



COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 26 July 2022

6:00pm

Room 1 Community Hub

AGENDA

Item	Title	Page
1.	Commencement of Meeting, Welcome	4
2.	Apologies	6
3	Leave of Absence	8
4	Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest	10
5.	Confirmation of the Minutes of Previous Council Meetings	13
5.1	Confirmation of the Minutes of Previous Council Meetings	14
5.1.1	Unconfirmed Minutes Council Meeting 28 June 2022	16
6.	Minutes of Delegated and Advisory Committee	24
6.1	Noting of Approved Minutes of Audit and Risk Committee	25
6.1.1	Confirmed Minutes of Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 7 March 2022	27
6.2	Noting of Special Committee Meeting Minutes	36
6.2.1	Minutes of Talbot Town Hall Meeting 14 June 2022	38
7	Petitions	41

8.	Officer Reports	42
8.1	Maryborough 50 Metre Outdoor Pool	43
8.2	Community Grants Recommendations Report 2022-2023	47
8.3	2022 Local Sports Infrastructure Applications	57
8.4	2022 Community Satisfaction Survey Results	61
8.5	Maryborough Aerodrome Taskforce Term Extension	136
8.6	Youth Council Membership Endorsement	140
8.7	Majorca Plantation and Talbot Timber	146
8.8	Planning Permit 018/21 for Broiler Farm at 683 and 705 Baringhup Road, Carisbrook	149
8.9	Integrated Water Management Strategic Direction Statements	181
8.10	Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report to Council	226
9.	Notices of Motion	232
9.1	52 Ross Street, Maryborough – Cr Geoff Lovett	234
10	Urgent Business	235
11.	Confidential Business	237
12.	Meeting Close	240

THIS PAGE HAS INTENTIONALLY BEEN LEFT BLANK

Commencement of Meeting

Council meeting

*Printed from Stellar by
Meetings CGSC <meeting@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au>*

Councils must, in the performance of its role, give effect to the overarching governance principles in the *Local Government Act 2020*.¹ These are included below to guide Councillor consideration of issues and Council decision making.

- a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
- b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- c) the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;
- d) the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;
- e) innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;
- f) collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;
- g) the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;
- h) regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;
- i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

¹ Section 9.

Apologies

Council meeting

*Printed from Stellar by
Meetings CGSC <meeting@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au>*

Apologies

Council's Governance Rules require that the minutes of Council meetings record the names of Councillors present and the names of any Councillors who apologised in advance for their non-attendance.¹

The annual report will list councillor attendance at Council meetings.

Councillor attendance at Councillor briefings is also recorded.

¹ Chapter 2, rule 62.

Leave of Absence

Council meeting

*Printed from Stellar by
Meetings CGSC <meeting@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au>*

Leave of absence

One reason that a Councillor ceases to hold the office of Councillor (and that office becomes vacant) is if a Councillor is absent from Council meetings for a period of 4 consecutive months without leave obtained from the Council. (There are some exceptions to this – see section 35 for more information.)

A Councillor can request a leave of absence. Any reasonable request for leave must be granted.¹

Leave of absence is approved by Council. Any request will be dealt with in this item which is a standing item on the agenda. The approvals of leave of absence will be noted in the minutes of Council in which it is granted. It will also be noted in the minutes of any Council meeting held during the period of the leave of absence.

¹ See *Local Government Act 2020* s 35 (4) and s 35 (1) (e).

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

Council meeting

*Printed from Stellar by
Meetings CGSC <meeting@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au>*

Conflicts of interest

Conflicts of Interest must be disclosed at the commencement of a Council meeting or Councillor briefing, or as soon as a Councillor recognises that they have a conflict of interest.

The relevant provisions in the *Local Government Act 2020* include those in Part 6, Division 2 (from section 126). Failing to disclose a conflict of interest and excluding themselves from the decision making process is an offence.

Disclosures at Council meetings

Under the Governance Rules:¹

A Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at a Council meeting at which he or she:

1 is present must disclose that conflict of interest by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present at the Council meeting immediately before the matter is considered; or

2 intends to be present must disclose that conflict of interest by providing to the Chief Executive Officer before the Council meeting commences a written notice:

2.1 advising of the conflict of interest;

2.2 explaining the nature of the conflict of interest; and

2.3 detailing, if the nature of the conflict of interest involves a Councillor's relationship with or a gift from another person, the:

(a) name of the other person;

(b) nature of the relationship with that other person or the date of receipt, value and type of gift received from the other person; and

(c) nature of that other person's interest in the matter,

and then immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting announcing to those present that he or she has a conflict of interest and that a written notice has been given to the Chief Executive Officer under this sub-Rule.

The Councillor must, in either event, leave the Council meeting immediately after giving the explanation or making the announcement (as the case may be) and not return to the meeting until after the matter has been disposed of.

¹ Chapter 5, Rule 3.

Disclosures at councillor briefings (and other meetings)

Also under the Governance Rules,² a Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered by a meeting held under the auspices of Council at which he or she is present must:

- 1 disclose that conflict of interest by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present at the meeting immediately before the matter is considered;
- 2 absent himself or herself from any discussion of the matter; and
- 3 as soon as practicable after the meeting concludes provide to the Chief Executive Officer a written notice recording that the disclosure was made and accurately summarising the explanation given to those present at the meeting.

Councillor form to disclose conflicts of interest

Name: _____

Date: _____

Meeting type:

- Briefing
- Meeting
- Other _____

Nature of the conflict of interest (describe):

If the nature of the conflict of interest involves a Councillor's relationship with or a gift from another person:

- name of the other person (gift giver): _____
- nature of the relationship with that other person or the date of receipt, value and type of gift received from the other person: _____
- nature of that other person's interest in the matter: _____

² Chapter 5, Rule 4.

Confirmation of minutes of previous Council meeting

Council meeting

*Printed from Stellar by
Meetings CGSC <meeting@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au>*

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Author: Governance Officer

Responsible Officer: General Manager Corporate Performance

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

To present for confirmation the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 June 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 June 2022.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025 – Leading Change

The Community's vision 4. Good planning, governance, and service delivery

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The minutes of meetings remain unconfirmed until the next meeting of Council.

REPORT

Council keeps minutes of each meeting of the Council and those minutes are submitted to the next appropriate meeting for confirmation.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

Once confirmed minutes become available, they will replace the unconfirmed minutes currently on the Council's website.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Costs included in the Governance and Community Engagement budgets.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk Governance - Failure to transparently govern and embrace good governance practices. This process conforms to the requirements of the Governance Rules. Publication of the minutes increases transparency and reduces the risk of maladministration.

CONCLUSION

The unconfirmed minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 June 2022 are presented for confirmation.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Council Meeting held 28 June 2022



MEETING OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday 28 June 2022

6:00pm

Meeting held in person

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Liesbeth Long

Gerard Murphy

Wayne Sproull

Geoff Lovett

Grace La Vella

Chris Meddows-Taylor (Mayor)

Anna de Villiers

draft unconfirmed

To be confirmed at the Council Meeting
scheduled for 26 July 2022

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING AND WELCOME

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm

The Mayor, Cr Meddows-Taylor welcomed everybody.

PRESENT

Councillors

Chris Meddows-Taylor (Mayor)

Liesbeth Long

Gerard Murphy

Wayne Sproull

Grace La Vella

Geoff Lovett

Anna de Villiers

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers

Chief Executive Officer, Lucy Roffey

Acting General Manager Infrastructure Assets and Planning, Alan Jones

General Manager Community Wellbeing, Emma Little

General Manager Corporate Performance, Mick Smith

2. APOLOGIES

Nil

3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Murphy declared conflict of interest for Item 8.7 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funding - Progress Update

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

To present for confirmation the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 May 2022.

Mayor declared minutes are confirmed with corrections made to two absences.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Nil

The 'Comic Sans' font and page colour are being used in this report to improve accessibility.

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

7. PETITIONS

Nil

8. OFFICER REPORTS

8.1. MAY FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

The purpose of this report is to advise Council on its financial performance for the year to date, how it is tracking against the adopted budget as well as updated forecast.

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the attached Finance Report for the period to 31 May 2022.
2. Council notes an update to the year end forecast, an operating surplus of \$7.5m and capital works program of \$15.4m

Moved **Cr Murphy**

Seconded **Cr Lovett**

Cr Murphy spoke to the motion.

CARRIED

8.2. RATING AND REVENUE PLAN - 2022/23 UPDATE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider amendments to the Rating Revenue Plan and adopt the updated plan.

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the amendments to the attached Rating and Revenue Plan for the 2022/23 financial year; and
2. Adopts the updated Rating and Revenue Plan

Moved **Cr Sproull**

Seconded **Cr Long**

Cr Sproull spoke to the motion.

The 'Comic Sans' font and page colour are being used in this report to improve accessibility.

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

CARRIED

8.3. BUDGET FEEDBACK

The purpose of this report is to table the feedback which has been received from the community following the Budget Feedback consultation period.

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the community feedback on the 2022/23 budget
2. Council provides responses directly to those who have provided contact details, and for others, includes responses in the report.

Moved Cr de Villiers

Seconded Cr La Vella

Crs de Villiers, Cr La Vella and Meddows-Taylor spoke to the motion.

CARRIED

8.4. CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET 2022/23

The purpose of this report is to provide Council a finalised budget for the 2022/23 financial year.

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. Thanks all submitters for providing feedback on the draft 2022/23 draft Budget;
2. Notes that the 2022/23 Budget has been prepared in accordance with Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020; and
3. Having considered all the submissions received on the draft 2022/23 Budget, pursuant to Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 adopts the 2022/23 Budget in Attachment 1.

Moved Cr Lovett

Seconded Cr Murphy

The 'Comic Sans' font and page colour are being used in this report to improve accessibility.

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Cr Lovett, Cr Murphy spoke to the motion. Cr Meadows-Taylor acknowledged the work of the Officers involved in the budget.

CARRIED

8.5. CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Central Goldfields Climate Action Plan 2022-2030 for consideration of adoption by Council. The purpose of the Climate Action Plan is to fulfil Council's responsibility and duty of care and diligence to consider climate risk in their activities under the Climate Change Act 2017 (Vic) and Local Government Act 2020 (Vic).

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. Adopts the Central Goldfields Climate Action Plan 2022-2030

Moved Cr Sproull

Seconded Cr Long

Crs Sproull, Long and Meadows-Taylor spoke to the motion. Crs thanked the officers for their work on the plan.

CARRIED

8.6. CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE COUNCIL ASSET PLAN

The purpose of this report is for Council to review and consider the Asset Plan for adoption.

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. That Council adopts the Central Goldfields Shire Council Asset Plan

Moved Cr La Vella

Seconded Cr de Villiers

Crs La Vella and Murphy spoke to the motion.

CARRIED

The 'Comic Sans' font and page colour are being used in this report to improve accessibility.

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

8.7. LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING – PROGRESS UPDATE

Cr Murphy left the chamber at 6:26PM due to declared conflict of interest.

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the status of the projects undertaken through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant for Phase 1 and Phase 2 and provides the project nominations for the Phase 3 of the program

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. Note the progress update on the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding for Phases 1 & 2;
2. Endorse the project nominations for the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding for Phase 3.

Moved Cr Long
Seconded Cr Sproull

Crs Long and Meadows-Taylor spoke to the motion. Cr Long acknowledged CEO Lucy Roffey and Officers for their work on the project.

CARRIED

Cr Murphy re-entered Council chambers at 6:30pm.

8.8. MARYBOROUGH RETAIL RECOVERY PROGRAM

The purpose of this report is to present the Maryborough Retail Recovery Program to Council for adoption.

