table below:

Options		Initial implications	Ongoing implications
Option 1:	Reducing the number of parking meters to 16 and maintaining the EasyPark App as a payment method throughout the CBD (see Attachment 1).	Lower initial cost compared to Option 2 as fewer machines would need to be purchased and installed. Other initial cost would include Parts of our community do not support paid parking in the CBD.	Maintains a ‘user pays’ system. Maintains the income from parking payments to contribute to providing and maintain car parking in the CBD, including cost associated with the Co-Store parking contract. Ongoing maintenance of machines. Maintains the benefits of encouraging turn-over of vehicles. Negative community perceptions relating to paid car parking.
Option 2:	Reducing the number of machines to 52 and maintaining the EasyPark App as a payment method throughout the CBD (see Attachment 2).	Higher initial cost compared to Option 1 as more machines would need to be purchased and installed. Other initial cost would include Parts of our community do not support paid parking in the CBD.	Maintains a ‘user pays’ system. Maintains the income from parking payments to contribute to providing and maintain car parking in the CBD, including cost associated with the Co-Store parking contract. Ongoing maintenance of machines. Maintains the benefits of encouraging turn-over of vehicles.

			Negative community perceptions relating to paid car parking.
Option 3:	Only accepting payment via the EasyPark App and not having the option of paying via physical machines.	<p>Low initial cost. Only requires rParts of our community do not support paid parking in the CBD.</p> <p>Some users may need assistance with using the App.</p> <p>Consideration will need to be given to situations where users cannot access the App.</p>	<p>Maintains a 'user pays' system.</p> <p>Maintains the income from parking payments to contribute to providing and maintain car parking in the CBD, including cost associated with the Co-Store parking contract.</p> <p>Maintains the benefits of encouraging turn-over of vehicles.</p> <p>No ongoing maintenance of machines.</p> <p>Negative community perceptions relating to paid car parking.</p>
Option 4:	Not having paid on street parking in the CBD	Low initial cost. Only requires r	<p>Council will need to absorb more of the cost associated with providing and maintaining car parking in the CBD, including cost associated with the Co-Store parking contract.</p> <p>Reduced turn-over of vehicles which may lead to fewer vacant parking spaces being available at times.</p>

(Note: New machines proposed in Options 1 and 2 will be able to take both cash and card payments.)

A long-term financial analysis of these options is included in the **Attachment 3** (confidential attachment). This financial analysis included consideration of: upfront cost of new machines, cost of removing existing meters, signage / marking changes, staff cost, software costs, materials, contractual commitments (including the Co-Store contract) and income from parking. The net financial result of each option over a period of 8 years (the expected useful life span of new parking machines) for each option is shown in the table below:

Option 1:	-\$282,000
Option 2:	-\$620,000
Option 3:	+\$221,000
Option 4:	-\$1.56M

Officers have considered this financial analysis, accessibility, technology, digital inclusion, financial sustainability and how Council can support our community with the use of a new system, and recommend Option 1 as the preferred new parking payment system in Wangaratta's CBD because:

- It offers users a range of payment options (cash, card and App) and is therefore more inclusive compared to some other options with limited payment methods;
- The reduced number of machines requires a relatively low initial outlay compared to Option 2;
- It will maintain parking income which contributes to providing sufficient and well-maintained parking within the CBD;
- It will contribute to Council's longer term financial sustainability by limiting the negative net financial result expected over the next 10 years.
- It retains a 'user pays' system and the benefits of encouraging turn-over of vehicles.

Implementing Option 1 will significantly change the parking payment system in the CBD compared to the current system, including:

- A reduction the number of payment machines available.
- Changing the locations of payment machines will be available in.
- Offering more payment options.
- Limiting the availability of machines to some areas in the CBD (see **Attachment 1**) which makes the EasyPark App the only practical payment option in some areas due to the distance to payment machines.

As part of the transition to using the new payment system it is proposed that Council officers will be made available for a period to introduce users to the new systems and assist them with navigating the payment options available.

Council officers have initiated a tender process for the supply, install of new parking machines and removal of the old machines. This process has been undertaken in preparation for implementing Council's decision about the future of parking machines within the Wangaratta CBD (the subject of this report).

Implications

Policy Considerations

Wangaratta Car Parking Plan.

Financial/Economic Implications

The FY24/25 budget has an allocation of \$314,000 for the replacement CBD carparking payment system which includes removal and disposal of old parking meters, bay marking and signage updates.

Legal/Statutory

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

Social and Diversity

Provisions for all payment types for car parking within the CBD area will offer a consistent and reliable approach for all members of the public.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Council officers will need to ensure that proper disposal of old parking machines needs to be undertaken.

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 Councils financial sustainability through transparent and accountable financial management

Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision

NA

Other strategic links

Wangaratta Car Parking Plan

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Consequence	Mitigation Action
Community opposition to paid carparking in the CBD	Negative community feedback	Clear communication and assistance with new system
Not upgrading payment machines result in loss of revenue from faulty machines	Loss of revenue – budget impacts Reduced ability to provide and maintain car parking in the CBD	Complete upgrade of payment machines
Removal of payment systems	Loss of Income – long term financial impacts Reduced ability to provide and maintain car parking in the CBD	Maintain CBD car parking payment

Consultation/Communication

This report relates to the replacement of the existing car parking payment system in Wangaratta’s CBD and no specific community consultation has been undertaken. This report is informed by user reports about broken / jammed machines and concern about not being able to pay for parking in these situations.

Options for Consideration

Option 1 (Recommended)

Endorse procurement and installation of 16 upgraded car parking payment machines to be strategically placed in high use parking areas in the CBD, updating of signage and bay markings and the removal of existing car parking payment machines.

Option 2 (Not Recommended)

Endorse procurement and installation 52 upgraded car parking payment machines, updating of signage and bay markings and the removal of old car parking payment machines.

Option 3 (Not Recommended)

Endorse replacing the current parking payment system with Easy Park App payment only. Removal of all car parking payment machines throughout CBD and update all parking signage throughout CBD.

Option 4 (Not Recommended)

Removal of car parking payments from CBD area. Time restrictions will remain in place.

Conclusion





The current car parking payment machines in use in the Wangaratta CBD have reached the end of their life. A review of the CBD car parking payment system has been completed to inform a way forward for car parking payments, including consideration of options for replacement of machines.

It is recommended that Council endorses implementing Option 1 described above which will replace the 72 current car parking payment machines with 16 new machines. These new machines will be used in combination with the EasyPark App to provide full range of payment options available.

Council's procurement process will be followed to purchase and install the endorsed replacement payment system.

Retaining paid car parking in the CBD will help ensure Council is able to provide and maintain car parking in the CBD at current standards and continues a 'user pays' approach.

Attachments

- 1 Potential location of 16 replacement payment machines  
- 2 Potential location of 52 replacement payment machines  
- 3 Long Term Financial Analysis - Confidential

15.4 Report for noting: Procurement Exemption for Development Contributions Plan Projects

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	25 February 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Director Sustainability and Culture
Approver:	Director Sustainability and Culture

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

The purpose of this report is to notify Council that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has approved an exemption from the public tender requirements of Council's Procurement Policy for the upgrade of a second section of Christensen Lane by the developers of adjacent land in lieu of required contributions (known as Works-in-Kind) under a Development Contributions Plan (DCP).

The upgrade of Christensen Lane is identified as an infrastructure project approved for delivery within the Wangaratta North-West Growth Area DCP. Council's Procurement Policy (see **Attachment 1**) requires a report to be presented to Council for noting when an exemption of this nature is approved.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Notes the procurement exemption approved by the CEO to facilitate the upgrade of a section of Christensen Lane under the North-West Growth Area Development Contributions Plan and as required by Council's Procurement Policy.
2. Notes a specific exemption for similar future Development Contributions Plan projects to be delivered as Works-in-Kind will be considered for inclusion in Council's Procurement Policy when it is next reviewed.

Background

Council has two approved DCPs for the North-West and South Growth Areas. These DCPs identify infrastructure projects required to service the growth areas and for which development contributions must be paid by landowners in these areas.

In some cases, the DCP projects are delivered by developers as Works-in-Kind in exchange for the associated credits identified for the project in the DCP.

DCP projects delivered as Works-in-Kind do not trigger the requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020* to comply with Council's Procurement Policy. However, there are instances where the final form of DCP projects is not entirely consistent with the DCP but remain closely

connected to the DCP project and arise naturally from the scope of the DCP project, such as variations due to detail design or construction standards. Council has received legal advice that in these instances Council may still not be required to comply with its Procurement Policy depending on the specifics of each project. It is Council's practice to consider appropriate exemptions under the Procurement Policy when these circumstances arise to remove any uncertainty about compliance with the policy and the Local Government Act.

Council's Procurement Policy identifies circumstances that are exempt from public tendering and other competitive processes. Council's CEO has the authority to consider and decide requests for such exemptions. The category of exemption available for DCP projects under the circumstances described above is 'Exceptional Circumstances' as the other available categories do not apply. The policy requires a report to be presented to Council for noting when an exemption is approved under the 'Exceptional Circumstances' category.

In March 2024 the CEO approved an exemption under the Procurement Policy for an initial section of Christensen Lane, and this was subsequently reported to Council for noting as required under the Procurement Policy. More recently a further proposal was received for Works-in-Kind to upgrade a second part of Christensen Lane in lieu of required contributions under the DCP and the CEO has approved an appropriate exemption under the Procurement Policy to facilitate this proposal.

Similar circumstances are likely to occur again as part of the development of Wangaratta's Growth Areas and officers will consider adding a specific category of exemption to the Procurement Policy when the policy is next reviewed to help facilitate the intended infrastructure outcomes of the DCPs.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The following Council policies or strategies that relate to this report:

- Wangaratta North-West Growth Area Development Contributions Plan
- Procurement Policy

Financial/Economic Implications

No Council payments are involved as the relevant project will be delivered as Works-in-Kind in lieu of required contributions under the DCP.

DCPs identify Works-in-Kind as a preferred mechanism to deliver most projects identified in the DCPs. Appropriate exemptions under the Procurement Policy help to facilitate delivery of these previously considered and approved projects using this preferred mechanism and in a timely manner i.e. when the projects are required to support approved development.

Legal/Statutory

- *Planning and Environment Act 1987* as it relates to Development Contributions.
- *Local Government Act 2020* as it relates to procurement.
- Wangaratta Planning Scheme.

Social and Diversity

DCP infrastructure projects support residential development in approved Growth Areas to help meet the housing needs of our community.

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. Growing with Integrity

- Facilitate attractive long-term residential growth opportunities.
- Ensure a range of housing options to meet the needs of the community, including affordable housing.
- Sustainable infrastructure that supports new growth.
- Provide an efficient and effective permit system.

Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision

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

- The right growth in the right areas

Other strategic links

This report supports the implementation of the North-West Growth Area Structure Plan and Development Contributions Plan.

Risk Management

Risks were considered prior to approving the procurement exemption including:

- undertaking analysis of proposed works and rates to ensure they represented value for money and are consistent with the intended outcomes of the DCP; and
- requiring the proposed works to be in accordance with an approved detail design and specifications.

Conclusion

Council's CEO has approved an exemption from the public tender requirements of Council's Procurement Policy to facilitate the upgrade of a second section of Christensen Lane by the developers of adjacent land in lieu of required contributions under a DCP. The policy requires a report to be presented to Council for noting when such an exemption is approved by the CEO.

Attachments

- 1 Council's Procurement Policy  

15.5 Planning Permit Application 24/083 - 31 Ford Street, Wangaratta (Creative Precinct)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	25 February 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Planning Coordinator
Approver:	Director Sustainability and Culture

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 make a determination on whether to grant a planning permit or refuse to grant a planning permit for an application for the buildings and works (including partial demolition) for the extension of an existing place of assembly, function centre and art gallery (Wangaratta Performing Arts and Conference Centre and Gallery), a reduction of car parking requirements and variation to a sewer easement at 31 Ford Street Wangaratta.

The subject site is located within the Commercial 1 Zone, and is affected by the Heritage Overlay (HO13), Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 1, and the Parking Overlay – Schedule 1 of the Wangaratta Planning Scheme. A copy of the proposed development plans is included at **Attachment 1**.

A total of 8 submissions were received to the application (7 objections and 1 letter of support). The grounds of objection largely relate to the reduction of car parking requirements, but also include concerns regarding long term planning for the site and surrounds, emergency services access, location of Visitor Services, and amenity issues.

A detailed officer's assessment of the application is located at **Attachment 2**.

