



# 2026 Advocacy

## Inspiring, thriving & prosperous

Our 2031 Community Vision is to be an inspiring, thriving and prosperous community of choice. We're taking bold steps towards growing our economy, and our community is full of optimism and opportunities.

To achieve our Community Vision, we've adopted a *Council Plan 2025-29* and a *2026 Advocacy Paper*. The Advocacy Paper outlines key projects and goals that are aligned to our Council Plan themes.



Local governments in Australia collect a small slice of total tax revenue, around 3.6%, with the Commonwealth collecting the vast majority (around 79-80%) and states collecting about 17%.

With limited capability to increase our revenue base, we're calling on the State and Federal Governments, political parties and candidates to support our community in achieving our vision, and for us to realise our full potential.

Central Goldfields Shire is one of the most disadvantaged communities in Victoria, and we believe that policy makers have a responsibility to ensure equity.

We recognise the Victorian Government has delivered improvements to health care and public transport in Maryborough, but more needs to be done.

**We're seeking support for projects and opportunities that are aligned to our Council Plan themes, including:**

### Economic Growth and Prosperity

- Extend the Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline to the Central Goldfields
- Build better and safer State Roads
- \$10m to deliver a new Maryborough industrial precinct
- \$5m to revitalise and activate the Maryborough CBD
- \$3m to continue activating the Maryborough Railway Station as a key tourism feature to tell the Goldfields story

### Healthy, Connected and Safe Communities

- Better digital connectivity – improved Internet and mobile phone coverage
- Five trains each way on weekdays between Maryborough and Ballarat
- \$2.5m for Go Goldfields to ensure coordinated delivery of vital services that support children and families
- Establish a “Learning Hub” to provide facilities and opportunities that improve access to higher education
- Operational funding for the Central Goldfields Art Gallery
- A strategic approach and incentives from the State Government to recruit and retain doctors, nurses, other emergency service workers and teachers

### Infrastructure that Supports Growth and Liveability

- Planning reforms to build more affordable housing
- \$40m to implement a sewerage system for Talbot to enable population and housing growth
- \$5m to complete redevelopment of the Maryborough Outdoor Pool
- \$8m to upgrade the iconic Princes Park Grandstand
- Upgrade Maryborough Aerodrome to support growth in regional aviation
- \$10m to repair and refurbish the historic Maryborough Town Hall

### Resilient and Sustainable Community

- Relocate and improve facilities for the Maryborough SES

For information about these projects contact Central Goldfields Shire Council:

*Chief Executive Officer*

**Peter Harriott**

Peter.Harriott@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

*Advocacy Manager*

**Michael Gorey**

Michael.Gorey@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au  
0415 361 829