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. Adopts the Maryborough Retail Recovery Program; and
2. Receives a report at a future meeting of Council outlining a proposed implementation plan

Moved Cr La Vella
Seconded Cr Lovett

The 'Comic Sans' font and page colour are being used in this report to improve accessibility.

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Cr La Vella, Lovett spoke to the motion.
Cr Murphy spoke against the motion.

CARRIED

9 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

11 OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 ADVOCACY - LETTER TO THE TREASURER

The purpose of this report is for Council to note the letter sent to the Treasurer Hon Tim Pallas following the meeting with the Treasurer on Friday 6 May, advocating for State Government support on a range of issues impacting the Central Goldfields Shire community.

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. Note the letter to the Treasurer Hon Tim Pallas and the issues and projects requiring support from the State Government of Victoria.

Moved Cr Lovett
Seconded Cr La Vella

Cr Meddows-Taylor, Lovett, La Vella and Long spoke to the motion.

CARRIED

12. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

13 MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 6:48pm.

The 'Comic Sans' font and page colour are being used in this report to improve accessibility.

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

To be confirmed at the Council Meeting
to be held on 26 July 2022.

draft unconfirmed

The 'Comic Sans' font and page colour are being used in this report to improve accessibility.

Minutes of Delegated and Advisory Committees

Council meeting

*Printed from Stellar by
Meetings CGSC <meeting@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au>*

6.1 NOTING OF THE APPROVED MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Author: Governance Officer

Responsible Officer: General Manager Corporate Performance

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report to present to Council for noting the confirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee established in accordance with section 35 of the Local Government Act 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the confirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 7 March 2022.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025 – Leading Change

The Community's vision 4. Good planning, governance, and service delivery

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with section 53 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council has established an Audit and Risk Committee. As per the Audit and Risk Committee Charter, Minutes of Committee meetings will be provided to Council at the first available opportunity after Committee approval.

REPORT

The Audit and Risk Committee have provided confirmed minutes from their meeting 7 March 2022.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

The Audit and Risk committee have confirmed these minutes at their meeting on the 20 June 2022.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications involved in the preparation of this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk Governance - Failure to transparently govern and embrace good governance practices

CONCLUSION

Recently received, confirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee are presented to Council for noting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes 7 March 2022



AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 7 March 2022

10:00 am

Upstairs Community Hub, Maryborough

CEO and Auditors to be available to join the in camera session if required. The normal Committee Meeting to commence at the conclusion of the in camera session.

MINUTES

- MEMBERS:** John Watson (Independent Chair), Robert Tommasini (Independent Member), Linda McNeill (Independent Member), Cr Geoff Lovett (Councillor), Cr Gerard Murphy (Councillor)
- OFFICERS ATTENDING:** Lucy Roffey (Chief Executive Officer), Martin Collins (General Manager Community Wellbeing), Philip Schier (Acting General Manager Infrastructure Assets and Planning), Mick Smith (General Manager Corporate Performance), Nikki Parker (Manager Governance Property and Risk), Philippa Spurling (Manager Finance)
- OBSERVERS ATTENDING:** Cr Anna de Villiers (Councillor)
- VISITORS ATTENDING:** Bradley Ead (AFS & Associates Pty Ltd – Internal Auditor),
Martin Thompson (Crowe – External Auditor)
- MINUTE TAKER:** Nikki Parker (Manager Governance Property and Risk)

Item Title**1. Welcome and Introduction 10:04**

The Committee noted Rebecca Stockfeld's resignation and recorded appreciation for her support to the Committee over the years.

2. Apologies – Nil**3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest 10:05**

Robert Tommasini recorded a conflict of interest regarding Item 8 as he is the committee member whose term is expiring.

4. Consideration of the Agenda 10.06

No issues raised.

5. Adoption of Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2021 10.06

Recommendation: That the Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 6 December 2021 be confirmed.

Outcome: The Committee confirmed the Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 6 December 2021.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes Report 10.07

Recommendation: That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the Matters arising from the Minutes Report.

Discussion

Bradley Ead noted that AFS were close to completing their review of internal audit recommendations. The review will result in approximately 40 items remaining on the list, and approximately 18 items be recommended as completed. The finalised report will be provided to the Committee out of session, and be included on the agenda at the next meeting.

The Committee noted that the description of the matters arising should allow those reviewing the list to understand the action without checking other documents.

Actions

- The Internal Audit review of approximately 90 IA recommendations will be provided to the Committee out of session once it is finalised. (Expected timing March/April 2022.)
- The Internal Audit review of IA recommendations will be included on the June 2022 Committee meeting.
- The status of item 183 will be provided out of session. (Item 183: Annual review of the Internal Auditors to be provided to Council)

Outcome: The Committee received and noted the Report regarding Matters arising from the Minutes.

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. VAGO Audit Strategy Memorandum for the financial year ending 30 June 2022

Recommendation: That Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes and endorses the Audit Strategy Memorandum for the financial year ending 30 June 2022.

Discussion

Martin Thompson presented the report noting the following –

- Covid remains a key risk (resulting in uncertainty).
- New risk for this year is the State election, however, this is a low risk to local government. Page 28 of the strategy contains the key risks for financial statements.
- There are no risks you wouldn't see in other similar councils. It is expected that some open items will be closed.
- Outstanding items were missing from the draft but that these will be included in the Interim Management Letter.
- Capital works are an important focus.
- There is a good level of confidence in the timetable which was provided, resources have been allocated and the timing is based on last year's timetable.
- Auditors will be onsite as part of the interim and year end processes.
- Risks are high in the absence of controls; in relation to asset valuations and condition assessment there are lots of judgements and estimates required.
- Regarding employee provisions – there is comfort with the payroll system but employee provisions are currently contained in a spreadsheet which is less robust and they are complex – minor errors can result in major changes.

Mick Smith noted that Council is currently undertaking a tender for the infrastructure valuation.

Outcome: The Committee received, noted, and endorsed the Audit Strategy Memorandum for the financial year ending 30 June 2022.

8. Roadmap to resource and resolve VAGO audit recommendations

Recommendation: The Audit and Risk Committee notes the progress on the open VAGO items and plan to resource and resolve open audit findings.

Discussion

Mick Smith noted that some items have been resolved in the past few months. Including 9 which were included the last management letter. Many others are in progress. Resourcing of risk management is required in order for many to be resolved.

It was noted that the Risk Register item has rolled over since 2017. On this point, Martin Thompson noted:

- it is not uncommon for Councils to have matters unresolved, and that some require structural change.
- he was not uncomfortable with the open items
- these are known risks and it is important they stay on the list until resolved.

Outcome: The Committee:

- noted the progress on open VAGO items and the plan to resource and resolve open audit findings; and
- recorded its frustrations about the outstanding risk matter, noting there is a plan for resourcing to be dedicated to this in the budget.

(Martin Thompson left the meeting) 10.34am

9. Reappointment of Audit and Risk Committee Member

(Robert Tommasini left the meeting for this item) 10:34am

Recommendation: That the Audit and Risk Committee recommend to Council that Robert Tommasini is reappointed to the Audit and Risk Committee for an additional three-year term from April 2022 to April 2025.

Committee members noted that Robert is a valuable member of the committee and wholeheartedly supported the reappointment.

Outcome: The Committee recommended to Council that Robert Tommasini is reappointed to the Audit and Risk Committee for an additional three-year term from April 2022 to April 2025.

10. Review performance of External Audit Function

Mick Smith confirmed that independent contractors (engaged by VAGO) conducted a survey about the external audit function.

Recommendation: The Audit and Risk Committee notes the report.

Outcome: The Committee noted the report.

11. Annual Report Erratum

Recommendation: That the Audit and Risk Committee notes the amended Annual Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2021, noting the erratum and amendments as noted in this report.

Discussion

Management described the amendments which had been required.

It was noted that the assurance framework did not recognise the issue during drafting. Management noted that work has been done to improve the process for the next annual report.

It was noted that the only matter that came to ARC for in principle approval which was incorrect was the cost of governance.

The Committee expressed disappointment that the Department was not willing to change the data on the Know Your Council website.

Outcome: The Committee requested that Council write to LGV requesting that the Know Your Council data is updated.

Action:

- Council to write to LGV requesting that the Know Your Council data is updated.

INTERNAL AUDIT

12.1. Internal Auditor Declarations

Verbal declaration from the Internal Auditors that there were no obstructions to the work of the Internal Auditors by Council.

Verbal declaration from the Internal Auditors on their independence, including declaring any other work undertaken for Council, outside of the scheduled Internal Audit Program which may compromise the Internal Auditors independence.

12.2. Internal Audit Program Status Update

Recommendation: That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the Internal Audit Program Status Update report provided by the internal audit service provider AFS Chartered Accountants.

Discussion

Bradley Ead noted:

- The Statutory Planning review is still in progress. There were delays over the holiday period with a change in personnel (Manager Statutory Services). The report will be presented to the Committee next meeting.
- The Payroll review is still in progress but of the salary payments reviewed (from a number of areas of Council, including 12 allowance types) all were correct.

The Committee noted their preference that one internal audit report is provided for the Committee's review per meeting.

There was discussion about the delay of the review/audit of Project Management within Council, and that project management risks included fraud due to a possible lack of oversight, and possible price impacts due to difficulty in gaining contractors. It was noted that it may be necessary to strategically delay projects if cost increases are significant and will impact on the outcomes of the project. Management noted that there is not currently a formal project management framework, but it is being developed. ARC noted that there are very high risks associated with managing projects and that it is important that work is done on project management.

Lucy Roffey noted that:

- There are a lot of projects underway which has delayed the introduction of a formal project management framework/system.
- Funding bodies often require timeframes which are difficult to accomplish particularly with the difficulty of obtaining contractors. These timeframes are often inflexible.

- It is difficult to recruit project management positions.
- Other councils are experiencing the same difficulties.

Actions:

- Internal Audit reports (statutory planning, review of internal audit items, payroll) to be provided out of session
- Review audit program to (preferably) provide one internal audit report to the Committee per meeting
- Management to undertake work on a project management framework at appropriate time and report back to the ARC.

Outcome: The Committee receives and notes the Internal Audit Program Status Update report provided by the internal audit service provider AFS Chartered Accountants.

12.3. Internal Audit Reports

Nil

STANDING ITEMS**13. Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Recommendation: That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the Chief Executive Officer's Report.

Discussion

Martin Collins noted the response to the immunisation issue was very resource intensive and involved a lot of work with other agencies, including State Govt and schools.

Lucy Roffey noted that regarding return to work: all staff have been vaccinated as per requirements. RTW measures in place include Hot desks, flexible working from home, work agreements, meetings rooms set up for hybrid meetings.

Concern was raised about leases/licences not being in place and the risks associated with this. Other instruments are historic and not appropriate to mitigate risks. Management noted:

- this is also a concern to Council
- significant resourcing is required to address the issues
- higher risk properties are being prioritised
- significant time is required to negotiate with the users of properties.

Outcome: The Committee received and noted the Chief Executive Officer's Report.

14. Local Government Act 2020 Implementation Update

Recommendation: That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the update on the Implementation of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Outcome: The Committee received and noted the update on the Implementation of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

15. Finance Report.

15.1 Finance Report – Mid Year Review

It was noted that a table for rate recovery for current FY compared with previous FY may be useful. John Watson can provide an example of this.

Management noted:

- a review of the assets register has been undertaken;
- additional costs noted during the budget review included legal costs and asset valuation work;
- budget review also recognised that some items will be carried forward to 22/23 FY;
- the surplus showing is grant money, Council runs at a small deficit.

Committee members noted that additional resources are needed to prioritise risks and processes identified in the audit reports and should be allowed for in the 22/23 Budget.