Based on the attached officer's assessment it is recommended that a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit be issued, as the proposal is considered to represent an orderly planning outcome that is considerate the context of the site and surrounds.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit, subject to the conditions outlined in **Attachment 2**.

Background

This report is being presented to Council to make a determination on Planning Application PlnApp24/083 as the application received more than four objections. A total of seven (7) objections,

and one (1) letter of support were received. The grounds of objection, and Council's response to those concerns, are discussed in further detail in the officer's assessment at **Attachment 2**.

The key issues discussed later in this report and as part of the officer's assessment report include:

- Traffic and car parking supply.
- Urban design and heritage.
- Enhancement of the creative precinct.

A detailed description of the site and surrounds, and the proposal, are included in the officer's assessment at **Attachment 2**.

Assessment under the Planning and Environment Act 1987

A detailed assessment of the application against the relevant policies and provisions of the Wangaratta Planning Scheme (the Scheme) and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) is included at **Attachment 2**. The following table shows the policies and provisions that have been considered.

Planning Policy Framework, Zoning, Overlays, and Particular and General Provisions

Section	Clause	Provision
Planning policy Framework and Municipal Planning Strategy	02.03-5	Built form and heritage
	02.03-7	Economic development
	11.03-1L-02	Wangaratta Central Activities Area
	15.01-1S	Urban design
	15.01-2S	Building design
	15.01-4S	Healthy neighbourhoods
	15.01-5S	Neighbourhood character
	15.01-5L	Neighbourhood character
	17.04-1S	Facilitating tourism
	17.04-1R	Tourism – Hume
17.04-1L	Facilitating tourism	
18.02-4S	Roads	
Zone	34.01	Commercial 1 Zone
Overlays	43.01	Heritage Overlay (HO13)
	43.02	Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 1
	45.09	Parking Overlay – Schedule 1
Provision	52.02	Easements, restrictions and reserves
	52.06	Car parking
	52.34	Bicycle facilities
	65.01	Decision Guidelines – Approval of an Application or Plan
Decision Guidelines	65.01	Decision Guidelines – Approval of an Application or Plan

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's local planning policies (given effect by the Wangaratta Planning Scheme) are of relevance to this report. These policies are considered and addressed within this report and in the Assessment Report at **Attachment 2**.

Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications to Council arising from this report although there may be potential costs should this matter proceed to the Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

Legal/Statutory

All procedures associated with the lodgement and assessment of this application have been carried out in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Cultural Heritage

The subject site is not located within an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.

Social

The application is for the provision of social infrastructure being part of the 'creative precinct' of the Wangaratta township.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Environmental and sustainability matters have been considered in this report.

Referrals/Public Notice

The application was referred to Council's Technical Services Unit (parking, access and drainage) and North East Water (sewerage considerations) who did not object to the issue of a permit subject to conditions.

Notice of the application was given to adjoining and surrounding landowners and occupiers, a notice was placed on site and in the Wangaratta Chronicle. To date, 7 objections and 1 letter of support have been received.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

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

4.4. Vibrant and engaging places

4.4.1.3 – Implement the Wangaratta Central Activity Area Urban Design Framework.

Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision

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

- BB1 – Ensure new development is facilitated and does not conflict with existing land uses.
- BB2 – Provide an efficient and effective permit system.

Risk Management

It is not considered that there are any relevant risks to Council beyond those associated with standard statutory process (such as any decision being appealed at VCAT).

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Appeal of decision at VCAT	Possible	Minor	Low	Appropriate representation of Council at VCAT.

Options for Consideration





1. Council issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit for Application PInApp24/083 subject to conditions (recommended); OR
2. Council issue a Notice of Refusal to Grant a Planning Permit for Planning Application PInApp24/083.

Conclusion

Planning application PInApp24/083 is considered to represent an orderly planning outcome and is generally in accordance with the relevant policies and provisions of the Wangaratta Planning Scheme. The proposal has provided a well considered design outcome that is respectful of the heritage fabric and existing performing arts and convention centre structure on the subject site. The design will be largely obscured by the existing development on the land whilst also ensuring that the heritage elements that contribute to the significance of the site remain as primary features. The reduction of car parking requirements is considered to be appropriate in this instance as the availability of parking within 400m of the subject site is able to support the parking demand for the site.

Therefore, the proposal is considered to be appropriate and should be supported.

Attachments

- 1 Proposed plans  
- 2 Officer's Assessment Report  

15.6 Tourism Events Funding Grant Funding - Correction

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	25 February 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator
Approver:	Director Sustainability and Culture

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

Each year Council's Tourism Events Funding Program provides financial assistance to event organisers for the promotion and development of their festivals and events.

At the 10 December 2024 Council Meeting, Council resolved to award funding to five events as part of the Tourism Events Funding Program – Grant Stream for the 2025 calendar year. One of the five successful events was the Wangaratta Cruise Night, however the recommendation included in the Council report incorrectly listed the organisation applying for funding for this event as the 'Wangaratta Early Holden Car Club Inc'. The correct organisation for this event is the Wangaratta Rod and Custom Club Inc., as referenced in the attachment to the December Council report.

This report seeks to amend the December 2024 Council resolution to correct this error and ensure the funding for the Wangaratta Cruise Night event is awarded to the Wangaratta Rod and Custom Club Inc.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Notes the resolution made on 10 December 2024 in respect of Agenda Item 15.2 incorrectly identified the Wangaratta Early Holden Car Club Inc as the successful recipient of funding under the Tourism Events Funding Program for the Wangaratta Cruise Night event instead of the Wangaratta Rod and Custom Club Inc.
2. Amends the resolution made on 10 December 2024 in respect of Agenda Item 15.2 to replace reference to the 'Wangaratta Early Holden Car Club Inc' with 'Wangaratta Rod and Custom Club Inc'.

Options for Consideration

There are nil options available for consideration.

Conclusion

Council is requested to correct an error within a previous resolution to award funding under the Tourism Events Funding Program – Grant Stream for 2025 to the correct organisation to support the Wangaratta Cruise Night event.

Attachments

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: 25 February 2025
 Author: Councillor and Executive Services Support Officer

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
17 September 2024	Audit and Risk Committee	Attachment
5 August 2024	Arts and Culture Committee	Attachment
2 December 2024	Arts and Culture Committee	Attachment

Recommendation:

That Council notes the minutes of these Advisory Committees.

Attachments

- 1 17 September 2024 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes  
- 2 5 August 2024 - Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
- 3 2 December 2024 - Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  

19. Notices of Motion

Nil

20. Urgent Business

21. Public Question Time

22. Confidential Business

Nil

23. Closure of Meeting

Attachments

Strategic Pillar	Item Name	.	Status	Comment
1. Strengthening Our Leadership	1.1.1.2 Survey community on the quality of communication on major projects	●	On Track	The FY25 Community Satisfaction Survey continued with its quarterly survey undertaken. Annual results to be shared in Q4.
	1.1.1.5 Ensure access to council decision making by holding a minimum of four council meetings in rural communities.	●	On Track	The 2025 Rural Council Meeting locations were determined at the December 2024 Council Meeting. Approved locations include: March - Murmungee April - Moyhu September - Glenrowan October - Tarrowingee
	1.2.1.2 Regular and transparent reporting against council's adopted Annual Budget.	●	On Track	Reporting of financials continues to be occur on a regular basis. Due to the End of Year break, Q2 results are due to be reported at the February Council meeting.
	1.2.2.1 Deliver Council's Information and Communications Technology Strategy.	●	On Track	The ICT Strategy includes: One Council Program 83% complete ICT Asset Renewal Program 50% complete Information Management Program 65% complete Event Management Program - WPACC 70% complete WPACC AV Upgrade Program 100% complete Business Systems Major Upgrade 60% complete Rostering Management System 100% complete
	1.2.2.2 Develop and deliver an Information Management Strategy.	●	On Track	Preparing for data transfer for remaining WIM data to Encompass.
	1.2.3.1 Review the Strategic Risk Register Quarterly.	●	On Track	Quarterly review conducted
	1.2.3.3 Implement a Risk Assurance program.	●	On Track	Work continues on risk assurance
	1.3.1.1 Advocate for the region by participating in the Hume Regional Partnerships initiative.	●	On Track	The CEO continues to participate in the Hume Regional Partnership Initiative.
	1.4.1.1 Keep informed of emerging trends and issues that may impact our community, our region and our Council.	●	On Track	The CEO actively engages with key stakeholders on issues impacting the Rural City and Region more broadly including: Municipal Association of Victoria, Ovens and Murray Regional Partnership, Rural Cities Victoria, LGPro and Indi Round Table.
	1.4.1.3 Develop an Advocacy Strategy to ensure Council can maximise opportunities for funding and program support.	●	On Track	Advocacy Priorities identified and documented to guide advocacy work.
	1.4.1.4 Provide leadership to the community on Environmental Sustainability.	●	On Track	Team continues to work with Local Landcare and Sustainability Group, Draft Climate Adaptation Plan for Council assets and programs out for community consultation
	1.4.2.2 Identify external funding for programs to improve the quality of life for our community.	●	On Track	Continue to identify and share grant opportunities with the community, while also developing grant applications for projects that enhance health and wellbeing outcomes for all community members.
	1.4.2.3 Staff to participate in the Alpine Community Leaders and/or other appropriate leadership development programs.	●	On Track	Two staff members successfully completed the 2024 Alpine Valley Community Leadership Program, whilst another two were successfully nominated and selected to participate in the 2025 program. Council supported nominated for the LGP Emerging and Executive Leaders program, with 1 nominee selected. Additionally, Council has engaged an external provider to facilitate training to 13 Council leaders (aspiring and current) to obtain a Diploma of Leadership and Management which is due to be completed in 2026.

2. Nurturing our Wellbeing	2.1.1.2 Deliver Arts, Culture and Exhibitions focusing mental health	●	On Track	Benefits for positive mental health outcomes continue to be deliberately curated outcomes of programming artist practice and topics explored throughout the art gallery program. Some highlights and examples are, 'Wild Country' exhibition in Gallery 2, exploring the well-being aspects of nature and place, combined with reflective activities activated in the creation station areas for children and adults.
	2.1.1.3 Support community driven mental health and wellbeing projects through Community Grants	●	On Track	The Grit and Resilience Program team will participate in the panel for the council community grants in 2025.
	2.1.1.4 Participate in the innovative community consortia as part of Royal Commission into mental health system.	●	On Track	The innovative community consortia is now named "social inclusion action groups". However, within the Wangaratta Local Government Area (LGA) it is known as the Grit and Resilience Program. This program is an ongoing funded program that supports community connection and social inclusion.
	2.1.2.2 Continue to support the Wangaratta Headspace satellite site.	●	On Track	
	2.1.2.4 Support school-based programs that promote resilience and general mental wellbeing.	●	On Track	The Council has a youth services team that work closely with the schools and a number of programs, including the Grit and Resilience Program promote school based programs across the community with headspace Wangaratta.
	2.2.1.1 Delivery of the Community Access and Inclusion Plan	●	On Track	Currently on hold. A draft of the Inclusive Wangaratta Plan will be presented to the new Council in early 2025.
	2.2.1.2 Ensure projects engage people, including people of all abilities in the design process	●	On Track	Leveraging Equity Impact Assessments to promote deliberative engagement, with a focus on including priority communities. The Community Engagement Plan is under review and will explore strategies to engage a broader range of community members.
	2.2.1.4 Review accessibility of current Council buildings.	●	On Track	Compliance to Disability Discrimination Act has been assessed for our main buildings with no major issues noted. Officers will continue to review.
	2.2.2.1 Implement the Wareena Park Masterplan	●	On Track	The oval regeneration project is progressing ahead of schedule. However, due to funding constraints in the masterplan, alternative pathways need to be explored to bring the vision to life.
	2.2.2.2 Facilitate the delivery of the Age Friendly Communities Project.	●	On Track	While this project is complete, we continue to explore options for integrating these project themes and learnings into future planning.
	2.2.2.4 Develop, endorse and implement an Age Friendly Strategy.	●	On Track	This action is linked to the Inclusive Wangaratta Plan, which is currently on hold. A draft of the plan is scheduled to be presented to the new Council in early 2025.
	2.2.2.5 Provide quality Aged and Community Care Services to our community	●	On Track	Service provision is on-going, with strategic work underway as to adapting to aged care sector reforms.
	2.2.3.1 Develop our Rural City of Wangaratta Youth Strategy.	●	On Track	We have engaged a contractor to work with a young group of people to develop and deliver the Youth Strategy 2025
	2.2.4.1 Advocate for community access to services to support mental, physical and sexual health and wellbeing.	●	On Track	These items doesn't just sit within one area with significant work being done across Council. Youth Sexual health programs, Grit and Resilience program, Summer in the parks, Age Friendly program, Play your way etc.
	2.2.4.3 Support children and parents after their involvement in Maternal Child Health services and before Kindergarten.	●	On Track	Ongoing task; strong partnership with NERPSA in place.
2.3.1.1 Deliver events that focus on celebrating diversity, connection and belonging for everyone within our community.	●	On Track	Delivering free or low-cost community events that encourage connection, and a sense of belonging is a privilege for the events team. This quarter has witnessed a successful Seniors Festival in October and significant planning and delivery for a free music and activities event delivery for NYE.	

