



Rural City of  
**Wangaratta**

# Minutes

For the Scheduled Council Meeting  
Council Chambers, Municipal Offices  
62-68 Ovens Street, Wangaratta  
**3:00 PM 24 June 2025**

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## Rural City of Wangaratta Live Stream

Clause 25 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

Councillors:

Irene Grant, David Fuller, Harry Bussell, Harvey Benton, Ashlee Fitzpatrick, Allison Winters, Tania Maxwell

Officers:

Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer; Sarah Brindley, Director Corporate and Leisure; Marcus Goonan, Director Community and Infrastructure; Stephen Swart, Director Sustainability and Culture

Administration:

Executive Services Coordinator; Councillor and Executive Services Support Officer

### 4. Absent

### 5. Acceptance of Apologies & Granting of Leave of Absence

## Order of Business

### 6. Citizen Ceremony

Nil

### 7. Confirmation of Minutes

#### Resolution:

**(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor T Maxwell)**

That Council read and confirm the Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of 27 May 2025 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

**Carried**

### 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.

#### 13.1

*CEO Brendan McGrath disclosed a General Conflict of Interest as he has a volunteer role with that organisation and a family member who plays for the club.*

*Mayor Irene Grant disclosed a Material Conflict of Interest as her daughter is on the board.*

**Councillor David Fuller** disclosed a General Conflict of Interest as he has a family member who plays for the club in question.

**Councillor Allison Winters** disclosed a General Conflict of Interest as a family member is a coach and another family member plays for the club. Also has a General Conflict of Interest as a family member has made one of the other budget submissions.

#### 15.4

**Councillor David Fuller** disclosed a General Conflict of Interest in regards to ownership regarding the applicant in the conversation.

## 9. Reception of Petitions

## 10. Hearing of Deputations

## Presentation of Reports

*For full transcript, please refer to the recording on the [Rural City of Wangaratta YouTube channel](#). Time markers are noted in (minutes:seconds) format.*

### 11. Councillor Reports (03:26)

Cr: Tania Maxwell

Report - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Subject: Withdrawal of funding - Maternal Child Health – Sleep and Settling - Group Program – Wangaratta

Thank you, Madam Mayor

It is with trepidation that I deliver this report tonight to inform our community of the government's decision, in the recent budget, to cease funding for the Maternal Child Health 'Sleep and Settling' Group Program which is currently delivered by the Rural City of Wangaratta.

This funding will cease as of the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025.

A letter of response, to this decision has been sent to the Minister for children, Minister for Disability, the Honourable Lizzie Blandthorn MP

As an advocate and staunch supporter of early intervention programs, I know from experience the positive lasting outcomes for both immediate and extended families, this intervention can provide.

Ensuring that parents have access to skills, knowledge and resources to help them adapt to sleepless nights, unrest within the family home and at times loss of an income, is vital. **The**

**Settling and Sleep Group Program** provided that, and I am extremely concerned what that now means for families who will no longer have access to the program through this council.

Not only is this support effective, for entire families, it also provides opportunities for Maternal Child Health workers to monitor changes in parents emotional and social wellbeing.

Without this support, there is a risk of increases in post-natal depression, family stress, anxiety, exhaustion as well as relationship conflict.

Our statistics show that 1 in 5 women will experience perinatal depression which can last for months, even years after the arrival of a newborn.

Dads are not exempt from this either, it is reported that 1 in 10 men will experience depression and anxiety after the birth of a child. Those statistics are probably much higher, due to lack of reporting.

To reduce these statistics, it is imperative that ongoing funding and resources are made available to those who require access to sleep settling techniques.

What is important to the team in MCH is having the opportunity to present anticipatory guidance for sleep and settling issues, giving consistent advice on typical sleep behaviours across developmental stages; and promoting a secure attachment between the parent and their child. The importance of attachment cannot be underestimated.

Prevention of sleep issues is best supported by face-to-face contact and parent education at times of peak developmental change in childhood. This has been successfully implemented in our Group Based Sleep and Settling program.

Sudden withdrawal of Group Based Sleep and Settling Funding may have a significant impact on our MCH service and the families we support.

Approx: 250 birth notices in Rural City of Wangaratta 24/25 period  
Approx.: 107 First Time Parents 24/25 who were offered the sleep and settling group-based intervention.  
Sleep and Settling funding for Rural City of Wangaratta was \$18,323.70 to support 30 sessions for 2024-2025 .

If this is something you are passionate about as a community, I would encourage you to write letters to your local member and The Hon Lizzie Blandthorn, expressing your support for the continuation of this group program.

Thank you councillors for allowing me the opportunity to highlight this fundamental service within our Maternal child Health sector.  
Cr Tania Maxwell

**Resolution:**

**(Moved: Councillor A Fitzpatrick/Councillor H Bussell)**

Councillor A Fitzpatrick moved a motion:

That Councillor Tania Maxwell's Report be noted in the Minutes.

*Please refer to Appendix 1 for report.*

**Carried**

## Officers' Reports

### 12. Executive Services

Nil

## 13. Corporate and Leisure

### 13.1 Budget 2025 - 2026 - Community Submissions (09:20)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	24 June 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Management Reporting Coordinator
Approver:	Director Corporate and Leisure

The following Council officers and contractors have disclosed a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration:

The following relevant private interests relate to consideration of the community budget submission from the Wangaratta Rovers Football & Netball Club (WRFNC). These officers and councillors have excused themselves from all prior internal discussions and decisions on this submission:

**Officers:**

- **Brendan McGrath – Chief Executive Officer** has reported a general conflict of interest as they are a volunteer team manager and have a game day role for the WRFNC. A family member also plays for the club.

**Councillors:**

- **Mayor Irene Grant** has reported a material conflict of interest as a family member is on the Board of the WRFNC.
- **Councillor Dave Fuller** has reported a general conflict of interest as a family member plays for the WRFNC.
- **Councillor Allison Winters** has reported a general conflict of interest as a family member is a volunteer coach and another family member plays for the WRFNC.

The following relevant private interest relates to consideration of the Park Pride Project community budget submission. The Councillor has excused themselves from all prior discussions and decisions on this submission.

- **Councillor Allison Winters** has reported a general conflict of interest as a family member made the budget submission.

*CEO Brendan McGrath left the meeting at 03:11 pm.*

*Councillor Irene Grant left the meeting at 03:11 pm.*

*Councillor Allison Winters left the meeting at 03:11 pm.*

*Councillor David Fuller left the meeting at 03:11 pm.*

#### Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council for decision on budget allocations in relation to two of the 2025/26 Community Budget submissions. It is being presented separately to the 2025/26 Budget report due to the above conflict of interests having been reported in relation to these items.

**Resolution:****(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)****That Council:**

1. **Considers community submissions made to the 2025/26 Budget (Confidential Attachment 1) and Officer Recommendations (Attachment 2) regarding the 'WJ Findlay Oval Female Friendly Changeroom Fit Out' and the 'Park Pride Project for the Rangeview Reserve'; and,**
2. **Authorises provision of \$150,000 in the 2025/26 Budget towards the WJ Findlay Oval Female Friendly Changeroom Fit Out, to be paid subject to the completion of a signed Funding Agreement between Council and the Wangaratta Rovers Football and Netball Club who are managing delivery of this project;**
3. **Authorises council to allocate funding from within the 2025/26 operating budget, once approved, to deliver seating and enhancements at Rangeview Avenue Reserve in response to the 'Park Pride' submission.**

**Carried****Background**

Community consultation for the 2025/26 Budget attracted 54 community budget submissions, all of which have been reviewed and considered by Officers and Councillors.

Due to the conflicts of interest reported above, the two following submissions are being brought to council to consider directly before the 2025/26 Budget report. This will enable all Councillors to participate in the 2025/26 Budget item.

The two community submissions are:

1. WJ Findlay Oval Female Friendly Changeroom Fit Out: Request for \$150,000 funding contribution to the Wangaratta Rovers Football and Netball Club (WRFNC) to assist in the construction of female friendly changerooms at the WJ Findlay reserve.
2. Pride Park Project for Rangeview Reserve: To improve seating and amenity to support community use of the reserve.

**Project 1: WJ Findlay Oval Female Friendly Changeroom Fit Out**

The WRFNC is a thriving community football and netball club, with five teams of women's football, six teams of netball and junior development teams. The club has advised of their success in securing \$1.34m Federal grant funding through the Play our Way program to provide new female changeroom facilities to support female sport.

The request to council is to contribute a further \$150,000 to this project, intended primarily for the fit out of the changerooms.

This is an exceptional level of funding attraction received by a community group, and represents an excellent return from council's perspective – at a ratio of nearly 9:1 – towards improving a community asset.

The initiative is aligned to several council objectives, including the Parklands Masterplan (*'Theme 4: Refurbishment of the Rovers Clubhouse to provide female friendly change facilities'*) and the Recreation Strategy 2024-33 (*'Ref. Q61: Develop female friendly change facilities at WJ Findlay Oval', anticipated cost to council \$500,000*).