Action: – John Watson to provide Manager Finance with an example table on rates and outstanding rates.

Outcome: The Audit and Risk Committee:

1. Received and noted the attached Mid-Year Review for the 2021/22 Financial Year.
2. Notes an anticipated operating surplus of \$10.7m (largely due to capital projects not being completed this FY) and a revised capital works program of \$20.7m.

15.2 Finance Report – January 2022

Recommendation: That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the quarterly Finance Report to 31 January 2022.

Outcome: The Committee received and noted the quarterly Finance Report to 31 January 2022.

16. Policies for Review

Nil

17. Reports by Sector and Related Agencies

17.1. Recent Reports and Publications of Interest to Councils

Recommendation: That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the report from AFS Chartered Accountants on recent reports and publications of specific interest to Councils.

18. Strategic Risk Register

Recommendation: That the Audit and Risk Committee having reviewed it, notes the Strategic Risk Register and the links to items in the Annual Plan.

The Committee noted that the matrix from the risk appetite statement should always be included in the reports to ARC about risk registers.

Action: The Risk Appetite Statement be provided to the Committee out of session and included in reports to the Committee regarding risk register.

Outcome: The Audit and Risk Committee noted the Strategic Risk Register and the links to items in the Annual Plan.

19. Defined Benefits Superannuation

Recommendation: That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the Defined Benefits Superannuation Update Report including the funding of the “tail” of ongoing liabilities.

Outcome: The Audit and Risk Committee received and noted the Defined Benefits Superannuation Update Report including the funding of the “tail” of ongoing liabilities.

20. Progress Report on Prior Audit Recommendations

Recommendation: That the Audit and Risk Committee notes the status update report on outstanding actions from prior audit recommendations.

Action: include risk rating in the Quarterly Report for the Outstanding Audit Items.

Outcome: The Audit and Risk Committee noted the status update report on outstanding actions from prior audit recommendations.

21. Annual Work Plan

Recommendation: That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the status report on achievement of the 2022 Audit and Risk Committee Annual Work Plan.

Outcome: The Audit and Risk Committee received and noted the status report on achievement of the 2022 Audit and Risk Committee Annual Work Plan.

22. Other Business

The Committee acknowledged the Governance Officer’s support and assistance, noting that she has resigned for a position in another organisation.

It was noted that the Chair John Watson will be meeting with Councillors on 15 March 2022

23. Next Meeting 12.22pm

Recommendation: That the Audit and Risk Committee discuss the following meeting times and dates for the Audit and Risk Committee for the 2022 year:

- Monday 30 May 2022 – 10:00am to 1:00pm
- Monday 12 September 2022 – 10:00am to 1:00pm
- Monday 28 November 2022 – 10:00am to 1:00pm

Committee to meet in-camera with the CEO (separate minutes)

6.2 NOTING OF THE APPROVED MINUTES OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Author: Governance Officer

Responsible Officer: General Manager Corporate Performance

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present for noting to Council the confirmed minutes of Council's Special Committees established under section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the confirmed minutes of the:

1. *Talbot Town Hall Committee Meeting 14 June 2022*

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025 – Leading Change

The Community's vision 4. Good planning, governance, and service delivery

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council has established Special Committees.

The Terms of Reference for the Special Committees require the minutes to be presented to Council for noting.

Minutes of Special Committees are confirmed/approved at the next scheduled meeting of that Special Committee.

REPORT

The following special and advisory committees of Council have provided confirmed minutes from their meeting as follows:

- Talbot Town Hall Committee Meeting 14 June 2022

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

Minutes have been submitted by the Committee

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications involved in the preparation of this report

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk Governance - Failure to transparently govern and embrace good governance practices by

CONCLUSION

Recently received, confirmed minutes of Council's special and advisory committees are presented to Council for noting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. *Talbot Town Hall Committee Meeting 14 June 2022*

Talbot Town Hall Committee

GENERAL MEETING

Held on: Tuesday 14th June 2022

Meeting held at: Talbot ANA Hall

Meeting started at: 7.00pm

President: Steven Perry
Treasurer: Shirley Paterson
Secretary: Kylie Paterson

Welcome:

Meeting opened by Steve.

Present: Steven Perry, Shirley Paterson, Kylie Paterson, Bev Wells, John Russell, Aileen Marshall, Kevin Marshall

Apologies: Julie Attard, Stephanie-Kate Bohnke, Dylan Perry, Lynda Kent, Chris Meddows-Taylor

Non-attendance:

Confirmation of previous Minutes from (late month and year):

Everyone confirmed minutes received. Follow Up:

Meeting with the Talbot Seniors: brought up by Kevin Marshall, discussion ensued. From now on the full Executive Committee is to meet with them.

Allowance from Council: Asked if anything further received, Kylie advised nothing further as yet.

Town Hall Clock: Kevin & Aileen Marshall advised two people are interested in repairs to the clock. One has come and viewed it from the street and rang to advise that he needs to know what's there. Kevin Marshall and Steven Perry to have a look and then notify further. All technology now rather than power outages and having to reset the clock and it may be too expensive, but they will continue following up.

Moved: Bev Wells

Seconded: Shirley Paterson

Carried: Yes

Treasurer's Report:

Tabled and distributed to all present.

Discussion: Balance stands at \$66,971.18.

Shirley advised that the new hot water service and electrician have been paid for and then someone to have a look at the aircon. Cleaning is two months, same as market, cleaning chemicals etc. Sundries are new kitchen utensils, cutting boards, knives etc. Steve asked if any inquiries. Shirley has spare bain marie trays that she'll donate and put in the cupboard for use as trays have been mentioned previously. A friend of Greg's made up sausage holders in steel but making another two in stainless steel for the Community BBQ use.

Moved: Steven Perry

Seconded: John Russell

Carried: Yes

Market Report:

Read out to Committee members.

April and May Market Reports read out.

Moved: Shirley Paterson

Seconded: Kevin Marshall

Carried: Yes

General Meeting Business:

Markets:

Steve's niece attended the Murrabit Market and advised that it was practically empty and isn't worth going to anymore. Shirley attended the Avoca market, but it was closed. Aileen advised that the Maryborough Market

Talbot Town Hall Committee

GENERAL MEETING

Held on: Tuesday 14th June 2022

Meeting held at: Talbot ANA Hall

Meeting started at: 7.00pm

while yesterday and he has movement, but he's got a long, long road to recovery.

██████ has cleaned the hall (floors twice) and cleared by Steve to have their bond returned. No damage sustained to the halls during this incident.

Spoken to both Maryborough Police and Central Goldfields Shire Council re: incident but yet to hear back from Council as referred to the Acting General Manager of Community Wellbeing and the General Manager of Property & Risk Management.

ANA Hall Repairs:

Email received advising that the stumps need replacing but this will require planning, budget and tender process. In the meantime, they will do temp repairs to stop the floor sinking further and the tripping hazard.

Spoke to Jason Edwards who advised will have to go out and have a look and meeting about it and may have to shut the hall down until they're able to make it safe. Advised that the hall is used every week and for markets so that is NOT an option.

Kylie and Shirley suggest that we get the floor restumped and repaired and bill the Council. Vote required. It was agreed that as it's structural, it's the Council's responsibility and they don't think that it works for reimbursement from the Council. It was discussed further and agreed that we suggest we offer money towards the restumping. Kylie to contact Council and discuss further.

Meeting with Council & Permits:

Met with Alisha and Martin from Central Goldfields Shire Council re: permit requirements. After the meeting, which was interrupted by Senior Citizen's 4 times, we now have permits for 3 years and approved until April 2025. Process has been streamlined and a lot simpler now.

Chairs:

The new chairs have arrived and we're in the process of selling off the old chairs.

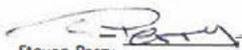
Other:

Kevin needs the council delegation documents resent as he isn't able to open them. Kylie to resend.

Steve advised that the next meeting is the AGM in August, where all seats will be declared vacant. He advised that we advertise the AGM for two months in the TTT Newsletter (for both new members and the AGM) and once a week for 2 weeks prior to the AGM in the Maryborough Advertiser. Kylie to organise.

Meeting closed at: 7.52pm

Presented to President Steven Perry for approval before distribution by the Secretary.


Steven Perry
President - Talbot Town Hall Committee

Petitions

Council meeting

*Printed from Stellar by
Meetings CGSC <meeting@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au>*

Officer Reports

Council meeting

*Printed from Stellar by
Meetings CGSC <meeting@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au>*

8.1 MARYBOROUGH 50 METRE OUTDOOR POOL

Author: Acting Manager Community Partnerships

Responsible Officer: General Manager Community Wellbeing

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to Council construction works options for the Maryborough 50 metre outdoor pool plus a proposal for alternative swimming options during its closure.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the closure of the Maryborough 50 metre outdoor pool until it can be demolished and rebuilt*
- 2. Continue advocacy to State and Federal Governments to seek funding support of up to \$6m to undertake proposed works*
- 3. Endorse the following proposals, which are to be monitored and reviewed to ensure the best outcomes for the community:*
 - free entry to the pools at Dunolly and Talbot*
 - open the Dunolly and Talbot pools on Saturday 3 December and close them on 13 March, from 1pm-7pm*
 - extend the hours at the indoor pool on Saturdays, Sundays, and Public Holidays, opening from 9am – 7pm, excluding Christmas Day*
 - organise a 'Freeza' and 'Engage' initiative to provide free vouchers to the indoor pool for young people*
 - advise schools of the situation and offer some financial support to enable them to bus students to alternative pools for their swimming carnivals*
 - advise the Maryborough Swimming Club of the closure with an offer of payment of the hire fee to enable it to run its tournament, its major fund raiser, at an alternative venue.*

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025 – Our Spaces and Places

The Community's vision 1. Socially connected, creative, inclusive, healthy, and safe 'all ages' friendly communities

Initiative: A supported, cohesive community, living a full and healthy life.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The entire Maryborough Outdoor Pool Complex is heritage listed. This facility is much loved by residents and the wider community. It offers a safe place to swim and learn water skills, and to socialise. It is a recreation and sporting icon.

In 2020, \$2m was provided through the Living Heritage Program to conduct restoration works on the Maryborough 50 metre outdoor pool as part of the State Government's stimulus funding in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In April and May 2021, CREO consulting was contracted to conduct condition audits on pools, filtration systems, plant rooms and water tanks at the Maryborough Sport and Leisure Centre (MSLC) and the three outdoor pools at Dunolly, Maryborough and Talbot. The audits were conducted on the buildings and internal aspects of the pools' shells including tiling. Audits were not conducted on the integrity of the pools' shells.

CREO provided detailed reports, risk assessments with critical action items, and costing estimates to support council to plan its approach to addressing the issues identified. Please note some items have not been costed yet so the below figures will be higher once the additional costings come in.

Later in 2021, the Federal government announced its Phase 3 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program, with Central Goldfields Shire Council receiving an additional funding allocation of \$1,579,092.

These reports provided the background for Council supporting the use of the LRCI funding to address Council's compliance responsibilities at the MSLC and outdoor pools. In February 2022 Ontoit were brought on board to project manage this project, amongst others.

REPORT

In developing the scope of works for the LRCI funding, Ontoit and the Manager Major Projects, met with CREO consulting to discuss the 50-metre pool. CREO believe that the state of the pool has declined since their assessment in April 2021 and the proposed remedial works will be a short-term patch job and won't address the increasingly declining integrity of the pool shell.

Consequently, the 50-metre pool has not been included in the LRCI proposed scope of works.

Additional investigation has determined that the 50-metre pool shell has reached 'end of life' stage and that it should not reopen for the 2022-2023 summer season.