2.3.1.3 Support awareness campaigns to highlight the benefits of a diverse and equitable community.	●	On Track	A draft Inclusive Wangaratta Plan was developed in consultation with community members with lived experience of a range of factors impacting on access and inclusion. At the September 2024 Council meeting, it was resolved to cease further work on the development of this plan until the newly elected Council has an opportunity to consider how it wishes to proceed.
2.3.1.4 Deliver Cultural Sensitivity Training to all RCoW Staff and Councillors.	●	On Track	Plans are in place for creating and delivering cultural sensitivity training in the first half of 2025.
2.3.1.5 Support LGBTQIA+ programs and services, such as the Rainbow Ball.	●	On Track	We provided some funding so that the Rainbow Ball could go ahead as part of the Drag'd Out Festival in Beechworth in November. We will continue to work with other Councils and organisations such as LINE Wangaratta on Pride events.
2.3.2.1 Ensure community groups and committees have strong governance and are inclusive and viable.	●	On Track	Various community groups and committees are actively using the governance planning toolkit and templates to compile annual reports and identify areas where support can be provided. Collaboration with Whitfield has successfully reinstated the Recreation Reserve Committee of Management.
2.3.2.3 Work with community groups to access State and Federal funding opportunities.	●	On Track	Continuing our support for clubs and groups in their funding applications, including Wangaratta Rovers application to develop changeroom facilities to increase and support female participation with the club and supporting Milawa Halls application for funding of their Carols by Candlelight event.
2.3.3.2 Support access to community activities, sports and events through projects that address the barriers to participation	●	On Track	Continuing to support all abilities sporting clubs, including line marking Bindall Avenue to allow the All Abilities Soccer Club to train and play at that ground.
2.3.3.3 Increase visibility of opportunities to connect community leaders and groups across the municipality.	●	On Track	The Community Directory launched on the council website late 2024 to showcase the existing groups, clubs and opportunities for connection across the municipality.
2.3.4.1 Work to increase co-location opportunities and access to existing community facilities.	●	On Track	Council has recently supported the Lions Club in the co-use of their new space at the Wangaratta Showgrounds, working with the Lions Club on an EOI for community groups to use the space.
2.3.4.3 Ensure building renewal projects delivered to a high standard.	●	On Track	The annual building renewal program is underway and being delivered to a high standard.
2.3.4.4 Takes bold decisions to decommission buildings that are no longer safe or functional, where a viable alternative is available.	●	On Track	Officers continue to review building usage and make decisions as required.
2.4.1.1 Enhance the services at the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre	●	On Track	Compared to this time last year WSAC has more structured program opportunities such as additional group fitness and learn to swim classes. We've also built our capacity (qualified teachers) to assist with additional school bookings. We continue to place a focus on the customer's experience. One measure that we're moving the dial in this area is the fact that we're currently receiving significantly fewer customer complaints than in the past. As we strengthen our workforce, an intentional focus on permanent appointments where it makes sense to do so, rather than reliance on casuals, has ensured more consistency (customer rapport) and predictability (expectations of behaviour, role responsibility) which is contributing to an enhanced service offering.

2.4.1.2 Facilitate and promote health and wellbeing programs such as Get Active Victoria, Walk to School, Ride2Work and This Girl Can.	●	On Track	The launch of the "Let's Get Active Women and Girls" page on the council website was a significant step forward. We received 96 responses to our survey, including input from 25 groups currently offering activities for women and girls. These groups highlighted advertising and promotion as their primary areas where council support was needed. In response, we developed the "Let's Get Active Women & Girls" directory, a resource showcasing local physical activity opportunities specifically for women and girls.
2.4.1.3 Provide opportunities for community to participate in physical activity.	●	On Track	Council continued to provide accessible, affordable and inclusive spaces for the community to participate in physical activity. WSAC offered discounted membership offers during this period.
2.4.1.4 Partner with Gateway Health to implement the InFANT program to assist parents and families with healthy eating and active play from the start of their baby's life.	●	Complete	
2.4.1.5 Support the implementation of the RESPOND project	●	On Track	Ongoing participation in backbone project governance meetings continues, with planning underway for a February celebration event. This event will highlight successes, engage the community, and set the stage for identifying next steps.
2.4.1.6 Support and deliver programs that increase the choice for active transport	●	On Track	Students created artwork that has been transformed into stickers, now displayed on footpaths and signs along fences at Wangaratta West Primary School to promote walking to school. At Oxley Primary School, student artwork was completed and is scheduled to be installed at a local park and within the school grounds early 2025.
2.4.2.2 Plan for the future recreation needs in Wangaratta's North and South growth areas.	●	On Track	Council continues to plan for future recreation needs in Wangaratta's North and South growth areas by engaging user groups, supporting their growth, and ensuring spaces are inclusive, adaptable, and aligned with community needs.
2.4.2.3 Seek funding opportunities to support the Walking and Cycling Strategy.	●	On Track	Grant funding was secured to complete a Wheeled Activity Strategy, and external consultants were engaged to lead the process. This strategy document is on track for delivery in early 2025.
2.4.2.4 Continued maintenance of all our pathways and walking tracks across the municipality.	●	On Track	The footpaths renewal program is currently underway and being delivered in line with asset renewal requirements and community priority.
2.4.2.6 Ensure infrastructure projects consider the accessibility, comfort, ease and convenience for walking and cycling.	●	On Track	Infrastructure projects will consider all transport means - including vehicle, pedestrian and cycling, using the Safe Systems Solutions approach to determine treatments.
2.4.3.1 Seek opportunities to increase drinking water access in public places throughout the municipality.	●	On Track	Council continues to support this action by integrating water fountains into new and existing projects wherever feasible and listen to community feedback for these locations.
2.4.3.2 Implement healthy choices guidelines at all Council facilities and internal events.	●	On Track	Investigating Healthy Choice Guidelines at WSAC.
2.4.3.3 Support and promote local produce providers supplying local markets and businesses.	●	On Track	Discovery Wangaratta Program - features wineries, local producers in social media activities and promotions through Shop Local Campaigns
2.4.4.1 Develop and support educational resources that promote growing food at home and/ or within the community gardens.	●	On Track	Assisted Gateway Health in mapping the locations of food-growing gardens across schools, early childhood centers, and community settings. The findings are being compiled into a report, which will be shared with the community.
2.4.4.2 Support the equitable distribution of excess local produce throughout the community.	●	On Track	As part of the Community Food For All Network supporting community to donate excess produce to Open Door Neighbourhood House and their food pantry.

2.4.4.3 Facilitation the Community Food For All community group and support the implementation of the North East Local Food Strategy.	●	On Track	Community Food For All group meeting regularly, exploring opportunities to expand membership. A member from the Community Food For All group sits on the project group for the North East Local Food Strategy to ensure our region is represented.
2.4.4.4 Advocate at the State and National level to increase access to healthy food .	●	On Track	Advocacy is undertaken where possible to state and federal government agencies.
2.4.5.2 Strengthen regulations of alcohol supply and reform of liquor licensing through the Wangaratta Liquor Accord.	●	On Track	Council facilitates the Wangaratta Liquor Accord, providing the platform for feedback to Liquor Control Victoria (LCV) on these matters.
2.4.5.4 Apply smoke-free policies to all new outdoor initiatives	●	On Track	This is discussed and checked as part of an inspection process
2.4.6.2 Advocate to other levels of Government for best practice gambling regulation and policy reform	●	On Track	Advocacy is undertaken where possible to state and federal government agencies.
2.4.6.3 Partner with others to inform the community about the health risks of gambling.	●	On Track	Council's Gambling Policy incorporates this action which is yet to be delivered.
2.5.1.2 Support education and training for front line staff to recognise and respond to the needs of victim survivors.	●	On Track	VicPol have initiated a local Safety Committee, in which the provision of CCTV cameras will be considered.
2.5.2.1 Continue programs such as the 16 Days of Activism, International Women's Day, and other programs focused on the reduction of gendered and family violence.	●	On Track	Collaborated with Centre Against Violence and Zonta to hold community vigil at King George Gardens during 16 Days of Activism.
2.5.2.2 Work with organisations such as Women's Health Goulburn North East and the Centre Against Violence.	●	On Track	Council continues to develop and nurture our working relationships with local organisations to ensure the best possible outcomes for our community.
2.5.3.1 Work with all levels of community to promote gender equity and respect and its relationship to family violence.	●	On Track	Cross-functional teams within the council collaborate to ensuring coordinated action to promote gender equity, respect and address family violence within all levels of the community.
2.5.3.2 Work on placemaking projects to improve the safety and use, and to reduce anti-social behaviour, especially parks and playgrounds.	●	On Track	Council officers attended the inaugural meeting of Wangaratta Police's Local Safety Committee and continue to advance placemaking strategies aimed at enhancing safety, promoting positive use and reducing anti-social behavior in parks and playgrounds.
2.5.3.3 Investigate the provision of CCTV cameras into key areas such as the Wangaratta CBD and major parks.	●	On Track	VicPol have initiated a local Safety Committee, in which the provision of CCTV cameras will be considered.
2.5.3.4 Explore funding opportunities to increase the provision of lighting in public places.	●	On Track	Audit is complete for our current street lighting infrastructure. Currently working on a 5-year program including some quick wins.
2.5.3.5 Ensure that passive surveillance is embedded into new developments of reserves and public spaces.	●	On Track	We are continually enhancing our design and development processes to prioritise and ensure community safety in our reserves and public spaces.
2.5.3.6 Support the delivery of the Respectful Relationships program in all schools across the municipality.	●	On Track	Youth team liaises with the Respectful Relationships staff member who delivers the program to schools in the Wangaratta LGA on an ongoing basis.
2.6.1.1 Seek funding to establish and maintain the flood protection system including the urban levee system.	●	On Track	Currently in Year 3 of the levee improvement program Wilson Road, Parfitt Road complete with Merriwa Park design finalised and to be re-tendered.
2.6.1.5 Build capacity and resilience to respond to emergencies and disasters that are a result of climate change.	●	On Track	Ongoing task; new staff coming on-board to assist in on-call capacity.
2.6.1.6 Delivery of programs to support the resilience and recovery of business and the community in the face of adverse events such as bushfire, pandemic and drought.	●	Complete	Safer Together grant funding enabled us to successfully deliver Community Engagement Sessions for Emergency Planning across the LGA, empowering communities to develop localised emergency plans and maps factoring in adverse events. We continue to explore additional funding opportunities that support emergency preparedness initiatives.
2.6.2.2 Be proactive to reduce the risk of preventable outbreaks such as gastroenteritis.	●	On Track	Education to prevent outbreaks is part of an inspection process