The Officer Recommendation is to allocate the requested \$150,000 in the 2025/26 budget, to be paid subject to an agreed Funding Agreement between council and the WRNFC to formalise the purpose, allocation and reporting requirements for the use of funds.

#### **Project 2: Park Pride Project for the Rangeview Reserve**

This submission has been made by a community member, requesting installation of seating, additional bins and potential future tree planting at the Rangeview Reserve. This is intended to provide a more amenable area for community members to sit and enjoy, and to support community mental health and wellbeing as a result.

The Officer Recommendation is for council to deliver seating and enhancement works at the Rangeview Reserve from within the 2025/26 operating budget (once approved).

### **Implications**

#### **Policy Considerations**

Council's Community Engagement Policy has been followed in engaging the community in development of the 2025/26 Budget.

#### **Financial/Economic Implications**

Allocation of \$150,000 for the WJ Findlay Oval Female Friendly Changeroom Fit Out (this is currently included in the following 2025/26 Budget report). The Pride Park Project doesn't require an increase to budget outside of business as usual funding.

#### **Legal/Statutory**

Division 2 of the Local Government Act 2020 sets out Conflict of Interest requirements under which Councillors must operate. Whilst an exemption exists in the Act if 'the interest only arises because a family member of the relevant person is a member but not an office-holder of a not-for-profit organisation', it is deemed prudent for Councillors and Officers to declare their connections to the WRNFC submission and excuse themselves from the decision given the substantial funding allocation being considered in this report.

#### **Social and Diversity**

The WJ Findlay Oval Female Friendly Changeroom Fit Out supports the growing number of women in sport and ensures appropriate facilities are available to enable their participation. The Park Pride Project is intended to support community mental health and wellbeing in a relatively disadvantaged area of the Rural City of Wangaratta.

#### **Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)**

An Equity Impact Assessment hasn't been undertaken at this stage as this is a WRNFC project, not directly managed by council. An EIA will be undertaken in future if deemed necessary to do so.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Environmental and sustainability impacts will be considered and appropriately assessed through the permit application process for the WJ Findlay Oval Female Friendly Changeroom Fit Out (e.g. impact on trees).

### Strategic Links

#### Council Plan 2021 – 2025

In addition to the strategic links referenced above, this report also supports delivery of the 2021-2025 Council Plan through several objectives and actions including:

#### 1. Strengthening our Leadership

##### 1.1 *An engaged and connected community*

1.1.2 Commit to the delivery of thorough and inclusive community engagement practices.

#### 2. Nurturing our Wellbeing

##### 2.2 *Accessible and equitable services, spaces and facilities*

2.2.4 Support all our community members to be healthy and well, especially our most vulnerable.

##### 2.3 *Increased sense of inclusivity and connectedness*

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

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

#### 5. Enhancing our Lifestyle

##### 5.7 *Beautiful and accessible parks, gardens and open spaces*

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

### Consultation/Communication

Community feedback and its ability to inform development of the the Budget has substantially increased this year as a result of the early and proactive community engagement process.

The community consultation process ran from December 2024 to January 2025 and resulted in 54 budget submissions, all of which have been carefully reviewed and considered, (see the other submissions in the following 2025-26 Budget report). These two projects are being considered separately due to the stated conflicts of interest.

Subject to the decision above and adoption of the Budget, Council will write to the submitters advising of Council's decision.

### Options for Consideration

Options include:

1. That Councillors authorise the Officer Recommendations made above following thorough consideration of the community budget submissions (recommended); or,

2. That Councillors determine alternate outcomes to the Officer Recommendations for the two community budget submissions, and determine that these be adjusted in the subsequent 2025/26 Budget decision; or,
3. That Councillors do not authorise the above Officer Recommendations and determine that these projects be removed from the subsequent 2025/26 budget decision.

### Conclusion

The 'WJ Findlay Oval Female Friendly Change Room Fit Out' and the 'Park Pride' community submissions to the 2025/26 Budget have been carefully considered by council officers. This agenda item seeks council authorisation to allocate funds in the 2025/26 Budget to support these initiatives.

### Attachments

- 1 2025 - 2026 Budget Submissions - WJ Findlay Oval Female Friendly Change Room Fit Out Project & Park Pride Project - Confidential
- 2 Officer Recommendations on two Community Budget Submissions 2025-26 

### Public Questions (13:21)

**Anne Dunstan**

**Can you confirm, is the \$150,000 a loan to the club?**

*Director Sarah Brindley responded:*

*No, this would not be a loan, it's a cash contribution.*

**Are they contributing any funds towards this project themselves?**

*Director Sarah Brindley responded:*

*They've attracted the \$1.34M in federal grant funding.*

**So you're creating a precedent for all sporting associations if they get significant funding that you will potentially contribute without them having to pay monetary contribution to that project?**

*Deputy Mayor Harvey Benton responded:*

*I think Director Goonan may have some more information in relation to your question about what contributions the club is doing.*

*Director Marcus Goonan responded:*

*I don't have the exact figures with me about what the club is contributing, but it is certainly significant from an in kind point of view given they are project managing the whole entire project. To speak to the precedence we are setting, I don't think there is any precedence we are setting with any of our budget requirements, we obviously base them on a number of different factors. This project certainly aligns with the parklands Master Plan, Council's commitments with regards to having facilities available for all genders and disabilities, etc. So it aligns and speaks to a number of Council's various requirements under Acts, etc, so this one very much fits into the mould of something that Council would love to do, happy to provide a small amount of support to it from an Officers point of view, and obviously with Council's approval, to facilitate those various requirements.*

*CEO Brendan McGrath returned to the meeting at 03:17 pm*  
*Councillor Irene Grant returned to the meeting at 03:17 pm.*  
*Councillor Allison Winters returned to the meeting at 03:17 pm.*  
*Councillor David Fuller returned to the meeting at 03:17 pm.*

### 13.2 Budget 2025 – 2026 (17:59)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	24 June 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Finance Manager
Approver:	Director Corporate and Leisure

The below conflicts of interest have been disclosed regarding the following matters included in the 2025-26 Budget. These officers and councillors have excused themselves from all prior internal discussions on these matters, and the matters have been decided separately through the previous report so that they may participate in this item:

The following relevant private interests relate to consideration of the community budget submission from the Wangaratta Rovers Football & Netball Club (WRFNC).

**Officers:**

- **Brendan McGrath – Chief Executive Officer** has reported a general conflict of interest as they are a volunteer team manager and have a game day role for the WRFNC. A family member also plays for the club.

**Councillors:**

- **Mayor Irene Grant** has reported a material conflict of interest as a family member is on the Board of the WRFNC.
- **Councillor Dave Fuller** has reported a general conflict of interest as a family member plays for the WRFNC.
- **Councillor Allison Winters** has reported a general conflict of interest as a family member is a volunteer coach and another family member plays for the WRFNC.

The following relevant private interest relates to consideration of the Park Pride Project community budget submission:

- **Councillor Allison Winters** has reported a general conflict of interest as a family member made the budget submission.

#### Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to consider adopting the attached 2025/26 Budget (Attachment 1) which has been prepared in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. This report notes the submissions received (Confidential Attachment 2) and Council Officer recommendations (Attachment 3).

**Resolution:**

(Moved: Councillor T Maxwell/Councillor H Benton)

**That Council:**

1. **Considers the community submissions made regarding the 2025/26 Budget community engagement process (Attachment 2).**
2. **Considers and endorses the Officer Recommendations (Attachment 3) for each**

community submission, including to:

- a. **Include the following funds in the 2025/26 Budget:**
  - i. **Boorhaman Recreation Reserve Shade Sail \$35,000**
  - ii. **Merriwa Park gardening and maintenance \$17,000**
  - iii. **Wangaratta Jazz & Blues 2025 Jazz Awards \$10,000**
  - iv. **Steinway on Stage Concerts with Goulburn and North East Arts Alliance Inc \$6,000**
- b. **Instruct Council Officers to deliver the Officer Recommendations for the following community submissions within the 2025/26 operating budget:**
  - i. **Club Signage at entrance to Merriwa Park**
  - ii. **Renovate drain at western end of Merriwa Park carpark.**
3. **Adopts the 2025/26 Budget (Attachment 1) attached to this report for the purposes of Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020;**
4. **Declares the Rates and Charges for the 2025/26 financial year as summarised in this report and contained in the attached 2025/26 Budget;**
5. **Authorises officers to provide formal responses to each submitter of the decision and reasons for that decision in response to their submission, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy;**
6. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give notice of the adoption of the 2025/26 Budget;**
7. **Authorises the refinancing of \$7.05 million of maturing borrowings during 2025/26.**

Carried

## Background

The Local Government Act 2020 provides that Council must:

- Prepare a budget for each financial year and the subsequent three financial years by June 30 – Section 94(1)
- Ensure the budget contains financial statements, a description of services and initiatives, the total amount that Council intends to raise by rates and charges, prescribed indicators of service performance and a statement as to how these will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives specified in the Council Plan required by the regulations – Section 94(2).
- Ensure the budget is developed in accordance with the financial management principles and its community engagement policy – Section 96(1).