Council will continue to advocate for funding, but the closure is likely to be for more than one season as substantial grant(s) must be secured before works can commence.

A number of measures are proposed to enable the community to have alternate access to swimming opportunities. These are detailed below and will be actively monitored and reviewed during the closure period.

Council officers continue to work closely with Heritage Victoria and the \$2M grant will be used to upgrade the octagonal pool, the plant room and the main entrance building. Works which will contribute to preserving this significant heritage complex.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

Throughout February to April 2022, consultation has occurred with Unified Community Sports and Leisure and CREO consulting.

The project team have developed the scope through consultation with both internal and external stakeholders.

During March through to June the Pool operator has been consulted and provided input on the scope of works in line with the funding and Councils standards.

In June and July discussions have been held with Unified Community Sports and Leisure about the impact of closing the 50-metre pool for an indefinite period. It has been proposed that for the coming season:

- there should be free entry to the pools at Dunolly and Talbot.
- the Dunolly and Talbot pools should open on Saturday 3 December and close on Monday 13 March, from 1pm-7pm
- the indoor pool should have extended hours on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays, opening from 9am – 7pm, excluding Christmas Day
- a 'Freeza' and 'Enage' initiative to provide free vouchers to the indoor pool for young people.

Council's Community Engagement Team will provide information to the public about the closure of the 50-metre outdoor pool and the swimming opportunities noted above.

It is also proposed that letters should be sent to the schools advising them of the situation and offering some financial support to enable them to bus students to alternative pools for their swimming carnivals.

Also that the Maryborough Swimming Club should be advised of the closure with an offer of payment of the hire fee to enable it to run its tournament, it's major fund raiser, at an alternative venue.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The following table summarises the three options and associated costings.

	<i>Patch work only</i>	<i>Repair pool base and membrane</i>	<i>Demolish and rebuild</i>
<i>Estimate cost</i>	\$400,000	\$2,000,000	\$4.5 to 5 mil
<i>Life after works</i>	<i>Weeks to months</i>	<i>10 years</i>	<i>60-85 years</i>
<i>Supplementary works</i>	\$345,000	\$320,000	\$0
<i>Total cost</i>	\$745,000	\$2,320,000	\$4,500,000- \$5,000,000*

*The cost of the demolish and rebuild option are estimated based on like for like.

Based upon the latest advice the 'demolish and rebuild' option will provide the best investment return. It will provide residents and the broader community with a safe, 'fit for purpose' 50 metre pool that future generations will enjoy. It will continue to be a key facility within the heritage complex.

Unified Community Sports and Leisure has indicated that the proposed free entry to the Dunolly and Talbot Pools and changes to opening times will be cost neutral. Entry fees paid at Dunolly and Talbot in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 averaged approximately \$7,000 per season. The need for increased life savers at Dunolly and Talbot will be offset by the following savings from the non-opening of the 50-metre outdoor pool – staffing, water, gas, electricity, chemicals.

The support for the schools and the Maryborough Swimming Club will cost an estimated \$10,000 - \$12,000.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk Property and Assets - Failure to maintain, renew and expand our assets in a timely and robust way, that considers service and delivery needs by addressing the impact of potential service closures that may result from not addressing the high-risk safety issues.

This report addresses Council's strategic risk Legislative compliance - Failure to manage our compliance with relevant legislative requirements by addressing the health and safety risks under the Occupation Health & Safety Act 2004, Public Health Act 2008 and Environment Protection Amendment Act 2018.

CONCLUSION

The Maryborough 50 metre outdoor pool has been identified for remedial works through the LRCI program. It was recently identified that these works are a short-term fix to a longer-term problem. Three options are presented for discussion.

Due to significant risk issues the Maryborough 50 metre pool should not be opened until it is fit for purpose.

During the closure there should be extended hours for the indoor pool also for the Dunolly and Talbot pools, where access will be free. There would also be free vouchers made available to young people during the school holidays program. The schools should be provided with financial support to enable them to host school carnivals at alternative facilities. The Maryborough Swimming Club should be provided with the hire fee to enable its tournament, its main fund raiser, to be held at a suitable venue.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

8.2 COMMUNITY GRANTS RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT 2022-2023

Author: Acting Manager Community Partnerships

Responsible Officer: General Manager Community Wellbeing

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to brief Council on the applications received for the 2022-2023 Community Grants Program and the assessment process. Included are recommendations for the awarding of grants.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the recommendations for the awarding of funds for the Community Grants Program 2022-2023.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025 – Our Community's Wellbeing

The Community's vision 1. Socially connected, creative, inclusive, healthy, and safe 'all ages' friendly communities

Initiative: Central Goldfields Community Grants Program 2022-2023

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Applications for the 2022-2023 Central Goldfields Community Grants Program opened on 2 May, closing at 5pm on 13 June 2022.

A three-member Community Grants Panel was established consisting of the Acting Manager Tourism, Events and Culture, the Acting Manager Infrastructure, and the Manger Community Engagement. The panel was supported by the Acting Manager Community Partnerships.

All applications were assessed against the criteria in the Community Support Policy.

Twenty-six applications were received. The total amount requested was \$65,391. This exceeded the total grants pool of \$33,500 by \$31,891. Fourteen grant requests have been recommended to be fully or partially funded.

The applications below have been ranked according to the combined scores allocated by the assessment panel members. The Community Support Policy, which informed the rankings, was reviewed on 23 March 2021.

Three applications were received after the closing time/date.

REPORT

Due to identified disclosable interests by the Acting Manager Tourism, Events and Culture applications received from the Maryborough Community House for the Volunteer Resource Centre and from Maryborough Lawn Tennis were assessed by the remaining two members of the panel and scores averaged accordingly.

A Conflict-of-Interest form was completed by the Acting Manager Tourism, Events and Culture, who did not take part in the application discussions. The Conflict-of-Interest form has been registered on the Conflict-of-Interest Register.

During the assessment process the Grants Panel kept notes on suggested process improvements for future funding rounds. It is intended to review the Community Support Policy and the Community Support Grants administration and assessment system before the next round is publicised.

The Community Grants Program has \$33,500 to allocate to community groups whose applications meet the Community Support Policy criteria. The Community Grants Panel has evaluated each application and provided a list of recommended community organisations for funding. Council received applications for a total of \$65,000 of funding. Unsuccessful applications will be provided feedback for future applications and recommendations made to them for other funding opportunities that may be available through State and Federal Government and other funding bodies.

		Project Information		
Name of the Organisation	Project title	Amount Sought (\$)	Recommended Funding amount (\$)	Running total
Maryborough Community House for Volunteer Resource Centre	Website Maintenance	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
Talbot Action Inc	Light Up Talbot Christmas Concert	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$4,150.00
Dunolly Today Tomorrow	Dunolly Gold Rush	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$6,150.00
Talbot Farmers Market	Website Redesign & Update	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$7,350.00

Maryborough Little Athletics	<i>Wireless Timing Gates</i>	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$12,350.00
Maryborough Horse Riding Club	<i>Showcasing Equestrian Sports in Central Goldfields</i>	\$5,610.00	\$5,100.00	\$17,450.00
Maryborough Midlands Historical Society	<i>Worsley Cottage</i>	\$1,306.00	\$1,306.00	\$18,756.00
Maryborough Family History Group	<i>Duplex Printer</i>	\$723.00	\$723.00	\$19,479.00
Maryborough Lawn Tennis	<i>Tennis Club Floor Upgrade</i>	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$23,479.00
Maryborough Girl Guides	<i>Audio Visual Equip Purchase</i>	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00	\$25,729.00
The Welcome Record	<i>Office Equipment Upgrade</i>	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$28,729.00
Dunolly Bowling Club Inc	<i>Non-Ambulant Pathway Project</i>	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$30,229.00
Goldfields Image Makers & Camera Club	<i>Goldfields Image makers Camera Club Digital Presentation Equipment</i>	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$31,229.00
St John Ambulance	<i>St John Ambulance Maryborough Division - Volunteer</i>	\$4,232.60	\$2,021.00	\$33,250.00

	<i>Recruitment & training</i>			
		\$35,971.60	\$ 33,250.00	

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

The Central Goldfields Community Grants Program 2022-2023 was advertised through Central Goldfields Shire Council’s social media platforms, local newspapers (the Maryborough Advertiser, the Welcome Record and Talbot Today & Tomorrow). Information was also available on Council’s website from 2 May until 13 June 2022.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The allocated budget for the Community Grants Program 2022-2023 is \$33,500.

The funding recommendation totals \$33,250.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council’s strategic risk Community Well-being - Failure to recognise and manage the impact of changing social and economic conditions on the community by supporting community groups to be more effective.

The applications were assessed in accordance with the Community Support Policy.

CONCLUSION

Twenty-six applications were received for the Community Grants Program 2022-2023. Twenty-three were deemed to be eligible as per the Community Support Policy. Fourteen projects have been recommended for funding, totalling \$33,250.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Community Support Policy 2021



Community Support Policy

Category: Community Wellbeing
Adoption: Council Date:23/03/2021
Review Period: Annually
Responsible Manager: General Manager Community Wellbeing

Signed by CEO: .....
Date: ...25/03/2021.....

1. Purpose

Central Goldfields Shire Council is committed to working in partnership with the community to encourage, develop and support community based organisations and the wide range of local quality recreational, cultural, social and community support and business group initiatives which they undertake that make a positive contribution to the Central Goldfields Shire community and strengthen the development of a supported, cohesive community, living a full and healthy life.

Each financial year, Council provides financial assistance to community based organisations to support the provision of programs and services which benefit the Central Goldfields Shire community and are in accordance with Council's plans and strategies.

The Community Support Policy provides a consistent, accountable and transparent process to determine the nature and level of support provided to the community through:

- Community Grants;
- In kind support; and
- Planning and Building fee waivers.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to all eligible community based organisations seeking support from Council.

This Policy does not apply to Section 86 Committees. Any support provided to Section 86 Committees is allocated through their Instruments of Delegation.

This Policy also applies to all statutory planning fees and charges and Council building application fees (but not the State Building levy) and can apply in these circumstances to all legal entities. This Policy is to be read in conjunction with the relevant legislation. State government regulations

within the Planning and Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016; the Subdivision (Fees) Regulations 2016 and the Building Regulations 2018 provide the power for a Responsible Authority (usually Council) to waive or rebate the payment of fees.

3. Community Based Organisation

Typically a community based organisation is an organisation that is a recognised not-for-profit group or organisation that carries out one or more of the following activities:

- Providing services to the community such as positive ageing, child care, health services, charity services or services of a similar type;
- Reinvests or applies the revenue it receives predominately for public interest services or activities;
- Principally provides social or junior sporting or recreational activities;
- Supports public events or information of an historical, cultural or community arts focus.

Typically a community based organisation would not include:

- A political organisation;
- A profit making organisation;
- Schools or tertiary institutions (excluding parents and friends groups);
- State or Federal government agencies and departments;
- Any organisation where more than 50% of its income is derived from any State or Federal government program.

4. Policy

All applications must be for projects that are:

- Based in the Central Goldfields Shire; and
- Benefit the Central Goldfields Shire community.

Community Grants

Community Grants provide financial support to projects and events that provide community benefit to the Shire. Grants from \$500 are available to a wide range of community based organisations to run projects and events. Individuals are not eligible to apply for Community Grants.

In Kind Support

In kind support is available to a wide range of community based organisations to run projects and events that provide benefit to the Shire. In kind support is when Council provides services to a group or organisation, rather than providing them with purely financial support. In kind support can include things like traffic management, waste management and event set up.