	2.6.2.5 Administer the National Immunisation Program for all children under 18 years of age	●	On Track	Immunisation sessions now run out of Wangaratta Children's Services Centre and at local high schools
3. Valuing Our Environment	3.1.1.1 Support and assist community groups to undertake conservation projects.*	●	On Track	Environment team continues to work with Landcare and NECMA on biodiversity projects - Letters of Support for Grant programs for local Landcare groups to undertake weeding and planting projects
	3.1.1.2 Collaborate with the community to adopt sustainable building and living practices	●	On Track	Smart Savings Workshops in partnership with Bpangerang House, Sustainability Victoria and Electrify Wangaratta
	3.1.1.3 Support the community to understand the importance of natural areas and biodiversity	●	On Track	Roadside Conservation Signs installed on high and very high areas - mailouts to local residents
	3.1.2.1 Enhance urban vegetation corridors for environmental, recreational, and aesthetic benefit to the community.*	●	On Track	Environment and Sustainability team continues plantings across bush reserves, riparian corridors & rail trail. 14,000 native plants planted by team.
	3.1.2.2 Support developers to implement Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) principles	●	On Track	This year we focused more on replacing the ground and mid storey vegetation that is missing in many established reserves
	3.1.2.3 Identify and promote opportunities to use ESD in residential, industrial and commercial developments.	●	On Track	As per above - smart savings workshop
	3.1.2.4 Target investment of industries that contribute to the circular or zero-emissions economy.*	●	On Track	Webinar held by Sustainability Victoria on Circular economy aiming toward net zero emissions
	3.1.2.5 Ensure the Community Grant Program supports environmentally sustainable projects.	●	On Track	Community grant guidelines require applicants to consider whether their project supports good environmental outcomes and if the project is environmentally sustainable.
	3.1.2.6 Investigate opportunities to establish native vegetation offsets within the Rural City of Wangaratta	●	Complete	Completed
	3.1.3.1 Review and implementation of Council's Roadside Conservation Management Plan.	●	Complete	Completed
	3.1.3.2 Protect and increase native vegetation corridors in our natural reserves and waterways.	●	On Track	Ongoing - Tree planting dates- Supported planting in South Wangaratta with Merriwa industries (EPA Grant) - approximately 5,000 native trees, shrubs and grasses planted
	3.1.3.3 Create environments that protect from harmful UV radiation levels and minimise urban heat island effects.	●	Complete	
	3.1.3.4 Incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into strategies and practices concerning the management of the natural environment.	●	On Track	Continue to work with Traditional Owners on Projects - Taungurung and Bpangerang
	3.1.3.5 Develop and adopt a Tree Canopy Policy to address climate adaption.	●	Complete	
	3.2.1.1 Develop the new Waste Strategy in consultation with the community.	●	Complete	
	3.2.1.2 Ensure service delivery is in accordance with the Recycle Victoria Policy.	●	On Track	Council have endorsed the Council officer recommendation to commence kerbside glass collection on the 1 July 2025
	3.2.1.3 Ensure services and facilities are operated in compliance with Environmental Protection Act.	●	On Track	EPA have undertaken inspections of both Bowser and the Organics Processing Facility, both operating to license requirements, 53V Environmental Audit scheduled for November 2024
3.2.1.4 Explore feasibility of commercial options to divert materials from waste and recycling streams.	●	On Track	Increased acceptance of polystyrene at Transfer Stations and further development of Acceptance and Processing Contracts at the Wangaratta Organics Processing Facility.	
3.2.1.5 Introduce a third glass-only bin into the community.	●	On Track	Council have endorsed the Council officer recommendation to commence kerbside glass collection on the 1 July 2025	

3.2.2.1 Reduce the amount of contamination placed in recycling and organics bins.	●	On Track	Council is running a number of education campaigns targeting a reduction in contamination in the organics bins, this includes advertising at local bus stops, social media and radio, this media campaign will run between July and November 20204.
3.2.2.2 Increase the waste diversion from landfill through the increased use of recycling and organics bins	●	On Track	
3.2.3.1 Reduce waste, paper and water usage in Council facilities and events through education.	●	On Track	Council is working with the events team to facilitate the first zero waste Council community event in November 2024
3.2.3.2 Investigate the use of recycled or reclaimed products in Council's road, pathway and capital works projects.	●	On Track	Council continues to utilize the crushed concrete from Bowser for remediation of hauls roads within Bowser, Transfer Station & Organics Processing Facility
3.3.1.1 Explore opportunities to be leaders in adapting to the impacts of climate change.	●	On Track	Climate Adaptation Plan being developed. Environmental Sustainability Strategy being implemented.
3.3.1.2 Promote local climate adaptation programs and opportunities through various media platforms and workshops.	●	On Track	Climate Adaptation Plan - Sustainability Workshops have been undertaken
3.3.1.4 Support and facilitate the increased use of renewable energy throughout the community.	●	On Track	Smart Savings Workshops in partnership with Pangerang House, Sustainability Victoria and Electrify Wangaratta
3.3.2.1 Develop a carbon reduction action plan for corporate operations to achieve emission targets, and consider the lifetime emissions of all project developments.	●	Complete	
3.3.2.3 Explore opportunities to reduce water usage in Council facilities.	●	On Track	Water conservation project being undertaken at Barr reserve. Water bill allocation being reviewed to gain true reflective costs.
3.4.1.1 Lobby all levels of government for water security to protect and provide for the future of agriculture, industry and sustainability of our community and ecosystem.	●	On Track	Ongoing - North East Water are the lead agency
3.4.1.2 Incorporate sustainable stormwater management considerations into Council plans and infrastructure designs.	●	On Track	
3.4.2.1 Improve water quality and riparian habitat connectivity with increased invasive species control and habitat restoration.	●	On Track	Continued invasive species control along rivers and creeks reserves to maintain access. Waterwatch Program - Mullinmur wetland Water Watch data analysis provided for native catfish translocation.
3.4.2.3 Ensure that access and use of our waterways balances water preservation and health.	●	On Track	Provide training and support to Waterwatch volunteers monitoring water quality in local waterways to build on community ownership of waterway health. Continue to work with Wangaratta Landcare & Sustainability on the Three Mile Creek and Kaluna Park projects and in weed control projects to protect the Ovens River riparian zone
3.4.2.4 Promote importance of our rivers and creeks to build community pride, care and protection.	●	On Track	Social Media - Best places to swim along our rivers. Continue to work with Landcare groups to weed and manage waterways
4.1.1.1 Promote the diverse tourism offering within the region, including cycle tourism, food and wine, and eco and nature-based tourism.	●	On Track	Discover Wangaratta Series and Shop Hop Program - Promotions of individual areas King Valley, Whorouly and Wangaratta this quarter
4.1.1.3 Deliver innovative and flexible visitor servicing options	●	On Track	Ongoing: Visitor Services Satellite Sites - draws visitors into local stores prompting conversations visitor services and prompting value-add purchasing from local store
4.1.2.1 Develop collateral and marketing campaigns that promote the municipality as THE place to visit.	●	Complete	New Official Visitor Guide completed - Digital and Print
4.2.1.1 Ensure we have sufficient industrial and commercial land to attract new businesses	●	Complete	

4.2.1.2 Actively facilitate the attraction of new industries and businesses.	●	On Track	Update of Invest Wangaratta website. Officer work with prospective business and local estate agents to promote opportunities and assist with pre-planning meetings
4.2.1.3 Plan for the infrastructure to support the growth of key economic sectors	●	On Track	Work with planning and strategic planning and outside agencies such as North East Water, NBN, Telstra to ensure essential infrastructure and services is planed for into the future. Advocate for funding to support these infrastructure upgrades at State and Federal levels.
4.2.2.1 Support business to innovate, value add, adapt and grow to changing needs across key sectors	●	On Track	Delivery of fortnightly Industry e-newsletter to all businesses, featuring industry news, and other valuable resources to aid their capabilities, information on grant opportunities or workshops related to individual industries
4.2.2.2 Deliver programs and training that support our local business capacity and capability.	●	On Track	Small Business Development Program: workshops on marketing, website development, financial management, business planning, social media, and customer service
4.2.2.3 Support the Board of the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange to further develop its services and to strengthen its long-term financial sustainability.	●	On Track	
4.2.3.2 Deliver programs and training to support small and medium enterprises	●	On Track	Small Business Development Program : workshops on marketing, website development, financial management, business planning, social media, and customer service
4.2.4.1 Support initiatives that promote innovation and entrepreneurial ideas.	●	On Track	Continue to support Start Up Shake Up and Tourism North East programs - Digital Upskilling, New products
4.2.5.1 Advocate with water regulators to ensure adequate water resources	●	On Track	Ongoing - North East Water lead agency
4.2.6.1 Understand the economic impacts for businesses and community following an adverse event.	●	Complete	
4.2.6.2 Advocate for government assistance to support recovery from adverse events.	●	Complete	
4.3.1.1 Advocate for the provision of tertiary education opportunities that are in line with industry needs.	●	Complete	
4.3.1.2 Support education providers to better understand the educational needs of our community, and develop a collaborative strategy to address these gaps.	●	On Track	Council officers work with local education providers, and regional training organisations to advocate for programs and courses relevant to our regions industry needs and future workforce needs. Connections with local industry to Local Schools, GoTafe, Country Universities Centre (CUC) - Ovens Murray, Going Rural Health, Gateway Health, North East Tracks LLEN (Local Learning Education Network) NESAY (North East Support & Action for Youth), Wodonga TAFE
4.3.1.3 Work with education providers to ensure our young people are equipped with relevant employability readiness skills.	●	On Track	Council Officers working with the new Wang Tech College (STEM) on the development of programs and have representation on the project steering committee.
4.3.2.2 Support GOTAFE, North East TRACKS Local Learning and Employment Network and other education providers to address the skills and education needs within the region.	●	On Track	Council officers work with local education providers, and regional training organisations to advocate for programs and courses relevant to our regions industry needs and future workforce needs. Participate on new Wang Tech School (STEM) project. Council continues to support and advertise workshops and programs being run by GoTafe, North East Tracks LLEN (Local Learning Education Network), NESAY (North East Support & Action for Youth) and CUC Ovens Murray and participates in student/workforce days - hands on trade, working for council.
4.4.1.2 Continue to deliver urban revitalisation projects within the CBD.	●	On Track	Pedestrian crossing upgrade design being finalised and delivered in Q4

	4.4.1.3 Implement the Wangaratta Central Activity Area Urban Design Framework.	●	Complete	
	4.4.2.1 Support the region’s Local Tourism Associations	●	On Track	Council officers continue to work with Local Tourism Associations on media and marketing initiatives - Delivery of the Local Tourism Associations grant program to assist membership and sustainability of the local associations.
	4.4.2.2 Continue to develop and deliver rural town infrastructure plans.	●	On Track	Works to be completed in Peechelba
	4.4.2.3 Continue to explore opportunities for rural economic development.	●	On Track	Council officers liaise with Agriculture Victoria, Invest Victoria, Global Victoria and Regional Development Victoria discussing opportunities for expansion of our businesses into new markets or new opportunities with new businesses.
5. Enhancing our Lifestyle	5.1.1.1 Advocate for train services and facilities to accommodate current and future passengers	●	On Track	Advocacy is undertaken where possible to state and federal government agencies.
	5.1.1.2 Identify and address public and community transport gaps throughout the North East	●	On Track	
	5.1.1.3 Facilitate public transport routes, such as buses, within the city and rural areas	●	On Track	Council continues to work with the bus operators to maintain and make sure current bus facilities are adequate.
	5.1.2.1 Promote the availability of car share providers, and access to affordable and passive transport options within the community	●	On Track	Officers continue to explore opportunities with current local service providers, bus companies and other providers such as Uber.
	5.1.3.1 Review freight strategy to position our city as a major commercial and industrial centre	●	On Track	Council work closely with National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to ensure the heavy vehicle freight routes are up to date and best fit for the area. Officers have recently also completed a proposal for a new town bypass and planning are looking at the required amendments.
	5.1.3.2 Identify funding for improvement of regional and local road network to boost the region’s economy including the Benalla-Whitfield Road	●	On Track	Council continues to seek road (and bridge) funding opportunities where possible.
	5.1.3.3 Advocate for the upgrade of the Wangaratta-Whitfield Road.	●	On Track	Continuing to advocate on behalf of the community. RRV have present the project to the minister for funding.
	5.2.1.1 Increase the representation of our cultural story and history throughout our community and recognise its impact on our sense of place	●	On Track	Commitment to Increase the representation of our cultural story and history throughout our community continues, the main focus of this commitment at present is through the partnership with the Wangaratta Historical Society Committee by strengthening the opportunities for the Marianne Gibson Quilt story into the future as part of the Creative Precinct Project. Further commitments to public art projects and historical interpretation opportunities are also being developed such as the Railway Station Redevelopment in partnership with Australian Rail Track Corporation.
	5.2.1.2 Deliver projects with our indigenous and cultural groups to celebrate the diversity and history of our region	●	On Track	Arts Culture, Events and Youth team members continue to support Dirrawarra Network and local traditional owners through grant submissions, committee meetings and planning for significant events in 2024.
	5.2.1.3 Develop a program that acknowledges the traditional names of local places, people, and landmarks	●	On Track	This work forms part of Council's continued commitment to the RCOW Reconciliation Action Plan. The program has also partnered with the Community Recreation team to continue a review on the naming of landmarks, streets and places so that we can get a better understanding of gender equality, (women) and First Nations identities. A survey submission has been made to the State Government Gender Equity department with further actions to be delivered in the 2024 and 2025 year. A public art grant opportunity for women was explored but unsuccessful.