The 2025/26 Budget (Attachment 1) supports delivery of the Community Vision 2033 and Council Plan 2021-2025. (Note: Preparation of the next Community Vision 2045 and Council Plan 2025-2029, due by October 2025, is currently in progress and any additional funding required for implementation of the Council Plan 2025-29 will be allocated in the future, once known).

## Highlights

The 2025/26 Budget highlights an accounting surplus of \$13.46m and:

- Total income of \$99.70m
- Total operating expenditure of \$86.24m
- An underlying operating deficit of \$2.50m
- A capital works program of \$23.63m including \$6.85m of carryover works from 2024/25
- A rate rise of 3.00%, which is equal to the rate cap set under the Fair Go Rates System
- Refinancing of maturing borrowings of \$7.05m.

As a result of receiving and considering community submissions (Attachment 2, and the report prior to this item) it is proposed that Council includes an additional \$218k of council contribution towards community projects in the 2025/26 Budget.

## Operating Budget

The 2025/26 Budget projects an underlying operating deficit of \$2.50m, with a slight increase to the underlying operating deficit forecast in years 2 to 4 of the budget. Local Government Authorities are experiencing growing financial pressures. A financial sustainability program is currently being undertaken to identify options and realise efficiencies to deliver these results and improve the long-term financial outlook of Council.

Alongside funding the continued delivery of council's core services, the Operating Budget includes initiatives such as: Collection of Asset Data, ongoing delivery of the Financial Sustainability Program, and continued ICT Strategy implementation and Change Management Support.

The wellbeing of every member of our community remains important to Council, with initiatives in the budget to support this including completing further delivery of the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre Masterplan, Support for the delivery of Female Friendly Changerooms at WJ Findlay Oval, and delivery of the Community Grants Program.

The Budget also provides funding for continued delivery of strategies and masterplans such as the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, Economic Development and Tourism Strategy, Reconciliation Action Plan, and Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.

## Rates

Under the Fair Go Rates System the Minister for Local Government set a rate cap of 3.00%. The 25/26 Budget has applied a rate cap of the same.

This budget has been developed in alignment with the newly adopted Revenue and Rating Plan 2025–2029, which establishes the strategic framework and guiding principles for how Council calculates and distributes rates to property owners, and other revenue streams.

Property valuations applicable to the 2025/26 financial year have been finalised by the Valuer General being the sole valuation authority. Section 4.1.1 of the 2025/26 Budget reflects revaluation data as at 1 January 2025, including total capital improved value (CIV) by class of land, revised rate to be applied per dollar value of CIV and the total estimated amount to be raised for each class of land.

Following the adoption of the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29, the structure of differential rates for the 2025-26 year compared to the 2024-25 year has been updated as follows:

- Changed the definitions of Rural Residential, Rural 1 and Rural 2 differential rates to Rural <20 Ha (Hectares) and Rural >20 Ha.
- Combined Commercial and Industrial land into one category.
- Combined the three Vacant Land types (excluding General Vacant Land which has been vacant for three or more years) into one category called Vacant Land <3yrs.
- Removed the Mixed Use land category.

Changes have also been made to the level of differential rates for the 2025-26 year compared to the 2024-25 year, as follows:

- The Rural <20Ha and Rural >20Ha differential rates set at 80% and 60% of the General Rate respectively (formerly Rural Residential 100%, Rural 1 70% and Rural 2 65%).
- Increased the Commercial/Industrial differential rates from 138% to 145% of the General Rate.
- Reduced the General Vacant Land rate for land vacant more than three years by 20% to 240% to comply with the Local Government Act 1989 (highest differential rate must be no more than four times the lowest differential rate).

4.1.1(f) The estimated total value of each type or class of land, and the estimated total value of land, compared with the previous financial year.

Type or class of land	2024/25	2025/26	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
General	4,279,143	<b>4,329,605</b>	50,462	<b>1.18%</b>
Commercial/Industrial	988,049	<b>998,421</b>	10,372	<b>1.05%</b>
Mixed Use	3,578	-	(3,578)	<b>-100.00%</b>
Vacant < 3 Years	135,341	<b>133,638</b>	(1,703)	<b>-1.26%</b>
Vacant > 3 Years	7,375	<b>6,321</b>	(1,054)	<b>-14.29%</b>
Rural Residential	1,878,367	-	(1,878,367)	<b>-100.00%</b>
Rural 1	875,712	-	(875,712)	<b>-100.00%</b>
Rural 2	3,305,397	-	(3,305,397)	<b>-100.00%</b>
Rural <20ha	-	<b>2,361,059</b>	2,361,059	<b>100.00%</b>
Rural >20ha	-	<b>3,731,850</b>	3,731,850	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Total value of land*</b>	<b>11,472,962</b>	<b>11,560,894</b>	<b>87,932</b>	<b>0.77%</b>

\*Valuations as at 1 January 2025 will be used for the 2025/26 rating year

4.1.1(b) The rate in the dollar to be levied as general rates under section 158 of the Act for each type or class of land compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2024/25 cents/\$CIV	2025/26 cents/\$CIV	Change
General	0.003051271	0.003289615	7.81%
Commercial/Industrial	0.004210754	0.004769941	13.28%
Mixed Use	0.003631013	-	-100.00%
Vacant < 3 Years	0.006102542	0.006579229	7.81%
Vacant > 3 Years	0.007933305	0.007895075	-0.48%
Rural Residential	0.003051271	-	-100.00%
Rural 1	0.002135890	-	-100.00%
Rural 2	0.001983326	-	-100.00%
Rural <20ha	-	0.002631692	100.00%
Rural >20ha	-	0.001973769	100.00%

The 2024-25 Rural Rates have been replaced in the 2025/26 year with Rural <20Ha and Rural >20Ha.

4.1.1(c) The estimated total amount to be raised by general rates in relation to each type or class of land, and the estimated total amount to be raised by general rates, compared with the previous financial year.

Type or class of land	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
General	13,057	14,243	1,186	9.08%
Commercial/Industrial	4,160	4,762	602	14.47%
Mixed Use	13	-	(13)	-100.00%
Vacant < 3 Years	826	879	53	6.42%
Vacant > 3 Years	59	50	(9)	-15.25%
Rural Residential	5,731	-	(5,731)	-100.00%
Rural 1	1,870	-	(1,870)	-100.00%
Rural 2	6,556	-	(6,556)	-100.00%
Rural <20ha	-	6,214	6,214	100.00%
Rural >20ha	-	7,366	7,366	100.00%
<b>Total amount to be raised by general rates*</b>	<b>32,272</b>	<b>33,514</b>	<b>1,242</b>	<b>3.85%</b>

The 2024-25 Rural Rates have been replaced in the 2025-26 year with Rural <20Ha and Rural >20Ha.

Valuation data highlights the final average CIV increase across the municipality of 0.77%. The calculation of rates for individual rate payers is determined via the updated property valuations and the application of rate differentials according to the type or class of land. Property owners will see an increase or decrease to their Council rates depending on (i) their individual property value movement relative to others, along with (ii) any change to their differential category and the associated differential rate.

### Waste Service Charges

In 2024/25 Council commenced a waste charges review, supporting cost-reflective pricing and taking into consideration the Local Government Minister's 2024 Best Practice Guidelines and new contract pricing. Despite increases to the State Government Waste Levy, and based on this review, Council is recommending not to apply its usual inflationary increase to waste charges as a benefit to ratepayers in 2025/26.

There are structural changes underway to waste service delivery models. This includes Council's introduction of a separate glass collection service in May 2026 under Section 60 of the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021, to selected townships and low-density residential areas. The cost of introducing this service is proposed to be absorbed in 2025/26, made possible by limited collections (four per household per year) and reduced processing costs for separated glass.

Waste services will continue to evolve as an important means to keep reducing environmental harm. Consequently, this will further influence Council's ongoing cost of delivery including service charges and landfill rehabilitation in future years. Council will need to continue to regularly review these charges.

The following table shows the rate or unit amount to be levied for each type of service rate or charge under Section 162 of the Act, compared with the prior year:

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property	Per Rateable Property	Change	
	2024/25	2025/26	\$	%
	\$	\$		
<i>Urban</i>				
Kerbside collection - 140L	226	226	-	0.00%
Kerbside collection - 240L	400	400	-	0.00%
Recycling charge - 140L	174	174	-	0.00%
Recycling charge - 240L	174	174	-	0.00%
Recycling charge - 360L	229	229	-	0.00%
Glass recycling charge - 240L	-	-	-	0.00%
Organic waste charge	208	208	-	0.00%
<i>Rural</i>				
Kerbside collection - 140L	226	226	-	0.00%
Kerbside collection - 240L	400	400	-	0.00%
Kerbside collection - 240L Weekly collection	810	810	-	0.00%
Recycling charge - 140L	174	174	-	0.00%
Recycling charge - 240L	174	174	-	0.00%
Recycling charge - 360L	229	229	-	0.00%
Glass recycling charge - 240L	-	-	-	0.00%
Organic waste charge	207	207	-	0.00%

### User Fees and Charges

User fees and charges have been reviewed by each operating unit to ensure they continue to represent the determined fee structure and account for increases to CPI, benchmarking and full-cost recovery where applicable. Individual user fees and charges have increased generally by 3%, reflective of inflation. Total user fees are \$14.72m, an increase of \$2.66m on the 2024/25 Projected Full Year Forecast.