Fee Waivers

Circumstances can arise where it is appropriate and in the public interest for consideration to be given to waiving, reducing or refunding fees and charges associated with applications for planning

and building permits. Council can, upon application, consider a request to waive or reduce the statutory planning and/or building fee for the delivery of projects, activities or service that provides a community benefit and which align with Council's policies, strategies or activities.

Council can consider and agree to waiver, reduction or rebate of a statutory planning fee for an application to use or develop land which will result in resolving difficult planning application issues that may have a potential risk or liability for the Council.

Personal, commercial or family circumstances including financial hardship will not ordinarily be considered appropriate for application of this policy.

If an applicant withdraws an application for a permit before it is approved or refused, Council may refund the fees or charges it has received in accordance with this Policy if they have not already been expended for the relevant purpose.

Refunds may be applied to planning fees and charges as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is determined that no planning permit is required 	100% fee refunded
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application received, lodged, entered into the information management system and allocated to a Planner 	75% fee refunded
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application received, lodged, entered into the information management system and allocated to a Planner; and Application initially assessed and referrals to authorities or internal departments commenced, additional information received 	50% fee refunded
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application received, lodged, entered into the information management system and allocated to a Planner; and Application initially assessed and referrals to authorities or internal departments commenced, additional information received; and Further assessment undertaken 	25% fee refunded

Where an application has progressed to the final stages of a decision no refund will be given.

No refunds will be provided if an application is lapsed and fees will not be waived for subsequent applications.

Excluded fees, charges and levies means any other prescribed fees, charges or levies that Council is required to collect by legislation on behalf of the State Government or another government entity, e.g. building permits.

5. Application Process

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for Community Support you must be a community based organisation and submit a completed Application Form to Council in accordance with the relevant timeframes.

The following are not eligible:

- Applications from individuals;

- Applications where funding for projects is being requested retrospectively;
- Applicants with an overdue acquittal for Central Goldfields Shire Council funding;
- Applicants receiving funding from Central Goldfields Shire Council for the same project.

What will not be funded

- Applications seeking funding to cover ongoing operational costs (e.g. insurance, utilities, rent, salaries);
- Project or activities that:
 - Support a religious or political cause;
 - Are the responsibility of the State or Federal Government; or
 - Are already underway or have been completed.

Applications for Community Grants

Application dates will be released annually and are detailed on the Community Support Application Form. Late Applications will not be accepted.

Applications must be made using the Community Support Application Form.

Applications for In Kind Support

Applications for in kind support must be received at least 1 month prior to the date of your project or event. Council may refuse late applications.

Applications must be made using the Community Support Application Form.

Applications for Fee Waivers

Fee Waiver Applications are to be lodged in conjunction with your planning or building permit application using the Fee Waiver Application Form.

6. Assessment of Applications

Assessment Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

50%	How the project benefits the Central Goldfields Shire community
25%	How well the project aligns with Council plans and strategies
25%	Demonstrated capacity of the project to succeed

Recommendations for funding will be presented to Council for consideration and final approval.

Preference will be given to groups not funded in the previous round.

Assessment of Community Grant Applications

Assessment of Community Grant Applications will occur via the following process:

- A panel of Council officers will carry out an initial assessment of all applications and then make recommendations to Council based on the ranking of those applications against the assessment criteria.

- Council will give final approval to all successful applications at a Council meeting.

Assessment of In Kind Support Applications

Assessment of in kind support will be assessed by a panel of Council officers against the assessment criteria.

Assessment of Fee Waiver Applications

Assessment of Applications for fee waivers or reductions will be made by the delegated staff members – the Manager Statutory Services and the General Manager Infrastructure, Assets and Planning.

Outcome Notification

Successful applicants will be notified in writing.

Applicants for grants will be sent a funding agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the funding being provided by Council.

Funding agreements must be signed and returned by the due date. An invoice for the grant amount must also be provided with the funding agreement to receive funding.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing of their unsuccessful application and provided with feedback as to the reason/s behind the decision. Applicants may also request to speak with a Council officer about their unsuccessful application if they would like further feedback.

7. Community Grant Financials and Acquittals

- Projects must be completed and the acquittal process finalised within 12 months of receiving a grant.
- Successful applicants will be accountable to Council for the disbursement of grant monies.
- Grant recipients are required to submit a financial statement at the conclusion of the funding period relating to the project or event.
- Funds not expended for the intended purpose must be returned to Council.
- Any variations to the original Grant Application must be lodged in writing and approved by Council. This includes an extension of acquittal process deadlines of no more than 12 months for extenuating circumstances.
- An assessment of the key outcomes of the project must be provided detailing the key achievements.
- 10% of the grant amount will be retained by Council and will be paid upon acquittal of the grant. This is to improve the compliance with the acquittal process for the grants program.

8. Acknowledgment

Central Goldfields Shire Council must be acknowledged in any promotional material relating to the project.

9. Roles and Responsibilities

Person/s responsible	Accountability
Officer/Manager/General Manager/CEO	Ensure all approaches and applications comply with this policy and give reason to those that are non-compliant.
Manager/General Manager	Ensure where necessary acquittals and/or reviews/evaluations are received and recorded.

10. Human Rights Statement

It is considered that this policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006). Central Goldfields Shire Council is committed to consultation and cooperation between management and employees.

11. Related Policies and Procedures

- Central Goldfields Shire Council Plan 2017-2021 (2018 Refresh)
- Central Goldfields Shire Council Action Plan 2019-2020

12. Relevant Legislation and Guidelines

- Building Act 1993
- Building Regulations 2018
- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
- Local Government Act 1989
- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Planning and Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016
- Subdivision Act 1988
- Subdivision (Fees) Regulations 2016
- Australian Tax Legislation

8.3 2022 LOCAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATIONS

Author: Acting Manager Community Partnerships

Responsible Officer: General Manager Community Wellbeing

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the following grant applications to the 2022 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund:

- 1. Female Friendly Facilities - Deledio Reserve Netball Courts with Council contribution of \$242,569 and*
- 2. Planning – Urban Bike Park, Bristol Hill with Council contribution of \$35,000 plus \$4,875 as 'in kind' project management.*

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025 – Our Spaces and Places

The Community's vision 3. Engaging places and spaces for people to live, work, play and connect.

Initiative: Provide engaging public spaces
Provide infrastructure to meet community need

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The 2022 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSIF) is a state-wide competitive Victorian Government investment program that funds the development of high-quality, accessible community sport and active recreation infrastructure.

The LSIF promotes partnerships between the Victorian Government, Local Government Authorities, Alpine Resort Boards, sports leagues and associations, sporting clubs, schools, educational institutions, and community organisations.

It is administered by Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) on behalf of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR).

Applications opened in May 2022 for 5 funding streams:

- *Indoor Stadiums/Aquatics Facilities – up to \$2,500,00 – only one application. Funding ratio SRV \$1: Local \$1*
- *Female Friendly Facilities – up to \$1,000,000 in total – unlimited applications. Funding ratio SRV \$3: Local \$1*
- *Community Facilities – up to \$600,000 in total – unlimited applications. Funding ratio SRV \$3: Local \$1*
- *Community Sports Lighting – up to \$250,000 in total – unlimited applications. Funding ratio SRV \$3: Local \$1*
- *Planning - \$30,000 Facility planning, \$40,000 Municipal Planning, \$50,000 Regional Planning (with one or more other councils) – up to two, one Facility or Municipal and one Regional. Funding Ratio SRV \$3: Local \$1.*

Project management costs of up to 7.5% of the total project cost (excl GST) can be included.

In-kind contributions such as voluntary labour, donated goods and donated services can be considered for all funding streams except for Indoor Stadium/Aquatics Facilities.

Applications had to be submitted to SRV by 12 July 2022. Successful projects will be announced, and grant agreements executed in October 2022. Projects must commence construction by April 2023.

REPORT

SRV requires that projects are evidenced in strategic planning documents including recreation strategies, business cases, master plans and detailed site plans.

For facility development projects concept and detailed plans are required and proposals must be shovel ready.

Besides a range of planning documentation all SRV facility applications require a significant amount of supporting evidence such as soil tests, heritage assessments and lighting plans - plus policy and planning documents from clubs, and letters of support.

For planning projects, a draft brief is required

The Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2020-2029 (ROSS) and the Walking and Cycling Strategy 2017-2026 are key documents, both partially funded by SRV.

Whilst not funded by SRV, the Maryborough Major Reserves Master Plans will help to determine projects for development and be useful support documents for future applications, The final drafts of the Master Plans will be presented to Council in August 2022.

Proposed applications must be discussed with SRV representatives. Several possibilities were mooted and after advice from SRV staff, including project readiness, the following projects were deemed to have the potential to be competitive in the current funding round:

Female Friendly Facilities: Deledio Reserve Netball Courts – Construction of two netball courts with lights.

Rationale – a Condition and Compliance Audit Report identified significant issues: Both courts have major structural damage, one is unplayable and has been decommissioned. The current competition court is non-compliant and regular remedial works are becoming less effective. The lighting is not up to training standard. The report notes that ‘To ensure a long-term outcome, planning to reconstruct these courts in the near future is recommended’. Netball is popular in Dunolly with increasing participation levels particularly at junior levels.

If the courts are not brought up to standard the club will have to find an alternative venue which will involve travel to a neighbouring town with the resultant loss of participation because home games cannot be played at the same location as AFL and/or the costs/challenges of travel are too great.

It is proposed to mark one court for multi-use activities.

The total cost of the project is \$970,276. The proposed Council contribution is \$242,569 and \$727,707 has been requested from SRV.

Planning: Urban Bike Park, Bristol Hill

Rationale – a concept plan for the Urban Bike Park (including the velodrome) was prepared during the development of the Walking and Cycling Strategy. This was followed by some community consultation which indicated support for the proposal. Council’s Walking and Cycling Advisory Group, which commenced meetings in late 2021 has now developed an action plan which includes activating the Urban Bike Park Concept Plan as a high priority.

A draft brief has been prepared as part of the application process.

The total project cost is \$69,875. The proposed Council contribution is \$35,000 plus ‘in-kind’ project management by the Recreation Coordinator of \$4,875. \$30,000 has been sought from SRV.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

Clubs were advised of the funding scheme by their relevant state sporting associations and through Ministerial announcements/publicity.

The Regional Manager for SRV has been consulted.

There has been consultation with the Dunolly Football Netball Club and with Council’s Walking and Cycling Advisory Group in preparing the applications.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council will need to include its contributions in the 2023-2024 budget.

The Deledio Netball Courts will require a Council commitment of \$242,569.

The Urban Bike Park, Bristol Hill will require a Council commitment of \$35,000.

Staff resources will be required for grants administration and some project management.

A Council resolution is preferred as evidence of confirmation of funding. As the submission date was before the July Council meeting the CEO provided letters stating Council’s financial commitment to the projects. A Council resolution is now required to be forwarded to SRV.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk Property and Assets - Failure to maintain, renew and expand our assets in a timely and robust way, that considers service and delivery needs by:

- Planning for the future of the velodrome and a new, unique bike park which will cater for a wide range of users
- Replacing non-compliant courts with a fit for purpose facility which will ensure that netball can continue to be played in Dunolly.

Council will miss an opportunity to enhance its reputation by being seen to being responsive to supporting community driven initiatives.

Council will be seen to be implementing projects identified in its strategic planning documents.

CONCLUSION

Council officers have submitted two applications to the LSIF for projects which have been deemed to be potentially competitive in a funding round which will be oversubscribed:

- *Planning Category – Urban Bike Park, Bristol Hill*
- *Female Friendly Category – two netball courts with lighting at Deledio Reserve, Dunolly.*

If successful, Council funding contributions of \$35,000 plus \$4,875 'in kind' project management (Urban Bike Park) and \$242,569 (Deledio Netball Courts) will be required.