<p>5.2.1.4 Promote the recognition of our rich textile history and manufacturing heritage.</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>On Track</p>	<p>Recognition of the textile manufacturing history is prioritised and programmed annually into the art gallery program. A highlight in 2024 being through the acclaimed Petite Miniature Textiles 2024, co-curated by textile and installation artist Susie Losch, the exhibition showcased 30 works by 22 textile artists from across the country. The summer feature exhibition launched, 'Counterparts' in November 2024 features two of Australia's leading contemporary practitioners, Hannah Gartside and Brit Salt.</p> <p>Applications are open and preparations are underway for the launch of the 2025 Wangaratta Contemporary Textile Award.</p>
<p>5.2.1.5 Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan in partnership with our indigenous community</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>On Track</p>	<p>A Reconciliation Action Plan working group has been established within the Senior Management team in Q3. A consultant to advise on a First Nations community engagement framework has been secured and will begin engagement with community in February 2025.</p>
<p>5.2.2.2 Organise the Wangaratta Australia Day ceremony and support rural communities to deliver local Australia Day events.</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>On Track</p>	<p>The Events team continue to support and design and deliver a number of celebratory events for Australia Day across the Rural City. A review of the Australia Day policy and procedures has been internally considered and applications for the categories has been launched for the 2025 event. Promotion of the opportunity to celebrate these awards have been delivered and nominations were received and assessed in time for announcement in January 2025. Rural Community celebrations are also an important part of this event delivery and continue to be popular with many of those small communities.</p>
<p>5.2.2.3 Continue to promote, recognise and celebrate NAIDOC week within our community</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>On Track</p>	<p>The celebration of the 2024 NAIDOC week occurred through various partnerships with Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA), Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Education & the RCOW Environment and Sustainability team.</p> <p>Internal educational key speakers were engaged are also planned for staff learning and commitment to the Reconciliation Action Plan, the official NAIDOC week posters were printed and made available to the whole community through customer service and external venues. Plans to assist, support and deliver are being considered in Q3 for the 2025 NAIDOC week.</p>
<p>5.3.1.1 Support the use of technology for service provision for people of all abilities, including those living in small towns and isolated rural areas and multicultural communities</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>On Track</p>	<p>Advocacy is undertaken where possible with the individual providers and state federal government</p>
<p>5.3.1.2 Advocate for free wi-fi throughout the CBD and rural tourism townships.</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>On Track</p>	<p>Council officers continue to speak with NBN and Telstra on opportunities</p>
<p>5.3.1.3 Advocate for equitable access to the internet and mobile phone services</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>Complete</p>	
<p>5.4.1.2 Improve and grow our pathway network throughout residential areas</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>On Track</p>	<p>Council will ensure footpath networks are designed appropriately in new developments and will seek to improve pathway networks where there is a priority or need.</p>
<p>5.4.1.3 Deliver pedestrian and cyclist improvements as outlined in the Walking and Cycling Strategy</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>On Track</p>	<p>Continued to progress pedestrian and cyclist improvements in line with the Walking and Cycling Strategy, with a focus on enhancing connectivity, safety and accessibility across the region.</p>

<p>5.5.1.1 Deliver an engaging public art program that helps to make our city and rural communities more vibrant</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>On Track</p>	<p>The Prosecco Road Public Art Project , The Bubbles by Alexander Knox has been completed and installed on site. Extensive community consultation and engagement with the Oxley and Milawa communities has taken place in the form of 'meet & greet' artist events, school engagement and information evenings. This was followed by a community launch on Sunday 20 October at Sam Miranda Winery. Additional partnerships with Tourism North East and Inland Rail (ARTC) have continued in the form of advising on commissioning best practice and aligning the artwork development with the RCOW public art policy for potential donation.</p>
<p>5.5.1.2 Showcase inspiring and thought-provoking visual art exhibitions at the Wangaratta Art Gallery.</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>On Track</p>	<p>This quarter the gallery program featured compelling work by diverse artists across a myriad of themes from cultural attrition, sustainable textile practice, AI, feminism and women's histories and colonialism to the experience of rural and regional Australia. Wild Country in Gallery 2 focused on the story and identify of the Ovens River to the local community, inviting audience participation. A highlight this quarter was the feature exhibition of local artist Fran O'Neil, internationally acclaimed with a strong local following.</p>
<p>5.5.1.3 Advocate for the availability of accessible community creative exhibition spaces throughout our municipality</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>On Track</p>	<p>Stage 2 of the Creative Precinct Detailed Design project has been completed. If this project were to become a reality, a community exhibition space would be available to the community. Advocacy continues through the Gallery 2 application program, regularly calling for expressions of interest and booked until 2025. This opportunity allows community groups and projects to apply and propose to exhibit in a competitive community environment. Other support is offered to the community via the Bainz Gallery space at the Wangaratta Library.</p>
<p>5.5.2.1 Deliver a diverse and engaging annual program of events that caters to the needs of the community</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>On Track</p>	<p>Major events delivered throughout the 2024/ 25 year and part of the annual program will be made up of New Years Eve, Summer in the Parks, the Outdoor Ball and unique supported events like the Project 365, Reg Fest and many more that bring revenue and economic impact to the city. A highlight of the events season for this quarter was the management of the Outdoor Expo (July), Seniors Festival and partnership delivery of the WSAC basketball Court Opening & NBL Game (August).</p>
<p>5.5.2.2 Actively engage young people in the performance arts through the provision of accessible projects and performances</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>On Track</p>	<p>The WPACC first youth trainee program is proving to be a success providing a 12-month program at WPACC in partnership with the Arts Centre Melbourne and gain valuable industry experience and obtain their Cert IV in Live Production. This program is ongoing. Ongoing engagement of young people and families is programmed through the WPACC annual program, a highlight of the Q2 period is the support provided to local primary and secondary schools and local dance schools for end of year concerts.</p>

5.5.3.1 Investigate a unique, creative and cultural precinct in the centre of the city, that will deliver exciting and engaging programs for all residents and visitors.	●	On Track	The Submission to the Federal Government Growing Region Grant Fund was unsuccessful, the focus is now on the Regional Precincts Partnerships Program (RPPP) Federal Grant Fund, which is now enhanced by the completion of the detailed design and submitted planning application. Support from Regional Development Australia (HUME Region via Regional Development Victoria) has been a crucial step of progress in Q2, 2024.
5.5.4.1 Provide alternative events that engage young people in the library community	●	On Track	
5.6.1.1 Deliver a diverse annual calendar of accessible community events throughout the municipality that provide opportunities for community members to connect	●	On Track	Ongoing (please see action 5.5.2.1)
5.6.1.2 Plan for infrastructure in key strategic spaces that can facilitate the delivery of community-based events	●	On Track	Advocacy is undertaken where possible to state and federal government agencies.
5.6.1.3 Recognise and celebrate local volunteers through National Volunteer Week.	●	On Track	Recognised between 19-25 May 2025.
5.6.2.1 Support groups and clubs to deliver events to their members and the broader community	●	On Track	The events team support multiple community groups and services with their event planning, overseeing risk assessment plans, event applications, and providing many aspects of support and advice. These skills ensure that they get access to event planning knowledge and support to ensure they have every chance of success.
5.6.2.2 Attract a range of conferences to the municipality.	●	On Track	The Events and WPACC teams have been working on attracting a number of conventions to Wangaratta for the benefit of Tourism and Economic Dollar. Conversations are taking place for the Square-Dancing Association to visit for their annual Conference. Working with the function team at WPACC the N Scale National Train Conference was secured in and the Manoro Car Conference in late October. This area and partnership between the Events and WPACC teams continue to see a growth area of demand in our city for external organisations to secure a regional venue for their conference needs.
5.7.1.2 Develop a Masterplan to improve the waterways and community infrastructure at Merriwa Park including the junction of the Ovens and Kings	●	On Track	
5.7.2.1 Develop and maintain playgrounds throughout the municipality to ensure access to play for our children and families	●	On Track	Planning to review PlaySpace Strategy in early 2025.

1. Strengthening Our Leadership	1.3.1.2 Advocate for the community by participating on the Regional Mental Health and Wellbeing Boards.	●	Cancelled	Council was advocating for membership on the Regional Mental Health and Wellbeing Boards but these Boards are auspiced by the State Government and ceased to exists
2. Nurturing our Wellbeing	2.2.4.4 Finalise the Municipal Early Years Plan.	●	Off Track	The Municipal Early Years Plan is in development with the new completion date December
5. Enhancing our Lifestyle	5.1.3.4 Develop a Traffic Management Plan to improve vehicle traffic flow throughout the central business district, including both short-term and long-term solutions.	●	Off Track	A full review of previous work undertaken is to be completed. There are limited options with poor ROI. Council is proposing a town bypass as a long-term solution.
	5.4.1.1 Expand the provision of street lighting throughout key pedestrian and cyclist routes	●	Off Track	An audit is currently being undertaken for our current street lighting infrastructure. This will help build a 5 year renewal program and also help identify locations with little to no lighting to be addressed.

Category	Item Name		Actual YTD	Target YTD	Variance YTD	..	Actual Curr Qtr	Target Curr Qtr	Variance Curr Qtr	Comment
1. Strengthening Our Leadership	1.0.1 Survey - Informing the Community									
	1.0.2 Survey - Consult and Engage									
	1.0.3 Survey - Customer Service									
	1.0.4 Survey - Decision Making in Interest of Community									
	1.0.5 Survey - Lobbying on behalf of Community									
	1.0.6 Decisions made at Closed Council Meetings	●	0.33%	4%	92%	●	0.33%	4%	92%	There was one confidential decision made at the October 2024 Council Meeting
	1.0.7 Maintain Liquidity Ratio									
	1.0.8 Days to Close CRMS	●	4.17	14	70%	●	4.33	14	69%	For October 2024, on average requests were completed in 5 days within target.
2. Nurturing our Wellbeing	2.0.1 Survey - performance of recreation facilities									
	2.0.2 Increase in WSAC Visitation	●	3.9%	2%	95%	●	9.6%	2%	380%	Total attendance for the WSAC as at the end of December was 207,532 – up 9.6% on prior year. Increases have been recorded across all key business drivers and service areas including memberships numbers (up 23%), Learn-to-swim enrolments (up 15%), Group Fitness attendance up 6.2% and Rec Swim attendance up 2%.
	2.0.3 Domestic Animals Registration									
	2.0.4 Food Safety Assessments	●	75%	50%	50%	●	26%	25%	4%	On target to complete all food safety assessments
	2.0.5 Childhood Immunisation									
3. Valuing Our Environment	3.0.1 Survey - Performance on Environmental Sustainability									
	3.0.2 Number of native plants planted annually									
	3.0.3 Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill	●	63.5%	65%	-2%	●	64.67%	65%	-1%	
	3.0.4 Percentage of waste going to landfill									
	3.0.5 Tonnes of compost produced from organic waste per year									
	3.0.6 Minimum of 50% of Council used electricity sourced from renewable sources by 2025									
4. Expanding our Economy	4.0.1 Increase in the number of overnight stays on pre-COVID results									
	4.0.2 Increase on 20/21 Visit Wangaratta website visits									
	4.0.3 Increase in Rail trail usage									
	4.0.4 Wangaratta Livestock Exchange full year financial position									
	4.0.5 Survey - Performance on business, community development and tourism									
5. Enhancing our Lifestyle	5.0.1 Survey - Council performance on the condition of sealed roads									
	5.0.2 Survey - Council performance on the condition of unsealed roads									

	5.0.3 Reduction in customer requests for pathways per year									
	5.0.4 Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards									
	5.0.5 Number of attendees at the Wangaratta Art Gallery in 2021/2022	●	18783	15996	17%	●	9564	7998	20%	Strong visitation to contemporary textile exhibition 'Counterparts' in Gallery 1 over the holiday period. Gallery 2 people counter broken - Observations show strong attendance.
	5.0.6 Tickets sold through the Wangaratta Performing Arts and Convention Centre	●	12610	9252	36%	●	7163	4626	55%	5 performances held including last Steinway on Stage with Wangaratta Arts Council & rescheduled Marica Hines show.
	5.0.7 Active library borrowers within the municipality		5.96%	14%	-57%		7.09%	14%	-49%	This is a cumulative figure and won't be final until June 2025. Expect to get close to the target by the end of the financial year.
	5.0.8 Survey - Council performance on community and cultural activities									
	5.0.9 Survey - Council performance on appearance of public open spaces									
6. Growing with Integrity	6.0.1 Annual number of building permits issued for new dwellings	●	36	75	-52%	●	15	37.5	-60%	This is subject to wider building activity and available staff resources.
	6.0.2 Annual number of new residential lots released	●	125	75	67%	●	96	37.5	156%	Council has approved over 1000 lots but the release of these lots is dependant on developers.
	6.0.3 Planning applications made within required time-frames	●	64.33%	82%	-22%	●	68.33%	82%	-17%	This is subject to the efficiency of both Council and the applicant. The number has improved from quarter 1 and further improvement expected in quarter 3.
	6.0.4 Planning Application processing days	●	72.67	55	-32%	●	69	55	-25%	This is subject to the efficiency of both Council and the applicant. Improving on this remains a focus. Some improvement seen compared to quarter 1.
	6.0.5 Survey - Planning & Building permit satisfaction									
	6.0.6 Population Growth									
	6.0.7 Gross Regional Product									
	6.0.8 Invest Wangaratta, Live Wangaratta Website									