This increase also demonstrates projected underlying growth in certain services, such as the continued growth of the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatics Centre based on ongoing increases in memberships, expansion of Learn to Swim program enrolments, and the opening of the upgraded Stadium.

Proposed updated Fees and Charges can be viewed in section 6 of the Draft Budget.

Statutory fees and fines that are determined by prescribed fee or penalty units have been updated following publishing of the 2025/26 unit rates by the Department of Treasury and Finance.

### Capital Works Budget

The proposed capital works budget of \$23.63m is made up of \$16.78m of new works for 2025/26 and \$6.85m of works carried over from the 2024/25 capital works program.

The new program will be funded by \$13.40m of grant funding and \$10.23m of Council cash from operations, reserves, and investments.

The \$16.78m of new works for 2025/26 includes:

- Bridge Renewals, including \$700k for Ivones Lane Bridge Renewal (\$3.46m) (\$2.76m grant funding)
- Safer Local Streets & Roads Program (\$2.00m)
- Gravel Re-Sheeting Program (\$1.85m)
- Plant Replacement (\$1.54m)
- WSAC Power Efficiency Implementation (\$1.29m) (1:1 grant funding)
- Building Renewals (\$900k)
- Annual Reseal Program (\$850k)
- Swan Street renewal – roadworks (\$630k)
- Swan Street drainage renewal (\$410k)
- Annual Road Reconstruction (\$400k)
- Levee Pump Renewal Program (\$400k)
- Workshop Pit Upgrade (\$377k)
- Horticulture - New Workshop and Storage Shed (\$220k)
- Contribution to Library Book Collection (\$201k)
- Township Infrastructure improvements (\$200k)
- Footpath renewal program (\$150k)
- Rural Drainage Renewal (\$150k)
- Detailed Design of Wangaratta Waste Transfer Station (\$150k)
- WJ Findlay Female Friendly Changeroom Fit out (\$150k)
- IT Asset Renewal (\$148k)
- Urban Drainage Renewal (\$125k)
- Swan Street - WSUD guidelines development and delivery of GP (\$125k)
- Rovers Netball & Tennis Court Re-Sealing (\$120k)

A full listing of capital works projects can be viewed in Note 4.5 of the attached 2025/26 Budget.

Delivery of some projects within the 2024/25 capital works program has been delayed as a result of staffing changes and contract delivery timings. As such, \$6.85m of projects have been identified as being required to carry forward into the 2025/26 financial year. These projects are identified in Note 4.5.3 of the attached Budget, and these include the Wangaratta Sports & Aquatic Centre Changerooms & Amenities and Netball Courts (\$2.63m), Plant Replacement (\$1.47m), Flood Mitigation Structures (\$1.40m), Safe Pedestrian Program (\$897k), Rural Road Detailed Design and Constructs (\$200k) and Design & Construction of Rowan Street Overpass Shared Path (\$200k).

#### Borrowings

The Budget recommends refinancing of up to \$7.05 million of a maturing 10-year interest-only loan. While Council continues to review its capital works programme as part of its 10 Year Financial Plan, if these funds are allocated to any renewal projects, this would not be consistent with Council's Borrowing Policy. However, it is recommended that a policy exemption be made for the purposes of prudent cashflow management.

### Other Budget Influences

In preparing the Budget, internal and external influences, such as the impact of ongoing inflation on service delivery, have been taken into consideration.

Budgetary pressures extending into future years and impacting operating and capital expenditures include: inflation and rising costs of goods, materials, and labour; State and Federal grant availability (e.g., Financial Assistance Grants, Roads to Recovery) which may also fluctuate with broader economic policy; and ageing infrastructure which requires increased maintenance, upgrade or renewal.

The release of the best practice guidelines published previously by the Minister for Local Government means that Council has undertaken a thorough review of Waste Service Charges against these guidelines and has resulted in recommending no increase to Waste Charges for the 2025/26 year.

There is undoubtedly considerable pressure given by the rate cap, especially in an environment where cost inflation of materials and services Council procures has far exceeded the rate cap over many consecutive years.

Similarly, Council recognises that our community also continues to face cost of living pressures, and so the Budget has been reviewed thoroughly to identify savings opportunities to seek to offset the above pressures for the year ahead.

### Financial Performance Indicators

Section 5 of the attached Budget documents Council's current and projected forecast across several prescribed indicators. These indicators are useful for analysing Council's financial position and will be further supported by the Financial Policy Statements to be adopted in Council's Ten-Year Financial Plan by October this year.

Noteworthy results include strong working capital (greater than 100%), and indebtedness within Financial Policy Statement guidelines (less than 60%) over the budgeted and projected years. Council's underlying deficit is projected to persist across all years, with the operating position falling below the target benchmarks set in the Long-Term Financial Plan. Council's overall operating position set in this budget is -3%. The Financial Sustainability Program is actively working to improve this trajectory.

## Implications

### **Policy Considerations**

The Annual Budget resources the Council Plan to enable the services and outcomes in the Council Plan to be delivered. Council's Community Engagement Policy has been followed in engaging the community in development of the 2025/26 Budget.

### **Financial/Economic Implications**

	<b>2024/25 Projected Full Year Forecast</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget (‘000s)</b>	<b>Variance (‘000s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>

	('000s)			
<b>Revenue/Income</b>	\$92,872	\$99,702	\$6,830	Overall user fees increase reflects increases to fees and charges and growth in usage of services. Rates increased as per 3.00% rate increase. Capital Grants increase reflective of Capital Projects carried over from 2024/25.
<b>Expense</b>	\$81,387	\$86,240	(\$4,843)	Increase in employee costs in line with annual EBA increments. An increase in depreciation expense \$4m following a review of depreciation postings based on last year's revaluation and a correction in depreciation processing.
<b>Net Result (Accounting Surplus)</b>	\$11,485	\$13,462	\$1,987	

Reconciliation from Accounting Surplus to Adjusted Underlying Result:

	2024/25 Projected Full Year Forecast ('000s)	2025/26 Budget ('000s)	Variance ('000s)	Comments
<b>Grants – Capital (Non-Recurrent)</b>	(\$7,040)	(\$10,918)	\$5,489	Capital Grants increase inline with Capital Projects carried over from 2024/25
<b>Contributions</b>	(\$6,597)	(\$5,042)	(\$1,555)	Decrease in future contributions of developer assets based on anticipated development activity
<b>Adjusted Underlying Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	(\$2,152)	(\$2,498)	(\$346)	

#### Legal/Statutory

The 2024/25 Budget has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 No.17*.

#### Social and Diversity

The 2025/26 Budget provides resources for the implementation of various strategies, plans, works and the delivery of services required to achieve the objectives of the Council Plan including an active and engaged community.

#### Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

There are no equity impacts identified for the subject of this report. EIAs will be undertaken for the individual initiatives funded within the budget where applicable.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Environmental and sustainability impacts have been considered when developing the 2025/26 Budget, including funding the implementation of the Environmental Strategy Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Plan.

### Strategic Links

The 2025/26 Budget describes the resources required to deliver the strategic objectives of the final year of the Council Plan 2021-2025. See section 2 of the Budget for services and major initiatives to be delivered under each strategic objective.

### Risk Management

A well-planned budget will reduce the risk that Council will not be able to provide the services expected and required by the community.

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Budget not adopted within statutory timeframes	Low	High	Medium	Ensure Budget timetable for adoption is adhered to.
Budget adopted without consideration of long-term financial implications	Low	High	Medium	Ensure continual review of Council's Long-Term Financial Plan as part of budget setting process.
Budget adopted without consideration of ratepayer input	Low	High	Medium	Community consultation undertaken.

### Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Community	Council invited community Budget Submissions and undertook a Revenue & Spending Survey. These were advertised to the community on social media, Mayoral Radio Interview, and Chronicle Advert.
Consult	Community	Council received 54 budget submissions and Revenue & Spending Survey responses from 138 participants. 9 submitters with shortlisted submissions were invited to a meeting with Councillors to have their submissions heard, will all submitters taking up this opportunity.
Involve	Councillors	All Budget Submissions and a report on the

		Survey responses were provided to Councillors for consideration.
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Community feedback and its ability to inform development of the the Budget has substantially increased this year as a result of the early and proactive community engagement process.

Over the course of several months, the Corporate Management Team and senior staff then collaborated on the development of the Budget. Councillors were regularly briefed, with discussions taking place from November 2024 through to May 2025.