Council must provide evidence confirming the funding. Because the funding round closed before the July Council meeting, letters from the CEO were provided but a Council resolution is preferred and can still be forwarded to SRV.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

8.4 2022 Community Satisfaction Survey Results

Author: Manager Community Engagement

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an analysis of the Community Satisfaction Survey results for Council for 2021 and to capture next steps towards ongoing increases in community satisfaction.

Last year (2021) was Council's first full year in office and involved the setting of strategic direction for the organisation, particularly through the Council Plan 2021-2025. The satisfaction results have been considered in this context.

While satisfaction with key areas of Council's performance have trended lower this year (Customer Service, Waste Management and Sealed Roads), this decline is consistent with a general trend across Victoria where the average satisfaction with local government declined by 4.6% after 2 years of the COVID -19 pandemic.

In positive news, satisfaction with Council's performance across all other areas has generally remained consistent with prior years with women of all ages generally more satisfied with Council's performance than young people and men (particularly those aged 50-64).

Additionally, improvements to Council processes, particularly in the areas of customer service, have been proposed to position the organisation towards improvements in community satisfaction scoring in the years to come.

This report also recommends a shift to quarterly data collection in line with best practice and to alleviate risks associated with seasonality factors which skew satisfaction results.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the results for the Community Satisfaction Survey 2022 Central Goldfields Shire Council and support the proposed next steps.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025 – Leading Change

The Community's vision 4. Good planning, governance, and service delivery

The Community Satisfaction Survey is undertaken annually to provide indicators for Council's performance in key areas. The survey is mandated in the Victorian Local Government Act 2020 and reported on in Council's Annual Report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Each year Local Government Victoria (LGV) co-ordinates the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey with all participating local councils.

While participation in the survey is not mandatory, it is the most cost-effective way for local councils to collate the information mandated under the Victorian Local Government Act 2020 including key performance indicators on a broad range of services, programs and infrastructure.

The 2020 (reported on in 2021) results enabled Council to establish baseline data to monitor impact over its term. The results for 2020 were similar to previous years and included:

- The result for overall performance was unchanged
- There was a small lift in Lobbying, Community Decisions and Consultation and Engagement
- Council direction rose in line with other similar sized councils as well as state-wide
- Customer service dropped due to the impacts of the pandemic including the closure of key face-to-face services to the public and; the need for further upgrades to out of date organisational systems
- Satisfaction with waste management rose significantly in 2021

For the Customer Satisfaction Survey for 2021 (reported on in 2022), Council decided to ask the following questions (in late 2021):

- Overall performance (required)
- Value for money (required)
- Overall Council direction (required)
- Customer service (required)
- Appearance of public areas (voluntary)
- Waste management (required)
- Informing the community (required)
- Consultation and engagement (required)
- Community decisions (required)
- Lobbying (voluntary)
- Sealed local roads (required)

Council can change which questions they include in their survey year on year.

REPORT

The following section presents and analyses the community satisfaction survey results with suggested next steps for ongoing improvements in satisfaction:

Survey participants

Out of the 400 people surveyed, the following key cohorts were represented:

- 248 people were aged 65 years and older
- 85 people were aged 50-64 years

- 37 people were aged 35-49 years
- 31 people aged 18-34 years

The timing of survey phone calls was late January 2022 through to February 2022.

Context

Council results must be understood in the context of an overall, state-wide decline in satisfaction with local government. As highlighted by Metropolis Research, the average satisfaction with local government across Victoria has declined by 4.6% in this year's results.

Overall performance

Council's overall performance result remains consistent with previous years at 53. By comparison the overall performance for small rural is 58 and the state-wide result is 59.

The highest score for overall performance was from women and the lowest score was given by residents aged 50-64.

On the upside	On the downside
Women rated Council's overall performance as 56	Residents aged 50-64 years rated it at 48 Ratings among residents aged 18 to 34 years have decreased significantly in the past year (index score of 54, down seven points on 2020)

With the completion of significant strategic planning and ongoing success with attracting funding and grants, the performance score will likely increase with the delivery of on the ground projects.

Value for money

Council's value for money score remains consistent with previous years at 49. By comparison the overall performance for small rural is not dissimilar to Council's (51) and the state-wide result is slightly higher at 53.

The highest score was from residents aged over 65 and the lowest score was from those aged 35-49.

On the upside	On the downside
More than a third of Council residents (35%) rate the value for money they receive from Council in infrastructure and services provided to their community as 'very good' or 'good' A further 30% rate it as 'average' in terms of providing value for money	This is similar to the proportion who rate the value for money as 'very poor' or 'poor' (33%)

Overall council direction

The overall council direction score is slightly down at 51 and is on-par with small rural (51) and higher than state-wide average (50).

On the upside	On the downside

The most satisfied with Council direction are women and residents aged 65 years and over	The least satisfied with Council direction are residents aged 50 to 64 years
--	--

Customer service

The customer service result is down at a score of 58 and is nine points below the small rural and state-wide average score of 68. The highest scores were from women and the lowest from men.

More than 6 in 10 Council residents (61%) have had contact with Council in the last 12 months, which is consistent with previous years.

On the upside	On the downside
Among those residents who have had contact with Council, 51% provide a positive customer service rating of 'very good' or 'good', including 20% of residents who rate Council's customer service as 'very good'	Record low

The following matters will have contributed to the drop in Council's customer satisfaction score:

- 2021 had multiple (and often unanticipated) snap lockdowns due to COVID and key face to face services were closed during these periods
- Staffing shortages due to sickness / positive COVID cases and significant staff resources reallocated towards pandemic response efforts

Council has only just received funding (June 2022) from the State Governments Rural Council Transformation program to fund a much needed customer request system in partnership with Pyrenees Shire Council. Council does not currently have an integrated computerized system for all customer enquiries, making it difficult to provide comprehensive reporting and monitoring. It's likely that, as these systems are implemented and refined, we will see an improvement in customer service satisfaction in subsequent years. See the next steps section below for more information.

Appearance of public areas

Council's overall score on the appearance of public areas is 71 which is consistent with the small rural score of 73 and the state-wide average of 71.

On the upside	On the downside
This is Council's highest performing area Community perceptions of the appearance of Council spaces do not differ across demographic cohorts	N/A

Waste management

The waste management score of 64 is down from 2021 (69) and is lower than the small rural and state-wide average of 68.

The highest score was from 65+ years and the lowest from residents aged 18-34 years.

On the upside	On the downside
Residents aged 65 years and over (index score of 69) rate Council significantly higher than the average	Perceptions of waste management decreased significantly this year (down five index points on 2021)

Climate change and the environment are a major focus for younger age groups and as Council moves towards the four-stream waste system and introduces FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) is likely that this score will rise.

It is also important to note that the waste management score has significantly fluctuated overtime.

Informing the community

The informing the community score (58) is consistent with the small rural and state-wide average (59).

The highest scores are from residents aged 65+ and the lowest are from men aged 50-64.

It is important to note that this is a new performance area.

Consultation and engagement

The consultation and engagement score (51) is slightly down from 2021 (54) and is slightly lower than the small rural and state-wide average (54).

The highest score is from people aged 65+ (who are the target audience for the Maryborough District Advertiser where Council provides a weekly update and news stories) and the lowest from men aged 50-64.

It is likely that the following matters have contributed to a slight drop in the score:

- Council's Facebook page which Council's Communication Team use to communicate all Council news has an audience of 69.8% women and 30.2% men
- Of the nearly 4000 followers the majority are between 35-44 years of age, with nearly 18 percent being women
- Men aged 55-64 make up only 4% of the Facebook audience and are the least likely to be informed of Council news and updates

Importantly, newsletters sent via mail are the preferred form of communication with Council sending a quarterly Community News Update to all households. Advertising in the local paper is also valued (weekly Council update) as are Council newsletters via email. In the 2022-2023 financial year, there is a focus on improving e-bulletins as a key communication channel, particularly with men aged 50-65 years.

Community decisions

The community decisions result (50) remains consistent with 2021 and is slightly lower than the small rural and state-wide average (54).

The highest score is from residents aged 65+ and the lowest from men aged 35-49+ and men aged 50-64.

On the upside	On the downside

Residents aged over 65 + are the highest percentage of readers of the local papers where updates on decisions are reported	Men, and particularly men aged 50-64 are the hardest to reach with updates about Council decisions
--	--

Lobbying

The overall score for lobbying (50) is consistent with 2021 and on-par with small rural and state-wide averages (53).

The highest score was for residents aged 65+ years and the lowest was for younger people (18-34) however, only 31 people from this age group were surveyed.

The formation of the Central Goldfields Youth Council (14–24 years) will likely raise awareness of Council’s lobbying and advocacy efforts.

Sealed local roads

The sealed roads result of 45 is down from 50 in 2021 and is lower than the small rural (50) and state-wide (53) averages.

The highest score is from residents 65+ and the lowest from 50-64 years.

On the upside	On the downside
Sealed v’s unsealed roads is a common issue among rural Councils, particularly since changes to state and federal government funding	This is Council’s lowest performing area and is the lowest rating for sealed local roads received
There is an opportunity to lead greater efforts in community education in how roads are funded including the differences between local and state roads	Ratings among men (index score of 44) decreased significantly this year (down six points) driving the overall decline in this service area

Quarterly data collection periods

Currently, survey data is collected once a year around late January and February. Most Council’s are now moving to quarterly data collection in line with best practice and to reduce issues associated with seasonality factors.

Quarterly data collection does not add any costs and will result in a small saving for Council. Please note, while data will be collected quarterly, reporting will still take place once per year.

Next steps

The analysis has highlighted areas for improvement in communications which will be implemented through the Communications and Engagement Strategy Review for the 2022 - 2023 financial year:

- Opportunity to diversify communications channels to better target men (particularly those 50-65)
- Opportunity to diversify and improve the e-bulletin offer, particularly as this is a preferred communications channel
- Work with the Youth Council to raise awareness of Council’s advocacy work, and explore improvements to Council’s social media channels for young people

Further, a range of improvements to customer service will be rolled out over the next 2 financial years as well as other critical initiatives:

- Culture change work is ongoing and focused on how Council's staff interact with the community
- The updated Customer Service Charter outlines clearer expectations for service and extensive training on how to triage calls including response times is set to start shortly
- State government funding for a Customer Relationship Management system will drive accountability around customer service including better directed, managed, and closed inquiries
- The introduction of four streams of waste will increase satisfaction with waste management
- Better education on road management including ownership patterns and the challenges with funding road improvements will build understanding of the challenges faced by local government in satisfying local expectations

Finally, quarterly data collection will be initiated with the addition of an open-ended question to the survey to help Council better understand 'why' the community have chosen particular scores.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

The survey is conducted by Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) as a representative random probability survey of residents aged 18+ years in Central Goldfields Shire Council.

The survey sample is designed to match the demographic profile of Central Goldfields Shire Council as determined by the most recent ABS population estimates and includes up to 40% mobile phone numbers to cater to the diversity of residents within Central Goldfields Shire Council (particularly younger people).

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial or resource implications relevant to this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk Community engagement - Inadequate stakeholder management or engagement impacting brand reputation and community satisfaction in Council decision making by eliciting feedback on performance to guide continuous improvement.

CONCLUSION

The Community Satisfaction Survey is conducted annually as mandated under the Victorian Local Government Act 2020.