Rural City of Wangaratta	FY24/25 Adopted Budget	FY24/25 Q1 Adopted Budget	FY24/25 Q2 Full Year Forecast	Projected Full Year to Q1 Adopted Budget Variance	24/25 YTD Actual	24/25 YTD Budget	YTD Variance Fav/(Unfav)	YTD Variance	Ref
Income Statement as at 31st December 2024	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	
Income									
Rates and charges	42,061,000	42,036,047	42,054,653	18,606	41,899,019	41,759,582	139,437	0%	
Statutory fees and fines	1,429,000	1,432,243	1,351,211	(81,032)	419,824	462,139	(42,315)	(9%)	1
User fees	13,330,000	13,633,774	13,249,997	(383,777)	5,575,795	6,081,384	(505,589)	(8%)	2
Contributions - cash	2,227,000	2,232,200	2,235,330	3,130	48,398	113,178	(64,780)	(57%)	
Contributions - non-monetary	1,050,000	1,050,000	1,082,000	32,000	32,000	22,400	9,600	43%	
Grants - Operating	24,914,000	20,423,163	20,438,394	15,230	13,896,278	12,581,959	1,314,319	10%	
Grants - Capital	9,217,416	11,834,909	13,333,739	1,498,830	4,566,477	2,523,318	2,043,159	81%	3
Reimbursements	97,000	1,436,318	1,560,558	124,240	732,276	429,825	302,451	70%	4
Other revenue	1,330,000	1,279,081	1,347,026	67,945	766,194	676,150	90,044	13%	5
Net gain/(loss) on sale/disposal of PPE&I	612,000	542,221	542,221	-	(75,976)	(79,255)	3,279	4%	
Total Income	96,267,416	95,899,956	97,195,128	1,295,173	67,860,285	64,570,679	3,289,606	5%	
Expenses									
Employee benefits	34,308,000	34,611,164	34,434,993	176,171	16,423,029	17,482,755	1,059,726	6%	6
Materials and services	30,249,000	30,069,189	30,016,597	52,592	15,514,128	15,429,543	(84,585)	(1%)	
Depreciation and amortisation	16,766,000	16,766,000	16,766,000	0	11,975,061	9,576,066	(2,398,995)	(25%)	
Finance costs	569,000	567,540	567,540	-	258,351	327,915	69,564	21%	
Other expenses	477,000	473,109	605,239	(132,130)	259,060	178,862	(80,197)	(45%)	7
Total Expenses	82,369,000	82,487,002	82,390,368	96,634	44,429,629	42,995,141	(1,434,488)	(3%)	
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	13,898,416	13,412,954	14,804,760	1,391,806	23,430,656	21,575,538	1,855,118	9%	
Adjusted Underlying Operating Position									
Grants - Capital (non-recurrent)	7,663,371	9,861,265	11,360,095	(1,498,830)	4,566,477	4,773,369	(206,892)	(4%)	
Contributions - non-monetary	1,050,000	1,050,000	1,082,000	(32,000)	32,000	22,400	9,600	43%	
Contributions - Cash	2,227,000	2,232,200	2,235,330	(3,130)	48,398	113,178	(64,780)	(57%)	
Total Adjustments	10,940,371	13,143,465	14,677,425	(1,533,960)	4,646,875	4,908,947	(262,072)	-5%	
Adjusted Underlying Operating Surplus/(deficit) for the year	2,958,045	269,489	127,335	(142,154)	18,783,781	16,666,591	2,117,190	13%	

Notes
<p>1. Statutory fees and fines (\$81k) unfavourable movement due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning Permit revenue has decreased by (\$100k) as a result of fewer applications being submitted, driven by economic factors beyond the Council's control, such as the rising cost of living and higher development expenses.
<p>2. User Fees (\$383k) unfavourable movement due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bowser landfill (\$300k) has seen reduced waste acceptance due to cheaper alternatives at neighboring councils, benefiting from economies of scale and avoiding EPA levies, particularly in Albury. This reduction in waste intake will extend Bowser's lifespan by 7-8 years, delaying costly capital works. - Deeca lease (\$47k) assuming 3 months vacancy
<p>3. Grants - Capital \$1.5m favourable movement due to new or additional funding for the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 01888 Wangaratta Flood Mitigation Strategy \$667k - 02047 Newman Street Drainage \$213k - 03135 Safe System Pedestrian Program \$93k - 03134 Federal Black Spot \$246k <p>While these improve the cash position of Council the accounting treatment of these grants a review is undertaken to ascertain the amount recognised in 2024/25.</p>
<p>4. Reimbursements \$124k favourable movement due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rebate on Container Deposit Scheme from Cleanaway.
<p>5. Other Revenue \$68k favourable movement due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reallocation of a reimbursements from workers compensation from Employee Benefits line.
<p>6. Employee Benefits \$176k favourable movement due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although there are some unfavourable trends in Employee Benefits totalling \$324k, a favourable impact of \$500k from additional vacancies has been recognised. A comprehensive review will take place as part of the Q3 reforecast.
<p>7. Other expenses \$132k favourable due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amount relates to bad debts which was not originally recognised in the budget. This amount can be removed in July budgeting which will reveal the \$100k movement.. Used at current time to align EB with approved budget

Rural City of Wangaratta	30 June 2023	30 June 2024	30 September 2024	31 December 2024	Variance Fav/(Unfav) C - B	Variance Fav/(Unfav) %	Ref
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	
Assets							
Current assets							
Cash and cash equivalents	39,232,472	13,602,412	26,532,876	30,336,494	3,803,618	14%	1
Rate receivables	1,502,471	1,991,246	34,522,716	21,834,415	(12,688,300)	(37%)	2
Other receivables - current	3,655,691	3,009,855	6,573,794	6,566,358	(7,437)	(0%)	
Financial assets - current	0	10,000,000	0	-	0	0%	
Inventories	1,793	1,629	5,836	(656)	(6,492)	(111%)	
Assets held for sale	646,810	623,590	623,590	623,590	0	0%	
Other assets - current	1,253,383	865,787	187,381	(125,492)	(312,873)	(167%)	
Investments in associates	-	-	-	-	0	0%	
Total Current assets	46,292,619	30,094,519	68,446,193	59,234,708	(9,211,484)	(13%)	
Non-current assets							
Receivables non-current	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
Financial assets non-current	277,243	324,447	324,447	324,447	0	0%	
Property, plant and equipment and infrastructure	763,356,940	791,462,824	788,191,572	786,420,904	(1,770,668)	(0%)	3
Book collection	810,131	954,935	1,034,849	942,067	(92,782)	(9%)	
Intangible Assets - Landfill	2,662,367	1,513,978	1,513,978	1,513,978	0	0%	
Right of Use Assets	244,382	100,149	63,795	26,509	(37,286)	(58%)	
Total Non-current assets	767,351,063	794,356,333	791,128,641	789,227,905	(1,900,736)	(0%)	
Total Assets	813,643,682	824,450,852	859,574,834	848,462,613	(11,112,221)	(1%)	
Liabilities							
Current liabilities							
Payables - current	12,099,202	4,328,505	2,453,538	3,589,884	(1,136,346)	(46%)	4
Trust funds and deposits	2,783,380	4,059,629	6,545,207	6,151,663	393,543	6%	5
Provisions - current	6,411,466	6,557,646	7,062,543	7,145,704	(83,160)	(1%)	
Interest bearing loans and borrowings - current	2,628,232	2,678,193	2,013,500	1,345,734	667,766	33%	
Lease liabilities - current	151,313	111,778	70,593	70,593	0	0%	
Total Current liabilities	24,073,593	17,735,752	18,145,381	18,303,578	158,197	1%	
Non-current liabilities							
Provisions non-current	16,171,858	15,692,777	15,142,777	15,142,777	0	0%	
Interest bearing loans and borrowings - non-current	25,066,288	22,388,094	22,388,094	22,388,094	0	0%	
Lease liabilities - non-current	111,778	0	0	-	0	0%	
Total Non-current liabilities	41,349,924	38,080,871	37,530,871	37,530,871	0	0%	
Total liabilities	65,423,517	55,816,623	55,676,253	55,834,450	158,197	0%	
Net assets	748,220,165	768,634,229	803,898,581	792,628,163	(11,270,418)	(1%)	
Equity							
Accumulated surplus	171,870,387	184,562,055	184,562,055	187,954,911	3,392,857	2%	
Other reserves	30,561,801	40,168,049	40,168,049	40,168,049	0	0%	
Asset revaluation reserve	523,492,674	540,513,499	541,076,237	541,074,007	(2,231)	(0%)	
Accumulated surplus - current year	22,295,304	3,390,626	38,092,240	23,431,196	(14,661,044)	(38%)	
Total Equity	748,220,165	768,634,229	803,898,581	792,628,163	(11,270,418)	(1%)	

Notes	
1. Cash and Cash Equivalents	Cash and Cash Equivalents have increased in December. This balance will fluctuate month to month based on general operations of the business including when payments are received and made.
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. Property, plant and equipment and infrastructure	Property, plant and equipment and infrastructure will increase/decrease in the current period due to increases in WIP and additions and depreciation.
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	FY24/25 Adopted Budget	FY24/25 Q1 Adopted Budget	FY24/25 Q2 Full Year Forecast	Projected Full Year to Q1 Adopted Budget Variance	Commitments	FY24/25 YTD Actual	FY24/25 YTD Budget	YTD Variance	YTD Variance	Ref
Statement of Capital Works 31st December 2024	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	
Property										
Land Improvements	-	58,160	47,186	10,974	24,400	46,456	58,160	11,704	20%	
Total Land	-	58,160	47,186	10,974	24,400	46,456	58,160	11,704	20%	
Buildings	3,840,796	3,884,888	3,782,994	101,894	549,309	247,356	1,563,510	1,316,155	84%	
Total buildings	3,840,796	3,884,888	3,782,994	101,894	549,309	247,356	1,563,510	1,316,155	84%	
Total Property	3,840,796	3,943,048	3,830,180	112,868	573,709	293,812	1,621,670	1,327,859	82%	
Plant and equipment										
Plant and equipment	6,706,269	6,602,420	6,602,420	-	3,658,412	51,223	1,732,228	1,681,005	97%	
Furniture and fittings	120,700	120,700	196,038	(75,338)	-	101,690	74,232	(27,458)	(37%)	
Computers and telecommunications	167,084	140,683	140,683	-	27,366	45,850	110,476	64,626	58%	
Artworks	8,000	8,000	21,614	(13,614)	-	11,364	-	(11,364)	-	
Book collection	204,503	204,366	204,366	-	6,066	177,505	181,757	4,253	2%	
Total Plant and equipment	7,206,555	7,076,168	7,165,120	(88,952)	3,691,844	387,631	2,098,694	1,711,062	82%	
Infrastructure										
Waste management	40,000	40,000	40,000	-	14,000	-	13,333	13,333	100%	
Sealed roads and substructure	4,635,148	4,527,637	4,545,173	(17,536)	2,151,113	1,547,392	1,819,472	272,080	15%	
Gravel Roads and substructure	2,028,788	1,884,597	1,884,597	-	294,291	859,783	941,032	81,249	9%	
Bridges	1,833,044	1,780,901	1,791,206	(10,305)	446,744	435,076	819,058	383,982	47%	
Drainage	4,162,502	4,533,269	4,899,629	(366,360)	1,942,204	894,594	1,800,475	905,880	50%	
Footpaths	1,103,599	1,919,294	1,969,074	(49,780)	112,408	262,283	730,703	468,420	64%	
Off Street Car Parks	31,548	30,986	31,096	(110)	-	31,096	31,060	(37)	-	
Parks, Open Spaces and Streetscapes	1,786,643	1,811,715	1,811,921	(206)	1,032,391	320,076	626,305	306,228	49%	
Recreation, Leisure and Community Facil	1,633,330	2,292,641	2,322,369	(29,728)	151,031	527,997	1,252,430	724,433	58%	
Aerodromes	80,000	80,000	80,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Infrastructure	1,548,897	1,563,196	1,562,838	359	665,621	730,103	626,088	(104,015)	(17%)	
Total Infrastructure	18,883,498	20,464,236	20,937,902	(473,666)	6,809,804	5,608,401	8,659,954	3,051,553	35%	
Total capital works expenditure	29,930,849	31,483,452	31,933,202	(449,750)	11,075,357	6,289,844	12,380,318	6,090,474	49%	
Represented by:										
Renewal expenditure	17,339,961	17,099,952	17,394,429	(294,477)	7,642,857	2,979,443	6,627,693	3,648,250	55%	
Upgrade expenditure	5,276,704	6,881,415	7,116,634	(235,219)	416,441	1,415,199	2,861,231	1,446,032	51%	
New Assets expenditure	7,314,185	7,502,086	7,422,139	79,947	3,016,059	1,895,201	2,891,393	996,193	34%	
Total capital works expenditure	29,930,849	31,483,452	31,933,202	(449,750)	11,075,357	6,289,844	12,380,318	6,090,474	49%	

Notes:
 Council's capital works expenditure has increased from \$31.48m to \$31.93m, a net increase of \$450k. The increase can be attributed to the expansion of Flood Mitigation, \$367k. Year-to-date delivery of the Capital Works Program is \$6.3m, with a further \$11.1m of commitments in place. A full review of delivery status of 24/25 Capital Works is currently underway with the Capital Works to be deferred to 25/26 to be presented as part of Council's Quarter 3 forecast.