Community consultation resulted in 54 submissions in total (from Decemeber 2024 to January 2025), including 2 submissions being considered in the previous report item. All submissions have been reviewed and considered by Officers and Councillors:

- 5 have dedicated funding allocations recommended within the Budget
- 3 are recommended to be delivered through existing operating budgets, without requiring additional budget allocations
- 15 are recommended to be referred to other Council funding sources (e.g., Community Grants/Sponsorship programs),
- 12 are recommended to receive other types of Council support or action, and
- 19 are recommended to not receive funding due to considerations such as feasibility or affordability constraints.

A summary of written submissions to be considered through this report, including budget recommendations, is attached to this report (Attachment 3). The full list of submissions (Confidential Attachment 2) is attached for Councillor reference.

Subject to the adoption of the Budget, Council will:

- Publish the adopted 2025/26 Budget,
- Write to all submitters advising of Council's decision to adopt the 2025/26 Budget, providing reasons for decisions taken regarding their submissions.

Following extensive community consultation and review, Officers believe the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

### Options for Consideration

The adoption of Council's Annual Budget is a mandatory requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Council must prepare a Budget for the 2025/26 financial year to comply with the Act. Options are:

1. Adopt the 2025/26 Budget in the current state (refer to Attachment 1) - recommended; or,
2. Adopt the 2025/26 Budget including modifications to the Officer Recommendations for the submissions received; or
3. Adopt the 2025/26 Budget incorporating any further adjustments at the request of Councillors

### Conclusion

Following a community engagement process and consideration of all budget submissions, Council's 2025/26 Budget is now ready for adoption by Council.

## Attachments

- 1 2025-2026 Budget 
- 2 Community Budget Submissions 2025-2026 - Confidential
- 3 Officer Recommendations on Community Budget Submissions 2025-26 

## 14. Community and Infrastructure

Nil

## 15. Sustainability and Culture

### 15.1 Events & Attractions Strategy (33:14)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	24 June 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

This report is presented to Council to adopt the Events & Attractions Strategy 2025-2029. The draft Strategy was exhibited for community feedback. Details about the feedback received during the exhibition period and how it has been considered are included in **Attachment 1 and 2**. No changes are recommended to the Strategy (see **Attachment 3**) in response to the submissions received.

#### Resolution:

**(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Winters)**

That Council:

1. Considers the feedback received during the exhibition period for the draft Events & Attractions Strategy 2025-2029.
2. Adopts the Events & Attractions Strategy 2025-2029.

**Carried**

#### Background

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.

Following the February 2025 Council meeting, the draft Strategy was open for public exhibition from 26 February until 28 March 2025. There were 45 downloads of the Strategy and 9 people provided feedback (refer to **Attachment 1**). Close to 78% of submitters agreed with the recommendations in the Strategy. Key themes from the feedback include:

- Not supporting certain types of events / comments about current events
- Cost of events
- Developing / using specific spaces and precincts for events
- Resources to support community groups
- Targeting certain types of events
- Delivering events for the wider community
- Environmental impacts of events

No changes to the Strategy are recommended in response to the submissions received and **Attachment 2** provides a summary of the submissions received, how they have been considered and the actions to be taken in response (outside of the Strategy).

## 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.

### 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 is 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. This has been supported through community feedback.

## 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

	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Council's Events & Attractions Strategy does not align with current community aspirations and practice	3 - Possible	Minor	5 - Medium	Council has placed the draft Strategy on public exhibition for community feedback. Adopt the updated Strategy.
Lack of resources to implement the updated strategy	3 - Possible	Moderate	6 - Medium	Resources for the delivery of the Strategy will be considered as part of regular budget process.

### Consultation/Communication

In 2023 engagement commenced to gather community data to inform this Strategy. Engagement included:

- 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

Following the February 2025 Council meeting, the draft Strategy was open for public exhibition from 26 February until 28 March 2025. Nine people left feedback on the Strategy with a summary of the engagement outlined in this report and attachments. Overall, the sentiment of the Strategy feedback was encouraging and there were some items that Council is already working on which is reassuring.

### Options for Consideration

1. That Council adopts the draft Events & Attractions Strategy 2025-2029 (**recommended**).
2. That Council does not adopt the draft Events & Attractions Strategy 2025-2029 and further changes are considered (**not recommended**).

### Conclusion

Submissions regarding the draft Events & Attractions Strategy have been considered and no changes made to the Strategy in response. The Events & Attractions Strategy is ready for Council adoption.

### Attachments

- 1 Events & Attractions Strategy Survey Data 
- 2 Events & Attractions Strategy Summary Report 
- 3 Events & Attractions Strategy 2025-29 

## 15.2 Local Law No 1 - Community Amenity 2025 (35:03)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	24 June 2025
Category:	Strategic
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

This report is presented to Council to adopt the Rural City of Wangaratta Local Law No.1 – Community Amenity and associated Waste Management Policy 2025.

The Local Law (see **Attachment 1**) has been reviewed and updated in response to feedback received during the public exhibition period, as detailed in **Attachment 2**.

### Resolution:

**(Moved: Councillor A Fitzpatrick/Councillor D Fuller)**

That Council:

1. Having:
  - 1.1. completed the statutory process under Division 3 of Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2020 for the making of the proposed Local Law No.1 - Community Amenity 2025 (proposed Local Law);
  - 1.2. obtained a certificate from a suitably qualified lawyer stating that, in their opinion, each of the proposed Local Law is consistent with the local law requirements set out in section 72 of the Local Government Act 2020, attached to this Report as Attachment 4; and
  - 1.3. undertaken community engagement in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy in respect of the proposed Local Law, and having considered all submissions that were received,

resolves to make the Local Law No1 - Community Amenity 2025 in the form attached to this Report as Attachment 1, to commence on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025; and

2. Resolves to adopt the Waste Management Policy 2025 in the form attached to this Report as Attachment 3 as incorporated into the Community Amenity Local Law 2025; and
3. Authorises Council's Chief Executive Officer to publish in the Victorian Government Gazette and on Council's website the notice required by s 74(4) of the Local Government Act 2020 in respect of the Local Law No.1 - Community Amenity 2025.

**Carried**

## Background

Council's current Local Law No.1 came into operation in 2018 and is due for review. A comprehensive review was undertaken by relevant council units to ensure the local law reflects up to date circumstances and legislation.

At the March 2025 Council meeting, Council endorsed the draft updated local law for public exhibition. Compared to the 2018 local law, the draft local law endorsed for public exhibition contained the following key changes:

- Reorganised the structure, enabling provisions to be easily located and understood in accordance with current best practise.
- Updated and simplified the language and definitions.
- Altered provisions due to changes to other legislation since the current local law was adopted.
- Removed provisions that are no longer required and/or covered by other legislation or processes.
- Used more consistent language, extent and penalties with similar local laws at other Victorian Councils.
- Strengthened provisions relating to waste management (Waste Management Policy – see **Attachment 3**), firewood collection and animal management (e.g. added number of animals that can be kept at small properties/apartments/townhouses/flats/units).

The draft local law was exhibited for feedback from 28 March to 30 April 2025 and four submissions were received (see **Attachment 2**). In response to these submissions the following changes are proposed to the draft local law:

- Add Clause 31.2.3 to exclude the following from the requirement to get a permit: 'a fire in a chimney, potbelly stove, or a small open fire in a suitable container used for heating, cooking, cultural or social purposes, which is not offensive and to the extent reasonably possible, any nuisance to neighbouring properties'.
- Amend Clause 37.3.4 to allow for caravans/similar facilities to be stored within 3 meters of the front of the land instead of 6 meters.

As required under the *Local Government Act 2020* the proposed local law 2025 has been reviewed and approved by a suitably qualified person and a certificate has been obtained stating that the local law is consistent with the relevant requirements (see **Attachment 4**).

## Implications

### Policy Considerations

There are no specific Council policies or strategies that relate to this report. The Local Law assists in the consistent delivery of Council requirements for the safety and wellbeing of all residents.

### Financial/Economic Implications

New or revised penalties while necessary for improved governance are unlikely to involve a large number of infringements.

**Legal/Statutory**

*Local Government Act 2020*, once adopted by Council a notice relating to the Local Law must be published in the Victorian Government Gazette and Council's website. A legal review of the draft local law has been completed.

**Social and Diversity**

A local law must not be inconsistent the any Act (including the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006).

**Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)**

An Equity Impact Assessment has been undertaken and will inform community engagement.

**Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

The environmental impacts considered in this draft local law are in relation to permits and requirements around fire and firewood collection, invasive pest, and grazing.

**Strategic Links****Council Plan 2021 – 2025**

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

**1. Strengthening our Leadership**

1.4.1.1 Keep informed of emerging trends and issues that may impact our community, our region and our Council.

**2 Nurturing our Wellbeing**

2.6.2 Ensure our community understands and meets the requirements of safety legislation and compliance

**Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision**

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

K2: Ensure our community understands and meets the requirements of safety legislation and compliance

**Other strategic links**

Local Government Act 2020 – Part 3, Division 3 Local Laws.

**Risk Management**Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
The local law is not revised and remains outdated	Low	Medium	Medium	Exhibit the draft local law for community feedback and implementing the revised local law, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> .

### Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Draft Local Law 2025 and Waste Management Policy 2025 exhibited.	Council's website and digital media, local newspaper.
Consult	Draft Local Law 2025 and Waste Management Policy 2025 exhibited for feedback.	Exhibition from 28 March to 30 April 2025. Community notified and informed in the newspaper, Council's Website, Connect Wangaratta and social media inviting submissions.
Involve	All submissions will be considered	Submissions considered and appropriate changes made to the local law prior to adoption.

Officers believe that appropriate community consultation has occurred for the draft Rural City of Wangaratta Local Laws No1 – Community Amenity and Waste Management Policy 2025 and the matter is now ready for Council consideration and adoption.

### Options for Consideration





- 3.1.1.1.1.1. That Council adopts the Rural City of Wangaratta Local Law No 1 – Community Amenity and associated Waste Management Policy 2025 with recommended changes (Recommended).
- 3.1.1.1.1.2. That Council does not adopt the Rural City of Wangaratta Local Law No 1 – Community Amenity and associated Waste Management Policy 2025 (Not Recommended).

### Conclusion

The Rural City of Wangaratta Local Law No 1 – Community Amenity and associated Waste Management Policy 2025 have been exhibited for community feedback. Submissions received have been considered and relevant changes made to the local law.

Officers consider that the local law and associated Waste Management Policy are ready for adoption.

### Attachments

- 1 Local Law No 1 - Community Amenity 2025 
- 2 Submissions and responses 
- 3 Waste Management Policy 2025 
- 4 Solicitor's Certificate – Section 74(1) Local Government Act 2020 

### 15.3 Community Engagement Policy (37:08)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	24 June 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Community Engagement Advisor
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 adopt the updated Community Engagement Policy 2025 (refer **Attachment 1**).

The Community Engagement Policy 2025 sets out the Council's intentions for the support and delivery of community engagement and reflects the commitment to the principles of engagement as set out in the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The draft updated Policy was endorsed for exhibition at the March 2025 Council Meeting. It was exhibited from 27 March 2025 until 5 May 2025. One submission was received in response and has been considered (refer to **Attachment 2**). No changes have been made to the draft Policy in response.

#### Resolution:

**(Moved: Councillor A Winters/Councillor T Maxwell)**

That Council:

1. Considers the submission received during the exhibition period for the draft Community Engagement Policy 2025.
2. Adopts the draft Community Engagement Policy 2025.

**Carried**

#### Background

Council's existing Community Engagement Policy was developed and adopted in 2020 after changes to the *Local Government Act in 2020* (the Act). These changes included a requirement for deliberative engagement and set out principles that should be applied to community engagement.

Since the adoption of the existing Policy, Council has progressed its understanding of community engagement, deliberative engagement, and how these can be implemented in line with the Act. The updated Policy has evolved to provide a framework for meaningful and consistent

engagement that both meets Council's requirements under the Act, and also helps build Council's relationship with the community.

The draft Community Engagement Policy 2025 focuses on the principles of engagement outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council's legislated requirements, and how those are delivered by Council. This includes a clear scope, roles and responsibilities, and definitions. This brings the Policy in line with other policy documents, and sets Council's commitment to consistent, meaningful, and inclusive community engagement.

The draft Policy was endorsed for exhibition at the 25 March 2025 Council Meeting. It was exhibited from 27 March 2025 until 5 May 2025. During that time one submission was received refer to **Attachment 2**) largely agreeing with the draft policy and requesting the policy specifically include a section about strategic land use planning. It would not be appropriate to specifically add a section about strategic land use planning to the policy as the policy would be applied to all relevant projects, including strategic land use planning projects. The feedback will also be considered as part of future strategic land use planning projects. The delivery of engagement processes and activities is also guided by Council's internal community engagement guide and toolkit.

## Implications

### Policy Considerations

The current Community Engagement Policy is due for review. It has further links to other Council areas through project management and engagement delivery.

### Financial/Economic Implications

While there are no direct financial implications to this report, the Policy implementation will be the responsibility of each individual project. These costs will need to be reflected in project plans bids, through grants and operational budgets.

### Legal/Statutory

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Councils to have a Community Engagement Policy that considers a number of principles. These have been incorporated into the Policy. Additionally, there are legal requirements around community engagement in other Acts and legislation, including planning legislation that supercede this policy.

### Social and Diversity

Ensuring accessible, diverse and meaningful engagement with the people who are impacted by the decision is the cornerstone of the principles outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020*.

### Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Act states that engagement must be accessible, include those who are impacted, and make reasonable efforts to ensure those who are involved are engaged meaningfully. These principles are the foundation of this policy.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

## Strategic Links

**Council Plan 2021 – 2025**

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

**1. Strengthening our Leadership**

- i. Commit to the delivery of thorough and inclusive community engagement practices

**Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision**

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

A1 Provide open and transparent communication to the community to build trust, respect and understanding

A2 Commit to the delivery of thorough and responsible community engagement practices

D2 Engage in meaningful dialogue with the community and demonstrate how community participation is being used to inform decisions

**Risk Management**Risk Management Framework

	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Implementation of new policy by staff	3 - Possible	Minor	5 - Medium	Council is developing a toolkit to support the Policy and training will be rolled out to staff.
Community fatigue with consultation may impact engagement levels	3 - Possible	Moderate	6 - Medium	Council will adopt a variety of tools and methods in order to reach audiences and get meaningful feedback.

**Consultation/Communication**

The community had an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Community Engagement Policy 2025 from 28 March to 5 May 2025.

To aid the development of the draft Community Engagement Policy 2025, extensive consultation with internal stakeholders was conducted to understand how engagement is currently delivered and how it can be improved.

Data from the previous three Community Satisfaction Surveys has also been considered, and community preferences for engagement and communication will be incorporated into tools provided to Council Officers.

**Options for Consideration**

That Council

1. Adopts the draft Community Engagement Policy 2025 (recommended).
2. Does not adopt the draft Community Engagement Policy 2025 and asks for revisions.

### Conclusion

Council's draft updated Community Engagement Policy 2025 was exhibited for public feedback from 28 March to 5 May 2025. On submission was received and considered, no changes are recommended in response to the submission.

The Community Engagement Policy 2025 is ready for Council adoption.

### Attachments

- 1 Community Engagement Policy 2025 
- 2 Community Engagement Policy - Community Feedback 

#### 15.4 Planning Application No. 24/095 - Corner Murphy & Reid Streets, Wangaratta - Electronic Promotion Signage (41:55)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	24 June 2025
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Planner
Approver:	Director Sustainability and Culture

The following Council officers and contractors have disclosed a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration:

**Councillors:**

- **Councillor Dave Fuller** has reported a general conflict of interest as a .

*Councillor David Fuller left the meeting at 03:43 pm.*

#### Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to determine a planning permit application for buildings and works for the display of an electronic promotion sign on the corner of Murphy and Reid Streets, Wangaratta.

The recommendation is to Issue a Notice of Refusal to Grant a Permit on the grounds that the proposal is inconsistent with relevant policies and decision guidelines of the Wangaratta Planning Scheme. Having undertaken an assessment of the application, officers are of the view that the application is not suitable for support (refer to **Attachment 1** for detailed assessment).

#### Recommendation:

That Council issues a Notice of Refusal to Grant a Permit in accordance with Section 61 (1) (c) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and include the grounds of refusal as set out in **Attachment 2**.

#### Alternate Motion:

**(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor H Bussell)**

That Council Grants a Planning Permit for Planning Application PlnApp24/095 subject to the conditions attached.

Councillor Winters requested a division and the results were:

For:	Councillor H Benton, Councillor H Bussell, Councillor A Fitzpatrick, Councillor I Grant and Councillor T Maxwell
Against:	Councillor A Winters

Please refer to Appendix 2 for the conditions.

Carried

## Background

Having undertaken an assessment of the application officers have concluded that the proposal should be refused. The key issues informing officers recommendation include:

- Urban design and streetscape
- Heritage
- Road safety

Additional details of the site and surrounds, the proposal, relevant policy and assessment are included in the officer's report at **Attachment 1**.

## 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 1**. 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
	11.03-1L-02	Wangaratta Central Activities Area
	15.01-1S	Urban design
	15.01-2S	Building design
	15.01-1L-01	Signs
	15.01-5S	Neighbourhood character
	15.03-1S	Heritage conservation
	15.03-1L	Heritage places and precincts
Zone	34.01	Commercial 1 Zone
	36.04	Transport Zone
Overlays	43.01	Heritage Overlay (HO5)
	43.02	Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 1
	45.09	Parking Overlay – Schedule 1
Provision	52.05	Signs
Decision Guidelines	65.01	Decision Guidelines – Approval of an Application or Plan

## Implications

### Policy Considerations

- Local Planning Policy (Wangaratta Planning Scheme)
- Wangaratta Central Activity Area Urban Design Framework, August 2019

**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 and Diversity**

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

**Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)**

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

**Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

Environmental/ sustainability impacts have been considered in this report.