The survey results for 2021 (reported in 2022) for Central Goldfields Shire Council are generally consistent with last years results. Exceptions include customer service, waste management and sealed roads, where satisfaction has declined. In saying this, Council has considered process improvements which are likely to drive an increase in satisfaction in years to come.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Community Satisfaction Survey 2022 Central Goldfields Shire Council

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the results for the Community Satisfaction Survey 2022 Central Goldfields Shire Council and support the proposed next steps



2022 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey

Central Goldfields Shire Council

Coordinated by the Department of Jobs,
Precincts and Regions on behalf of
Victorian councils



Contents

<u>Background and objectives</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Key findings and recommendations</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Detailed findings</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Overall performance</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Customer service</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Communication</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Council direction</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>Individual service areas</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Community consultation and engagement</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>Lobbying on behalf of the community</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Decisions made in the interest of the community</u>	<u>42</u>
<u>Condition of sealed local roads</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>Informing the community</u>	<u>46</u>
<u>Appearance of public areas</u>	<u>48</u>
<u>Waste management</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Detailed demographics</u>	<u>52</u>
<u>Appendix A: Index scores, margins of error and significant differences</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>Appendix B: Further project information</u>	<u>59</u>



Background and objectives

The Victorian Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) creates a vital interface between the council and their community.

Held annually, the CSS asks the opinions of local people about the place they live, work and play and provides confidence for councils in their efforts and abilities.

Now in its twenty-third year, this survey provides insight into the community's views on:

- councils' overall performance, with benchmarking against State-wide and council group results
- value for money in services and infrastructure
- community consultation and engagement
- decisions made in the interest of the community
- customer service, local infrastructure, facilities, services and
- overall council direction.

When coupled with previous data, the survey provides a reliable historical source of the community's views since 1998. A selection of results from the last ten years shows that councils in Victoria continue to provide services that meet the public's expectations.

Serving Victoria for 23 years

Each year the CSS data is used to develop this State-wide report which contains all of the aggregated results, analysis and data. Moreover, with 23 years of results, the CSS offers councils a consistent, long-term measure of how they are performing – essential for councils that work over the long term to provide valuable services and infrastructure to their communities.

Participation in the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is optional. Participating councils have various choices as to the content of the questionnaire and the sample size to be surveyed, depending on their individual strategic, financial and other considerations.

A large, dark blue, stylized letter 'W' graphic that spans the right side of the page. The 'W' is filled with a glowing, intricate network pattern of white and light blue lines, resembling a neural network or a complex data structure. The background of the 'W' is a dark blue gradient.

Key findings and recommendations



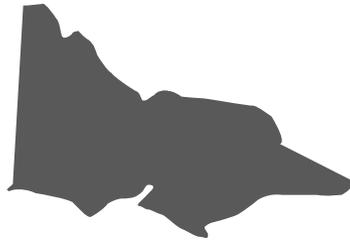
Central Goldfields Shire Council – at a glance

Overall council performance

Results shown are index scores out of 100.



Central Goldfields 53



State-wide 59



Small Rural 58

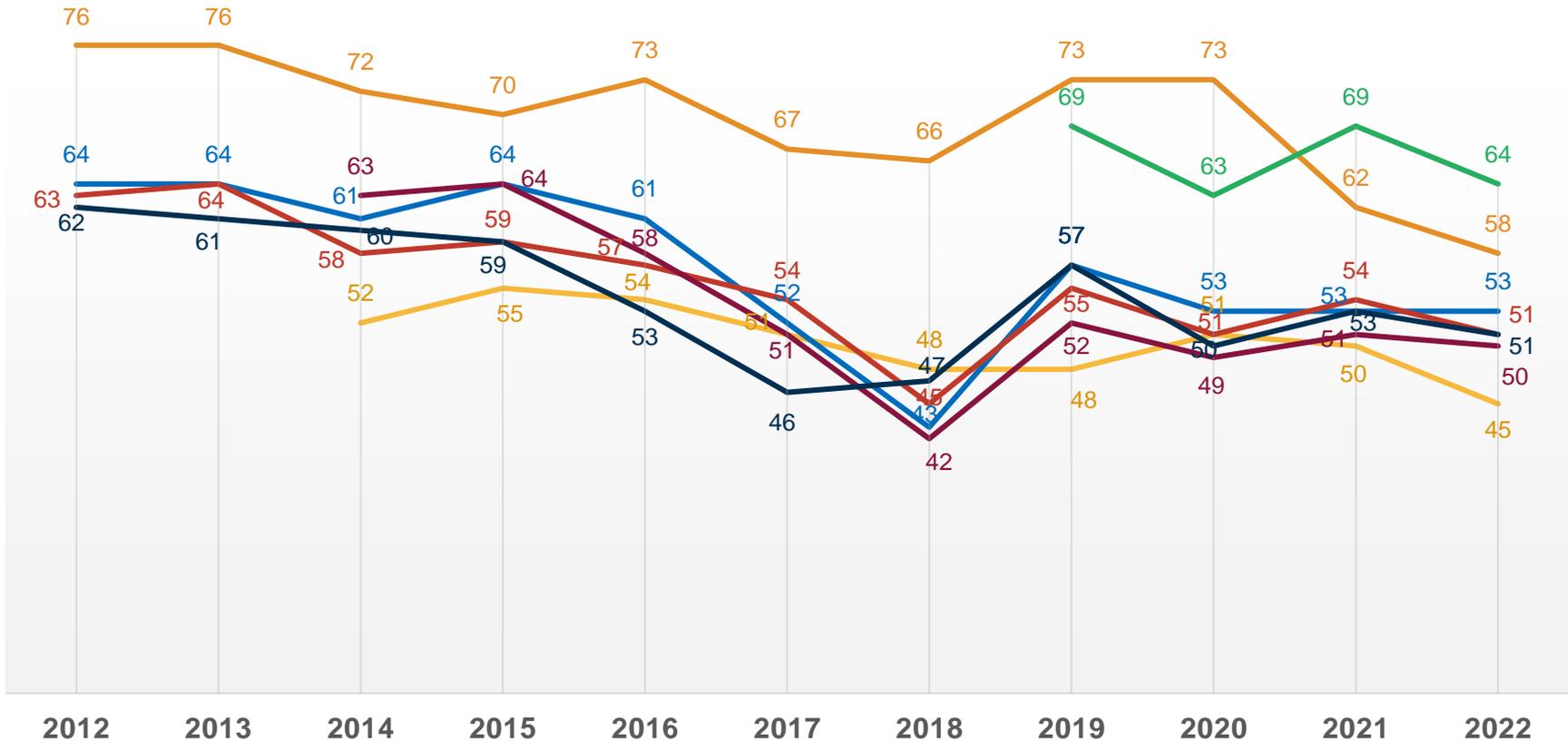
Council performance compared to State-wide and group averages

	Areas where Council performance is significantly higher	The three areas where Council performance is significantly lower by the widest margin
Compared to State-wide average	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sealed local roads Waste management Community decisions
Compared to group average	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sealed local roads Waste management Lobbying



Summary of core measures

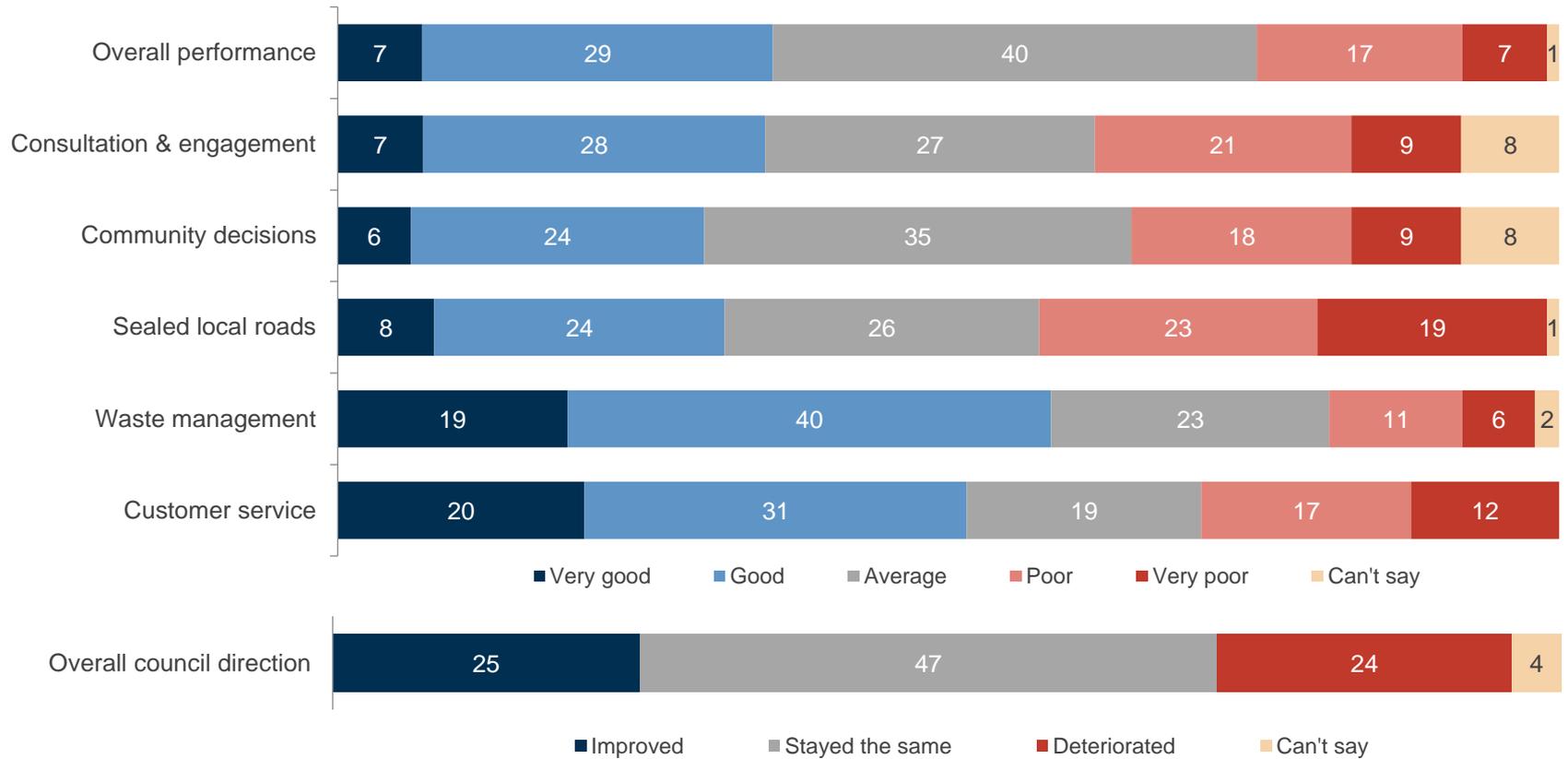
Index scores





Summary of core measures

Core measures summary results (%)





Summary of Central Goldfields Shire Council performance

Services		Central Goldfields 2022	Central Goldfields 2021	Small Rural 2022	State-wide 2022	Highest score	Lowest score
	Overall performance	53	53	58	59	Women	Aged 50-64 years
	Value for money	49	49	51	53	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
	Overall council direction	51	53	51	50	Aged 65+ years, Women	Aged 50-64 years
	Customer service	58	62	67	68	Women	Men
	Appearance of public areas	71	-	73	71	Aged 65+ years, Women	Aged 50-64 years
	Waste management	64	69	68	68	Aged 65+ years	Aged 18-34 years
	Informing the community	58	-	59	59	Aged 65+ years, Women	Aged 50-64 years, Men
	Consultation & engagement	51	54	54	54	Aged 65+ years	Aged 50-64 years, Men



Summary of Central Goldfields Shire Council performance

Services		Central Goldfields 2022	Central Goldfields 2021	Small Rural 2022	State-wide 2022	Highest score	Lowest score
	Community decisions	50	51	54	54	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years, Men, Aged 50-64 years
	Lobbying	50	50	54	53	Aged 65+ years	Aged 18-34 years
	Sealed local roads	45	50	50	53	Aged 65+ years	Aged 50-64 years



Focus areas for the next 12 months

Overview

Perceptions of Central Goldfields Shire Council's overall performance have remained unchanged for two years. They are nevertheless lower than the higher ratings seen in 2019 and in the years preceding 2017. On all service areas evaluated, ratings have largely remained the same, with the exception of ratings of waste management and sealed local roads which decreased significantly this year.