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy

2023-2027



Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-2027

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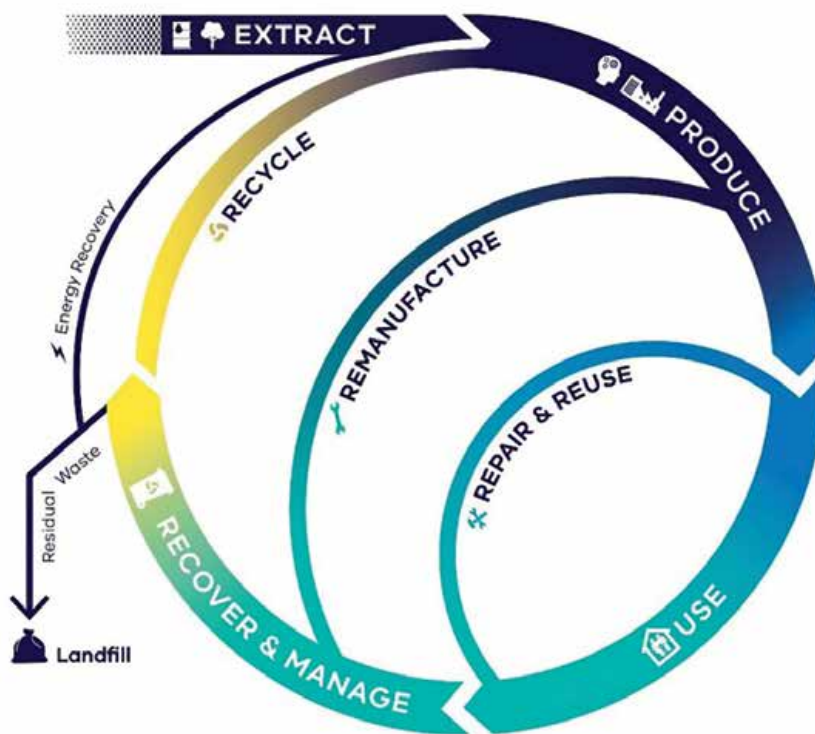


Vision

“The Rural City of Wangaratta is a leader in effective waste management, resource recovery, and the circular economy, not only amongst councils, but throughout the wider industry.”



A Circular Economy for Victoria



Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-2027



Introduction

This Waste and Resource Recover Strategy has been developed in response to the rapidly changing waste management environment, and the legislative and policy framework changes that have been implemented in to support best practice in the face of these changes. This Strategy will set the direction for the development and delivery of waste management and resource recovery services by the Rural City of Wangaratta up to 2027.

The Waste and Resource Recovery sector in Victoria is one of the most regulated and legislated in Australia. Council is subject to considering the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 2017, the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021, the Recycling Victoria Policy (2020) in addition to the Planning and Environment Act (1987) and the Local Government Act (2020). From the Federal Government, Council is required to consider the National Waste Policy (2018) and the subsequent National Waste Policy Action Plans (2019 & 2020).

With recent changes to State and Federal government policies increasing the focus in the circular economy, increasing resource recovery for highest value use, as close to the waste generation locations as possible. This “once in a generation” industry wide shift in approach to waste management provided the opportunity to review infrastructure and service delivery models in order to ensure compliance and best service for the community.

The Rural City of Wangaratta (Council) is responsible for delivering waste and recycling services the residential and public places it manages. Commercial services are also offered to those businesses that are best serviced by a regular kerbside collection. Additionally, Council also own and operate the Bower Landfill, the Wangaratta Organics Facility and publicly accessible transfer stations across the municipality. This Strategy can only consider those parts of the waste and resource recovery management cycle that it has direct influence over.

This Strategy is only looking to 2027. It is anticipated that this will bring it into alignment with future State Government requirements for the development of updated Local Government Strategies and Plans once the State Level Documents have been completed. Whilst the current 2018 Strategy is not due to expire until the end of 2023, most of the major actions have been completed, and with significant changes in the industry over the past couple of years, the development of the new Strategy has been brought forward.

Regional Characteristics



The Rural City of Wangaratta RCoW is located in north-eastern Victoria, about 235 kilometres north-east of the Melbourne CBD. The census usual resident population of the Rural City of Wangaratta in 2021 was 29,808, living in 13,677 dwellings with an average household size of 2.30.

Overall, 17.5% of the population were aged between 0 and 15, and 24.1% were aged 65 years and over, compared with 17.6% and 22.3% for Regional Victoria. From 2016 -2021, RCoW population increased by 1,475 people (5.2%) This represents an average annual population change of 1.02% per year over the period.



Rural City of Wangaratta Fast Facts

Current Population

29,808

Area consists of

13,677 dwellings

Average Household

2.3 people

0-15 years

17.5%

65+ years

24.1%

From 2016-2021

+5.2%

+1,475 people

Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-2027

Council Plan

RCoW Council Plan 2021- 2025 sets strategic indicators for waste and resource recovery.



Table 1 Council Plan Priorities

RCoW Council Plan Priority	Reference
Develop the new Waste Strategy in 2023/2024.	Action Plan 3.2.1
Work with the community to reduce the amount of contamination placed in recycling and organics bins.	Action Plan 3.2.2.1
Increase the waste diversion from landfill through the increased use of recycling and organics bins throughout the community.	Action Plan 3.2.2.2
Reduce waste, paper and water usage in Council facilities and events through education.	Action Plan 3.2.3.1
Divert organic waste from landfill to produce compost.	Action Plan 3.2.3.1



Community Engagement

This Strategy has been developed following an extensive community consultation. Between February and April 2023 Council received more than 270 responses from members of the community. This engagement primarily took the form of a survey and investigated the community’s use and value of Rural City of Wangaratta waste and resource recovery facilities and services, and what the community would like to see from future works in this space.

Table 1 Findings of Community Waste Survey

Activity	Description
Service Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better options for rural residents. • Better service for people in high density accommodation.
Organics Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better service for rural areas- either kerbside collection or resources to assist people to compost at home. • Desire for access to compost by the community
Recycling – including glass recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong desire for a solution to the problem of soft plastics • Information and transparency about how items are recycled. • Tip shop • Support for glass recycling
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and council working to reduce waste. • Advocacy to governments to reduce packaging and improve recycling.



Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-2027

What People Said...

“Everything that can be recycled is recycled. Waste that goes to landfill is minimized”.

“A system that incorporates community education on recycling; and has a plan that works for dealing with the waste generated by the increasing number of visitors”

“A systematic approach to waste and recycling”

”

“

“More re-use options like a tip shop”

The hope would be that everything that we purchase or consume has a very clear waste/ recycling pathway”

The community feedback indicates a strong desire for Council to “close the loop” and work towards a circular economy model. They envision an effective system where the entire municipality (council, businesses, and community) collectively act to minimize landfill and maximize resource recovery.

Key to this, as voiced by the community, is a systematic approach to managing waste and recycling. They recognize that education plays a pivotal role in providing accurate information as well as supporting the community to take practical action to improve waste and recycling outcomes.



Circular Economy Act

Recycle Victoria

Following the collapse of the recycling and resource recovery industry in early 2019 The State Government released the Recycling Victoria Policy in February 2020. This far-reaching Policy was designed to change the landscape of waste and resource recovery industry in Victoria. One of the first, and largest, action was the establishment of a new Act and a new Authority to support its implementation. The subsequent Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act was adopted by Government in late 2021. Recycling Victoria, the new Authority, came into being 1 July 2022. The former Regional Waste Management Groups ceased to exist upon the creation of the new Authority.

The new Act places a new set of requirements for reporting, data management, standards of service delivery through kerbside reform and outlines penalties for non-compliance for Councils and other waste and resource recovery service delivery organisations.

Recycling Victoria are now the Authority responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act, as well as delivering new programs, such as the Container Deposit Scheme, regulating the waste to energy sector and implementing the State-wide infrastructure plan.

Under section 60 of the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 (the Circular Economy Act), Councils and Alpine Resorts have an obligation to provide all households with a kerbside FOGO service (by 2030) and kerbside separate glass service (by 2027). Household waste and recycling services provided will be regulated by the Head of Recycling Victoria (RV) via a service standard and accompanying regulations made under the Circular Economy Act. The service standard (currently being finalised) requires all households to be provide with a kerbside FOGO service and kerbside

separate glass service, except in regional or rural areas where it is not practicable, for example where existing drop-off services are already provided because of large geographical distances. In these circumstances, councils may provide similar drop-off services for FOGO and glass streams.



The reform aims to achieve the following targets on a state-wide level.

- **Divert 80 per cent of waste from landfill by 2030**, and an interim target of 72 per cent by 2025.
- **Cut total waste generation by 15 per cent per capita by 2030.**
- **Halve the volume of organic material going to landfill between 2020 and 2030**, with an interim target of 20 per cent reduction by 2025.
- **Ensure every Victorian household has access to food and garden organic waste recycling services or local composting by 2030.**

Recycling Victoria is developing the Victorian Recycling Infrastructure Plan (VRIP), to be released in 2024. It will provide long-term strategic infrastructure planning to guide and inform decision-making in relation to waste, recycling and resource recovery infrastructure over the next 30 years.

Council hold responsibility to ensure that waste is managed in such a way as to ensure that resources are recovered to the highest order possible in accordance with circular economy principles. All future projects and programs the generate or manage potential waste items or materials need to consider how a circular economy lens can be applied to achieve the best outcome for resource recovery. Projects that invest in the acquiring of goods or materials also need to consider how they can purchase items that reuse recovered items.

Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-2027

Risks

Under the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021, Councils as providers of waste and recycling or resource recovery services will have certain positive obligations including:

- To provide certain services including a municipal residual waste service, recycling service including for glass, food and garden organics
- To comply with pre-sorting and separating of waste or recycling material (the detail of what requirements will apply will be specified in regulations yet to be made)
- Council, as providers of a waste, recycling or resource recovery services:
- Have a duty to give Recycling Victoria prescribed information,
- Any agreement entered into in connection with the provision of their services must incorporate the service standard that applies,
- As providers of essential waste, recycling or resource recovery services, a requirement to minimise the risk of serious failure disruption or hindrance of services so far as reasonably practicable,
- Duties to keep records and information about the service provided, so far as reasonably practicable, and
- Duties to comply with service standards.

Notably, failure to comply with any of the above obligations will be an offence, punishable by civil and criminal penalties of up to \$454,350 for Council.

However, the Act provides “checks and balances” in the form of review mechanisms applying to the numerous powers which Recycling Victoria will be able to exercise. For example, use of the exemption powers and the issuance of information gathering notices, improvement notices and prohibition notices will be reviewable at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.



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Victorian Regional Circular Economy Plan – Hume Region

To support the transition to a more circular economy the State Government developed regional plans informed by the local stakeholders. The Hume regional circular economy plan sets out the region's aspirations for a sustainable and thriving circular economy. Hume's four circular economy aspirations to 2030 are detailed below.

- Product stewardship is paramount and all those involved in the product life cycle—manufacturers, retailers, users, and disposers share responsibility for reducing the environmental impacts of products.
- Best practice circular economy approaches are adopted where all levels of government, industry, education institutions, researchers and community work together to progress the circular economy in Hume.
- Hume's consumers are active participants in the circular economy and all sectors of the community make decisions to avoid waste generation, encourage reuse and recycling of products to reduce their environmental impact.
- Our local circular economy is sustainable, self-sufficient and resilient to market changes and we collaborate to create and take up local circular economy opportunities.



Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-2027

Service Delivery

Current Services

Council currently offer a comprehensive suite of waste and resource recovery service to the community of Wangaratta and surrounding districts. Services offered by Council include:

- Kerbside collection of waste, recycling and full organics to all urban properties, with kerbside waste and recycling offered to most rural areas.
- Four transfer stations, including three in rural communities.
- Management and clearing of all public place bins throughout the municipality.
- Removal and management of reported dumped rubbish.
- Supply and management of bins for community and other special events.
- An EPA licenced Landfill open to municipal wastes, waste removal contractors and residential asbestos.
- The only Council owned and operated, EPA licenced, organics processing facility on Victoria.

Services will continue to be delivered in accordance with community expectations and State Government requirements. The Victorian Government are currently working on the first ever set of consistent service standard for waste and resource recovery services across the State. Council is expecting these to be delivered by the end of 2023. Once these standards have been incorporated into Regulations that will be managed by Recycling Victoria, Council will confirm the kerbside glass services that will be delivered across the municipality. Council intends on being a leader in the delivery of new services. It is planned that these services will come into effect mid-2024.

Potential expansion of the kerbside organics services will also be addressed in the service standards. Changes to this service stream are not expected to come into effect until 2030.

Council will continue to engage with the community to ensure that services delivered reflect the community's needs, especially in areas of urban growth. Services will be delivered in accordance with the Waste Services Policy, which is reviewed and adopted annually. Charges are set to reflect cost recovery of delivering services. External collaborative tendering will continue to be used to test markets and ensure best value for the community.



Recycling Victoria Service Standards

Recycling Victoria is currently developing Service Standards for waste and resource recovery services across Victoria. Household waste and recycling services will be regulated via mandatory service standards and accompanying regulations established under the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021. The first service standard, which is expected to be delivered in late 2023, will detail how councils must provide waste and recycling services to households, including compliance with standard lists. The service standard will support councils consistent service across the state.

Public Place Bins

Offer a more responsive public place litter prevention and recycling service. In addition to reducing litter, they assist in improving the amenity of public spaces, and support the small public gathering and events. These bins are not designed to support waste management of private businesses. Should businesses require bins to be placed on public land to support their operations, Council will consider how additional kerbside bins may be used to meet these needs. The placement of public bins will continue to be reviewed in accordance with community use of an area as part of the Waste Services Strategy.

Container Deposit Scheme

The Victorian Government has announced that the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) will come into effect from 1 November 2023. Council will work with the Network Operators to ensure the roll out of the return and collection points best service the community. These sites will most likely be in high traffic, publicly accessible locations, at densities set by the Scheme Coordinator.



Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-2027

Waste Reduction

In accordance with the Council Plan 2021 – 2025, Council has set a target to divert more than 80% of kerbside collections from landfill by 2025. The following have been identified as the main activities that can be undertaken in the life of this Strategy to help achieve this target. A comprehensive waste bin audit should be undertaken to assist in identifying further opportunities in our community from 2026.



Increasing Recycling – Separating Glass

It has been shown the increasing the amount of waste materials being recycled, and resources recovered, is of high importance to the community. Council will progress with increasing the quality and quantity of potential waste being recovered by supporting the separation of glass from the co-mingled (yellow lidded) recycling bin. As outlined above, Council is currently awaiting final clarification from the State Government on the requirements for this service. Once this information has been released, Council will commit to the rollout of the separate glass service for the community. Further information will be made public once it becomes available.

Supporting Local Recycling Processing and Circular Economy Opportunities

To assist in providing the community a reliable and resilient service, Council will support local options for waste and resource recovery service where possible. Engaging and supporting local options will help to reduce travel require and increase resilience in the industry. These actions will reduce the likelihood of the industry business and systems collapses that have occurred of the past five years.

Council will also actively engage with the upcoming Recycling Victoria Infrastructure Plan development to promote the network and manufacturing opportunities available in the Region.

Soft Plastics

With the collapse of the domestic soft plastics program "RedCycle" the community have expressed a strong desire to establish an alternative, local, solution. Council will commit to pursuing opportunities for local recycling, seeking State and Federal Government support were available, and partnering with regional businesses for technological and market-based solutions.

Education

To support the actions outlined throughout this Strategy, an Education Plan will be developed. This plan will support the community in the use of the new services, improving diversion from landfill through optimal use of existing services and support broader waste and resource recovery information sharing.

Green House Gas Emissions

Council aims to demonstrate leadership by working towards the State's target of transitioning to a climate resilient community and economy with net zero emissions by 2050 as per Victoria's Climate Change Act 2017.

Council acknowledges the significant challenges posed to our municipality by the impacts of climate change and recognises the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions stemming from its operational activities.

Council recognises the emerging opportunities for local production and innovation within Victoria's future circular economy which hold promise for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. These prospects are further highlighted in Councils Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-26, which outlines various initiatives and objectives aimed at advancing our environmental sustainability agenda.

Current landfilling activities undertaken by Council comprise an estimated 49.21% of Councils emissions profile. A large component of this is attributed to the methane gas generated by decomposition of organics material within active landfill cells, this gas has a warming potential 30 times greater than carbon dioxide. Significant emission reduction has been achieved to date by Council commissioning the Wangaratta Organics Processing Facility (2018) reducing waste-to-landfill by approximately 30% in the last 4 years.

Further expansion of the kerbside collection service through-out the municipality, targeted education programs, and further investigation of the current emission generation profile of the Bowser Landfill will help achieve these objectives.

Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-2027

Infrastructure

Bowser Landfill

With the focus of waste reduction, and best use of resources within Council to deliver these services, a review of the future operations of the landfill will be undertaken. The construction of the most recent Landfill Cell (Cell 6) has just been completed and is anticipated to provide approximately 7 years of filling capacity. Increasing costs of construction, management, monitoring, compliance reporting, and rehabilitation have placed increased pressure on the viability of operating smaller scale landfill.

The Bowser Landfill was originally designed to accommodate one further waste Cell, to be built in two stages. Constructing this further filling space would also require a reconfiguration of the supporting infrastructure across the site. Infrastructure such as the weighbridge and staff amenities would need to be relocated and Coleman Road would need to be sealed to provide access. With the completion of Cell 6, now is the perfect time to review the business plan for operations and management the facility into the future.

Transfer Stations

Transfer stations are becoming an ever more important part of the resource recovery network as the need increases for more efficient collection of materials to support a circular economy. With the review of the future of Bowser Landfill, there is the potential to make better use of the facility with consolidated materials recovery infrastructure for both residents and businesses in our community.

The new site will demonstrate best practice for a facility of its size, recovering materials to support a local circular economy, and provide ease of use for visitors.

From this Strategy, a concept plan for a new transfer station and materials recovery facility will be designed and drafted ready for construction.

Organics Processing

The Rural City of Wangaratta are currently the only municipality in the State to own and operate a licenced Food Organics and Garden Organics Facility. As part of the Council Plan 2021 – 2025, Council have set the target in increasing compost produced at the facility by 10% each year. Within a year of operations, that facility was already receiving the maximum volume of input. Output from the facility has been limited as Council continuously improve the technology on site to improve the quality of the compost produced. As the last of this equipment is installed, Council will need to pursue appropriate markets to ensure best value use of the compost produced.

Council recently obtained a licence expansion to 12,000 TPA. In accordance with the State Government plan to reduce organics going to landfill, and the requirements for additional processing capacity to meet this requirement. Given the operation capacity of the site, Council is now in a position to be a regional leader and set a model that could be replicated by other Councils across the State. Council establishing further capacity in this facility will ensure financial and operational viability into the future. Council will explore the feasibility to expand the site to process up to 24,000t per year. As the waste and resource recovery industry moves to reduce reliance on landfill, further investment in resources recovery facilities and technology will ensure Council is resilient to potential market risks into the future.

Closed Landfill Management

Council holds an ongoing responsibility to ensure effective management of closed landfill in accordance with the EP Act. Development of a rehabilitation plan based on strategic analysis of the risks posed by closed landfills to ensure that sites are being actively managed to comply with new EP Act will be undertaken following a preliminary assessment of the known sites.



Future Steps

Regional plans due to be developed by Recycling Victoria by 2027, with supporting Council plans to be developed following thereafter. The actions outlined in this plan are to be undertaken in the lead up to the development of these plans and will assist in Council meeting its requirements under relevant Acts and Plans. At the completion of this Strategy, Council will be well placed to be actively involved in the development of the new Infrastructure Plans and ensure that the Wangaratta Region is optimally serviced by resource recovery opportunities.

Establishment of a Community Reference Group will be required to support the development of the next strategy following the development of the state-wide infrastructure plan by Recycle Victoria. This group will have the opportunity to build off the established waste management infrastructure and investigate region hub processing of wastes such as solar panels, e-waste, glass, etc.

Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-2027

Action Plan

Action	Details	Timeframe	Deliverable	Next Steps
Education Plan	Council officers will develop an education plan that will outline the aims, objectives and priorities for waste and resource recovery education from Council. The Plan will highlight the key projects, messages, and modes of delivery Council waste and resource recovery education will involve. The Plan will be adaptable to new programs and priorities as they arise.	2024	The Waste and Resource Recovery Education Plan will be an internal working document that guides the educational work of the Waste and Resource Recovery Team.	Once the Plan has been delivered, Council staff will deliver the actions and update as required. A full review will be required with the development of the next Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.
Transfer Station Master Plan	To prepare for the upgrade of the transfer station, a concept level design will be developed by Council. The Plan will be based on best practice for resource recovery and safety access for the community.	2025	A set of concept plans that can be used to develop detailed design drawings and potential grant funding programs.	Using the concept plans, a feasibility and business plan will be presented to Council for approval to progress with a new facility. Council will ensure that the facility is included in future State level infrastructure planning.
Glass Bin and Expanded Organics Kerbside Plan	Council will commence a kerbside glass bin collection in urban areas. Organics services will be expanded on urban fringes to bring these services into alignment with the rest of the urban areas.	2025	Delivery of new bins and kerbside collection in accordance with service specifications adopted by Council.	



Action	Details	Timeframe	Deliverable	Next Steps
Waste Bins Audit	Undertake audits of kerbside waste bins to inform future projects and service delivery.	2025	Audit data and report that can be used to inform future planning activities	
Organics Facility Expansion 25k Development	Completing the capital works required at the Organics Processing Facility to provide the capacity to compost 25k TPA of organic materials. In conjunction with the capital works at the facility, Council will also work with the EPA to obtain an expanded licence.	2026	The organics processing facility capable of composting 25k TPA in accordance with EPA requirements.	Upon completion of these works, Council will undertake a business development to secure appropriate feedstocks to process through the facility.
Closed Landfill Management Plan	Council will develop a plan for managing the risks associated with closed landfills managed by Council.	2025	The Plan will outline activities required to identify and manage the risks associated with each closed landfill managed by Council.	Ongoing management will be required for many of the closed landfill sites. The Plan should be enacted and updated annually.
Bowser Landfill Revised Rehabilitation Plan	A revised landfill rehabilitation plan will be required. This plan will take into account changes that have occurred at the site since the initial permitting process and ensure that works are being completed in accordance with EPA Best Practice requirements.	2027	The revised rehabilitation plan will provide a detailed design document that can be used to project manage the final stages of the landfill in the lead up to, and following, the closure of the facility in the coming years.	Council will need to work with the EPA to ensure that the document is fit for purpose and that the actions are completed in a timely manner. Works proposed will need to be included in Councils budgeting process and capital planning.

Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-2027

Action Plan cont.

Action	Details	Timeframe	Deliverable	Next Steps
State-wide and Regional Infrastructure Planning	Council will engage with the State and Regional infrastructure planning processes over the next three years. This will ensure that the needs of the Rural City of Wangaratta are addressed in this planning process and supported by all levels of government.	2025 - 2027	Through contributing to this plan, future projects and services required by the Community will be more effectively planned for in State led funding and contract programs.	This strategy will be reviewed and updated following the development of these plans. The updated strategy will incorporate the projects and initiatives identified, ensuring that Council are integrating with broader, best practice, waste and resource recovery programs.
Update the RCoW resource recovery branding and slogan	Develop a refreshed slogan and conceptual logo to update the existing "Recycle Right" branding that incorporates themes aligned with the circular economy.	2025 - 2027	Develop a new conceptual branding and slogan.	Develop a new conceptual branding and slogan.