**Strategic Links****Council Plan 2021 – 2025**

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

6.2.2.2 - Provide an efficient and effective permit system that facilitates appropriate growth.

**Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision**

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

S1 - Establish Wangaratta's CBD as a regional business, commercial service and retail centre.

BB1 - Ensure new development is facilitated and does not conflict with existing land uses.

BB2 - Provide an efficient and effective permit system

**Other strategic links**

This report supports the objectives and outcomes sought by the Wangaratta Central Activity Area Urban Design Framework

**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.

### Consultation/Communication

Public consultation was undertaken in accordance with Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

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

### Options for Consideration

1. Council issues a Notice of Refusal to Grant a Planning Permit for Planning Application PInApp24/095; OR
2. Council Grant a Planning Permit for Planning Application PInApp24/095 subject to conditions.

### Conclusion

Planning permit application PInApp24/095 is considered to be significantly inconsistent with relevant state and local planning policies. The applications failures to appropriately respond to policy are not limited to those of subjective consideration, the proposal is also contrary to numerous specific, clearly articulated and unambiguous polices. Councils own local planning policies in conjunction with the Wangaratta Central Activity Area Urban Design Framework establish a clear vision and expectations for the development of the Wangaratta Central Activities Area. The proposal is largely inconsistent with this vision. Similarly, the proposal is at odds with heritage values and character of the locality, a large electronic promotion sign being irreconcilable with surrounding heritage buildings.

The proposal is considered to represent a poor planning outcome that fails to address the site and surrounds nor respond to applicable policy.

### Attachments

- 1 Officers Report 
- 2 Grounds for Refusal 

*Councillor David Fuller returned to the meeting at 03:50 pm.*

**16. Special Committee Reports**

Nil

**17. Advisory Committee Reports**

Nil

## 18. Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings

### 18.1 Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings (49:41)

Meeting Type: Scheduled Council Meeting  
 Date of Meeting: 24 June 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
18 March 2025	Audit and Risk Committee	Attachment

#### Resolution:

**(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)**

That Council notes the minutes of these Advisory Committees.

**Carried**

#### Attachments

- 1 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes - 18 March 2025 

## 19. Notices of Motion

Nil

## 20. Urgent Business

## 21. Public Question Time (50:14)

<p><b>21.1</b> (51:26)</p>	<p><b>Jennifer Garrett</b> asked the following question at the May Council meeting which was taken on notice:</p> <p><b>Question 1 – How many properties in the Rural City of Wangaratta currently have two rate notices for exactly the same property (i.e. one folio, one title, one size)?</b></p> <p><i>Director Sarah Brindley responded: Thank you for your question, which was taken on notice at last month's meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Jennifer's question asks about how many properties have more than one rates notice against the same property.</i></p> <p><i>This can occur in various circumstances. Examples would be:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>A property like the Co Store which has multiple rating assessments under one title, for each of the individual tenancies at that address, or,</i></li> <li>- <i>Units on one block or land, where each unit has its own assessment, but all within the one title.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Council has over 16,600 rates assessments. Given this volume, the only way to answer Jennifer's question would be to review all the records manually and this just isn't feasible.</i></p> <p><i>Since this question at the last council meeting, the Rates team has worked with Ms Garrett to answer her questions relating more specifically to how rates are applied to her particular property. I won't go into those details here as that is private information, but can confirm these enquiries have now been responded to with Ms Garrett directly.</i></p>
<p><b>21.2</b> (53:27)</p>	<p><b>Trevor Werry</b> asked the following question at the May Council meeting which was taken on notice:</p> <p><b>Question 1 – Wangandary is not included on that list, does that mean it won't get the bins when Waldara, Killawarra and Peechelba will?</b></p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan spoke directly with Trevor at the close of the May meeting and satisfactorily answered Trevor's question.</i></p> <p><i>There is a small section of Wangandary that is included which is in the northwest growth area, Wangandary was just not read out in the list.</i></p>
<p><b>21.3</b></p>	<p><b>Adrian Fox</b> submitted the following questions for the June Council meeting which was assigned to Mayor Grant &amp; Director Swart for reply.</p>

(54:26)	<p><b>Question 1 – The Wangaratta Chronicle dated the 25th November 2024 quoted you as saying "I'm still paying with coins and there are that many apps to use nowadays I find a parking app just adds to the stress I feel and I don't need that".</b>  <b>The question is : have you downloaded the EasyPark app and are you now using it?</b></p> <p><i>Mayor Grant responded: I've come a long way since 25 November 2024. Yes I have downloaded the app, but I'm also very cognisant of the many opportunities for free parking options available even if I have to walk a bit further.</i></p> <p><b>Question 2 – Quarterly Reporting on the implementation of the current paid parking policy was advised at the February 25th council meeting. Is the first quarterly report available please?</b></p> <p><i>Director Stephen Swart responded: Part of the Council decision about the CBD car parking payment system was that Council receives quarterly updates on how the approved system is progressing and functioning. Councillors have been briefed regularly about the progress with the implementation of the approved payment system since the decision in February. While more formal reporting will commence once the full implementation of new system, including updated signage and education, has been completed, it is not the intention to submit quarterly reports at Council meetings. A review report will be submitted to Council in June next year as required by the February Council resolution.</i></p>
21.4 (56:27)	<p><b>Cassandra Pollock</b> submitted the following questions for the June Council meeting which was assigned to Director Goonan for reply.</p> <p><b>Question 1 – I wish to commend the council for incorporating into the "Events and Attractions Strategy" a commitment to- Eliminate the purchase and distribution of single use plastics for council events.</b>  <b>In relation to this could an update be provided as to what stage council is at with engaging a dedicated waste education officer?</b></p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded: Following an unsuccessful recruitment campaign for the Waste Education Officer position, the role was reviewed. A new position Waste Project Officer was created. This role retains responsibility for waste education while also encompassing broader project work within the waste portfolio. The position has since been advertised and successfully filled.</i></p>
21.5 (57:26)	<p><b>Brian Fox</b></p> <p><b>Speaking on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce</b></p> <p><b>Question 1 – The new blue bin system is an opportunity to think laterally about the pickup. Council has on file a proposal from me to pick the bins up on an as needs basis. I understand that the bins will be supplied free of charge, however, I need to ask, who pays to pick them up? If we're going to</b></p>

	<p><b>pick them up four times a year, there is more than 1,000 bins, that's 4,000 pickups. Are there any savings for us in the blue bin system that will ameliorate this cost by taking the glass out of the waste, are we going to add some savings that will pay for the truck to go around and pick up 4,000 bins? According to the budget, the cost of picking up one bin is approximately \$5 plus. We can expect an expense item in future budgets of \$20,000 to pick up the bins. Savings made in this area may even pay for free parking. I'm asking Council to do 2 things. Leave the blue bin implementation till a minute to midnight. I understand the legislation says that we must have it done by 2027. My last look at the calendar it's only 2025. Let's not do it till the year after next.</b></p> <p><i>Mayor Grant responded: they're purple bins, and one of the reasons Council was keen to accept the uptake of this particular process was that the bin would be provided through the government free of charge and I'll ask Director Goonan to explain the process around the actual collection which will be done on a quarterly basis and that will be absorbed into the cost of collection across the municipality.</i></p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded: the question that you asked me was with regards to the budget costings for 2025/26. In the 2025/26 budget Council will be collecting the purple lidded bins, which are the lids for glass, for free. With regards to savings on our waste charges, the collection of glass and the removal of glass from our co-mingled recyclables makes that recycling, makes that product, so what's left over, the plastic, the cardboard and the paper, much more valuable as a product. So it means we get less increases from the contractor who collects those. We're lucky enough in this municipality to have our own service vehicles that allow us to collect the glass ourselves, so we're able to reduce some of the costs that other municipalities have around glass collection because we can complete those works inhouse.</i></p> <p><i>As Mayor Grant was pointing out, the reason to go now with the glass collection is the funding that is on the table from the state government at the moment which means that the fees don't cost rate payers anything. If we delay that any further, that funding will be off the table and therefore we will have to put a charge on for the bin service itself</i></p> <p><b>I'm asking will we get to the point of having a rational discussion about having the bins picked up on a needs basis?</b></p> <p><i>Mayor Grant responded: we have had this discussion with you before, and I don't think in economic terms to do that on an as needs basis would be something that Council could entertain and I think that's been explained to you before.</i></p> <p><b>Question 2 – I'm asking that all Council registered motor vehicles have an identity logo attached. Will you consider that?</b></p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded: all Council vehicles do actually have a little Council logo.</i></p>
<p><b>21.6</b> <b>(1:05:52)</b></p>	<p><b>Adrian Fox</b> <b>The parking policy was not mentioned in the budget discussion today, but Cr</b></p>

**Maxwell did say we need to look at every line item, and also mentioned that we need to make sure that each line item is fit for purpose and that we have the true understanding of what that budget item means to the community. What is the expected income from paid parking in 2025/2026?**

*Director Swart responded: unfortunately I don't have the numbers in front of me so I'll have to take that question on notice. I will note a few things about expected income when it comes to paid car parking and trends that we've seen over the last few years. As you can imagine during Covid, that was one of the areas that dropped off because it simply wasn't a priority for Council and that was followed by a period where our system wasn't working the way it should, hence we needed to make a decision about replacing that system. So the car parking over those periods of time would be lower than if you compare to the period of time before Covid. I will find the number for next financial year and I can provide that to you.*

**22. Confidential Business**

Nil

**23. Closure of Meeting**

The Meeting closed at 4:09pm.

## Appendix 1: Councillor Report – Tania Maxwell

Cr Tania Maxwell  
24/06/2025

### Report on the Impact of cessation of funding for the Sleep and Settling Program delivered by The Rural City of Wangaratta.

#### 1. Reduced Support for Families

Sleep issues in infants and toddlers can affect a parent's mental health, family wellbeing, and the child's long-term development. With this funding, we've been able to offer much-needed education and support to parents at a critical time. Without it, many parents may not have access to the guidance they need when sleep challenges arise, which could lead to frustration, confusion, and increased stress for both the parents and the child.

#### 2. Missed Early Intervention Opportunities

Addressing sleep and settling issues early, especially during key developmental stages, is essential to preventing bigger challenges later. The loss of funding for Group Based Sleep and Settling sessions means we might not be able to reach parents at the right time, which could result in longer-term difficulties for the family. Early intervention is key to helping children develop healthy sleep patterns and promoting positive parent-child relationships.

#### 3. Challenges for Regional Families

For families in regional areas like RCoW, access to specialist support for sleep issues is already limited. The closest Early Parenting Centres and Parent Infant Units are located in Melbourne and Bendigo, which are at least three hours away. While there is a day-stay sleep program in Wodonga, the travel distance still poses a significant barrier for parents. Losing the funding for sleep and settling support would make it even harder for these families to access the help they need locally.

#### 4. Increased Pressure on Parents

Parents who are struggling with sleep issues often feel overwhelmed, particularly when they don't have access to face-to-face support. Without funding for Group Based Sleep and Settling sessions, many parents may feel isolated or unsure of where to turn for help. This can increase stress levels, make it harder for parents to bond with their child, and ultimately affect their mental health and family wellbeing.

#### 5. Impact on Our Service Delivery

Without this Group based funding, our MCH service would have a reduced capacity to provide consistent, evidence-based advice on sleep and settling to our parents. This would put a strain on our service, likely increasing the request for additional consultations and more referrals to the Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Service.

#### 6. Long-Term Consequences for Family Wellbeing

If sleep issues aren't addressed early, they can lead to more complex problems down the road. These challenges might become harder and more expensive to resolve, potentially affecting the child's development and the family's overall wellbeing. Without the funding, MCH may struggle to prevent these issues from escalating, which could have long-term consequences for both the child and the parents.

#### Services provided by MCH Wangaratta:

First Time Parent Group- 5 groups per year, average invitation to the group is 25 first time parents.

Group Based Sleep and Settling Program has been embedded within the First-time parent group program and then runs concurrently with our INFANT program at 6 months, 9 months, and 12 months of age. (INFANT Program (INfant Feeding, Active play and NuTrition) is designed to help families with feeding and active play, to give their baby the best start to life.)

Running the INFANT and group-based sleep sessions concurrently allowed us to best capture the audience and to maximise use of staff time to run the sessions. We do not receive funding to run the INFANT program.

Sleep and Settling Outreach: Limited scope to provide up to 6 hours in the home for a family experiencing vulnerability who have identified ongoing sleep and settling concerns.

Supported Playgroup- 2 sessions per week. There is no opportunity to deliver sleep and settling education during this intervention

Intergenerational Playgroup- 1 session per week at Rangeview Nursing Home. There is no opportunity to deliver sleep and settling education during this intervention.

The Maternal Child Health (MCH) sleep and settling model of care provides an evidenced informed approach to supporting parents and caregivers who have raised a sleep and settling concern. It supports the delivery of consistent and high-quality MCH services by MCH Service Providers for all Victorian children and families. To support the application of the sleep and settling model of care the following resources have been developed:

- [Sleep and settling model of care](#)
- [Sleep and settling model of care: Research summary report](#)
- [Sleep pathways assessment tool](#)
- [Parent-child interactions scale](#)
- [Parent and carers psychosocial assessment](#)

## Appendix 2: Planning Application PInApp24/095 - display of an electronic promotion sign attached to 56 Murphy Street WANGARATTA – Alternate Motion

### Proposed conditions:

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1. At all times what the permit allows must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of any document approved under this permit to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
2. This permit will operate from the issued date of this permit.
3. The location and details of the signs, and any supporting structure, as shown on the endorsed plans, must not be altered without the written consent of the responsible authority.
4. The signs, including the structure and content, must be constructed and maintained to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
5. Before the signs are constructed or put up for display, the following existing signs must be removed to the satisfaction of the responsible authority:
  - a) Major promotion sign located on the southwest wall of 56 Murphy Street.
  - b) Sky sign above the northern facia of 56 Murphy Street.

### Department of Transport and Planning conditions

6. Prior to the operation of the sign, a Lighting Compliance Report must be submitted to and approved by the responsible authority and the Head, Transport for Victoria. The Lighting Compliance Report must demonstrate that the sign has been commissioned according to the requirements of the Lighting Impact Assessment prepared in accordance with condition 6. The Compliance Report must include the following:
  - a) On site luminance measurements for Daytime, Evening/Morning Twilight and Night Time, based on a 100% white screen set to the maximum value for each lighting condition.
  - b) Date and times of luminance measurements for the relevant lighting conditions.
  - c) Details of the luminance meter used, including serial number. The luminance meter must have been calibrated by an appropriately certified Lab within the last 12 months. The date of calibration and Calibration Report Number must be provided.
  - d) A description of the luminance methodology used, including location and orientation of the luminance meter relative to sign, the image/content displayed on sign and number of measurement points taken. The signage should be measured with a 100% white image displayed, unless signage is a fixed colour/design.

- e) Photos of the sign for each sky condition measured, taken from the meter location.
  - f) Indicative elevation plans of the signage showing the values of luminance at each measurement point.
  - g) A summary showing the final average luminance of the signage for each relevant sky condition.
  - h) A certification signed by a suitably qualified lighting consultant to undertake luminance measurements.
7. The sign must operate in accordance with the Lighting Impact Assessment Report submitted in accordance with condition 6.
8. During the operation of the sign, the following maximum average luminance and threshold increment values must not be exceeded:
- a) Maximum average luminance:
    - i. Full sun on face of signage: no limit
    - ii. Daytime luminance: 6000 cd/m<sup>2</sup>
    - iii. Morning and evening twilight and overcast weather: 700 cd/m<sup>2</sup>
    - iv. Night time: 350 cd/m<sup>2</sup>
  - b) Threshold increment max %:
    - v. 20%
  - c) Adaptation luminance:
    - vi. 5 / 1 / 0.25
9. The sign must be dimmable and have a suitable control system to enable maximum lighting levels to be set or adjusted if deemed necessary by the responsible authority and the Head, Transport for Victoria.
10. Where illuminated during the day, the sign must be fitted with Photocell/s (light sensor/s) that measure the ambient light and control system technology that enables the luminance of the sign to automatically adjust relative to the measured ambient light level.
11. Any change to brightness levels must be applied during an image transition, not while an image is being displayed.
12. No image may be displayed for less than 30 seconds.
13. Any changes in image must occur in 0.1 seconds or less.
14. The operator must keep a Compliance Record of the operation of the sign. This must be provided to the Head, Transport for Victoria within 5 days of a written request. The Compliance Record must include:

- a) The sign's luminance (cd/m<sup>2</sup>) in minimum 10-minute intervals.
  - b) The sign's photocell (light sensor) reading of the ambient light in minimum 10-minute intervals.
  - c) The dwell time and transition time between successive images.
  - d) The 10% highest luminance measurements must be clearly highlighted. All record information must be time and date stamped to show the time of measurement. Compliance Records must be maintained for a minimum of 12 months.
15. The sign must not display content, images or text:
- a) Giving the illusion of continuous movement.
  - b) Capable of being mistaken for traffic signals or traffic control devices, including red, amber or green circles, octagons, crosses or triangles.
  - c) Capable of being mistaken as an instruction to a road user, including the wording stop, give way, slow down, turn left or turn right.
  - d) With a flashing background, flashing text, flashing images, blinking or fading elements that create the illusion of movement.
  - e) Containing any animation.
  - f) Capable of being interpreted as projections beyond the face of the advertising screen such as through 3D technology.
  - g) Consisting of present time or other contemporary update information relating to news, weather or time.
  - h) Containing video, movie or television broadcasts.

**Permit expiry**

16. This permit as it relates to a sign(s) will expire 15 years from the issued date of this permit.

On expiry of the permit, the sign and structures built specifically to support and illuminate it must be removed.

In accordance with Section 69 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, an application may be submitted to the responsible authority for an extension of the period referred to in this condition.