Focus areas

As the lowest performing area, sealed local roads should be Council's primary area of focus. The current rating is the lowest score Council has received for sealed local roads, and Council is also performing below the Small Rural group average. This demonstrates that higher ratings are achievable. Council should also look to improve residents' perceptions of lobbying and community decisions, where it also performs relatively lower.

Comparison to state and area grouping

Council performs in line with the Small Rural group and State-wide averages for councils in the areas of appearance of public areas and informing the community. On all other service areas evaluated, Council's performance is significantly lower than the Small Rural group and State-wide averages.

Opportunity to engage with residents

Further endeavours should be made to improve customer service as ratings here have fallen to a record low this year and are significantly lower than the Small Rural and State-wide council averages. There is an opportunity to improve perceptions by engaging with men who rate Council's customer service least well and are generally less positive in ratings of Council relative to women.

DETAILED FINDINGS



Overall performance



Overall performance

The overall performance index score of 53 for Central Goldfields Shire Council has remained unchanged for two years. It nevertheless remains lower than the higher ratings seen in 2019 and in the years preceding 2017.

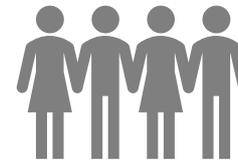
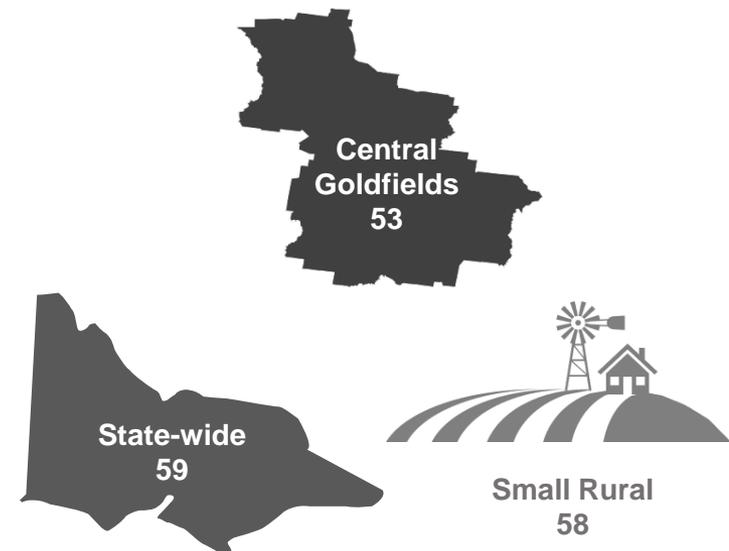
- Council's overall performance is rated statistically significantly lower (at the 95% confidence interval) than the Small Rural group and State-wide averages (index scores of 58 and 59 respectively).
- Ratings among residents aged 18 to 34 years have decreased significantly in the past year (index score of 54, down seven points on 2021).

More than a third of Council residents (35%) rate the value for money they receive from Council in infrastructure and services provided to their community as 'very good' or 'good'. This is similar to the proportion who rate the value for money as 'very poor' or 'poor' (33%). A further 30% rate it as 'average' in terms of providing value for money.

- Among residents aged 65 years and over, perceptions of value for money in services and infrastructure (index score of 55) are significantly higher than the Council average (49).

Overall performance

Results shown are index scores out of 100.

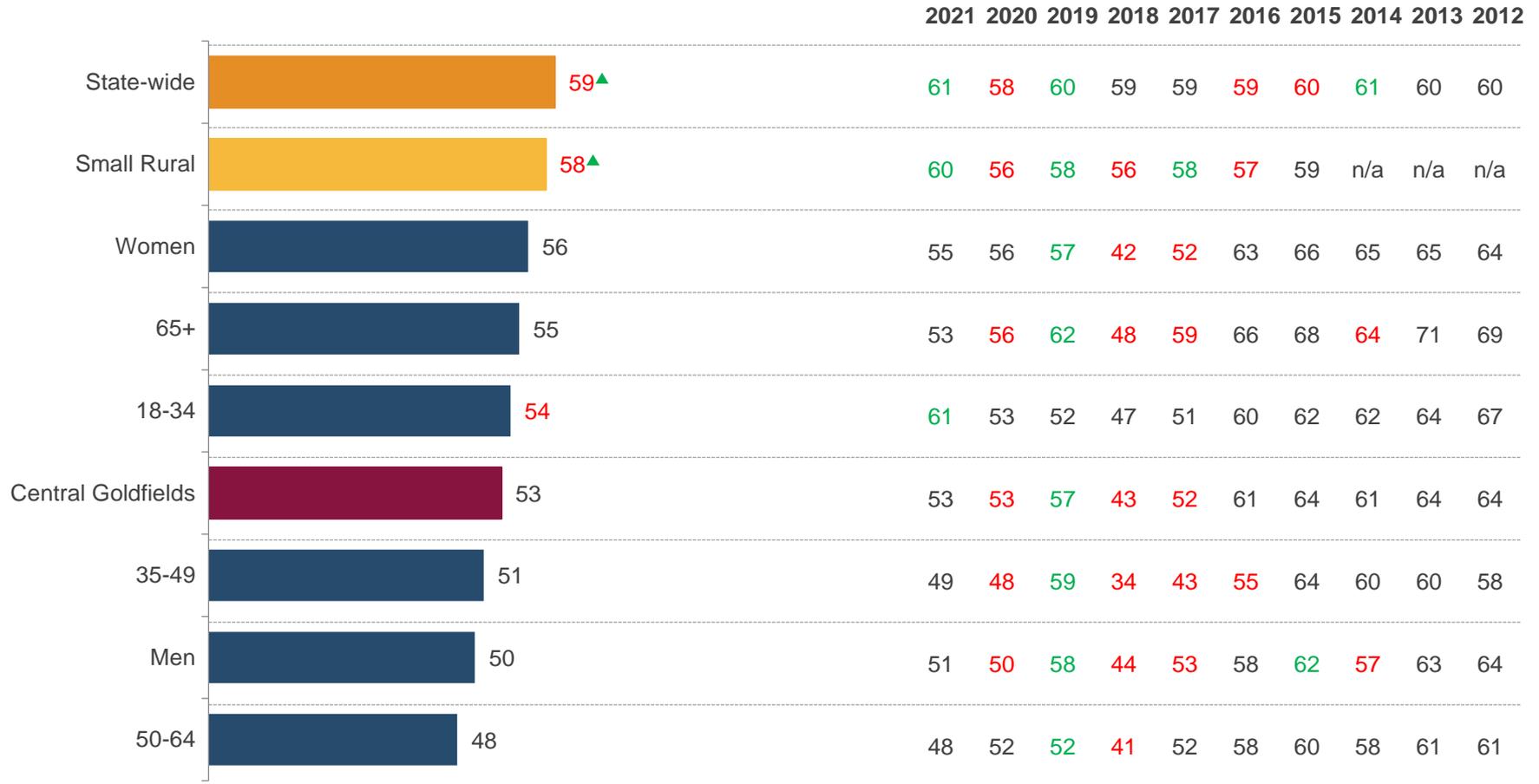


- ✓ Women rate overall performance highest (56)
- × Aged 50-64 years rate overall performance lowest (48)



Overall performance

2022 overall performance (index scores)

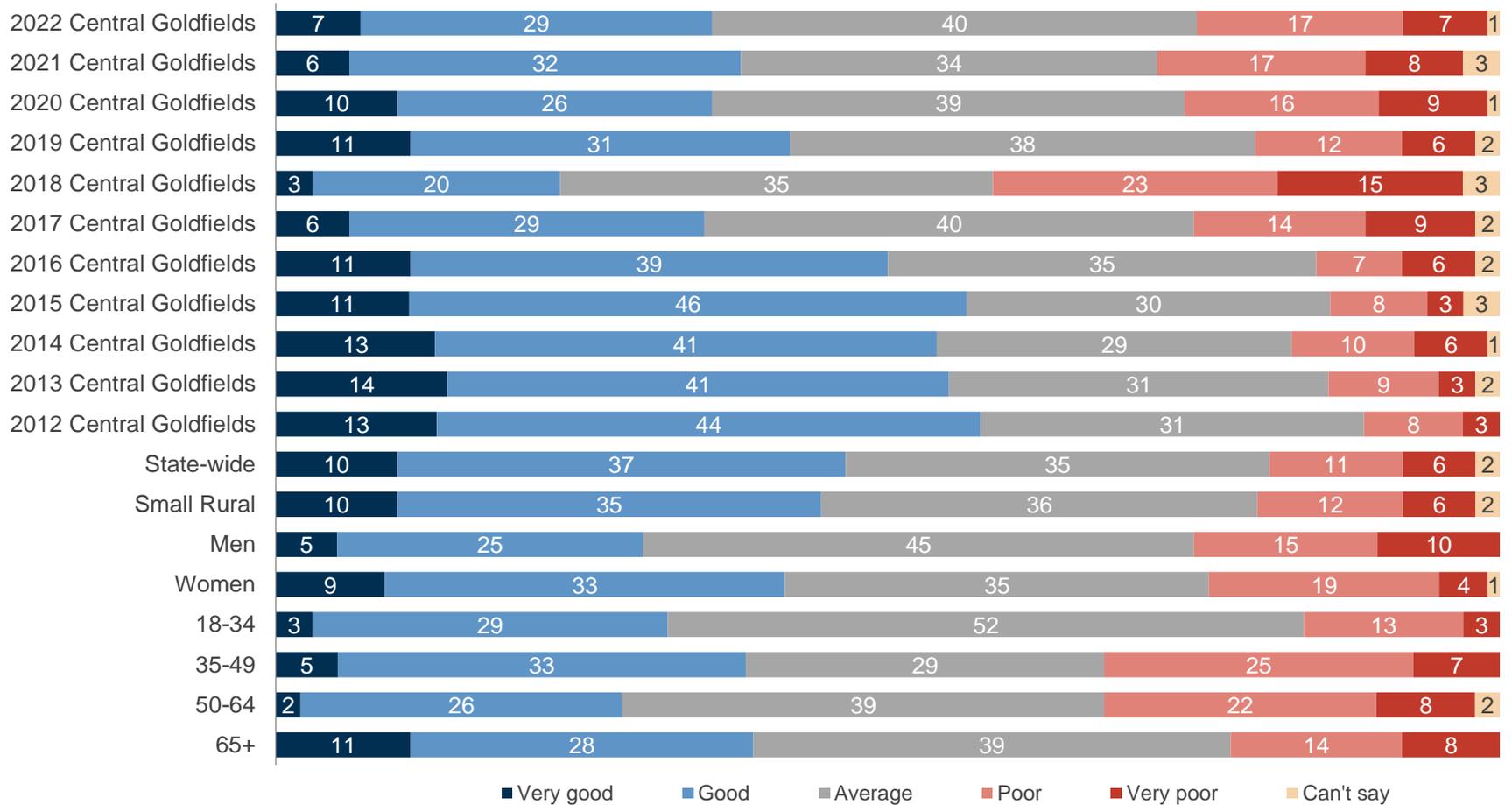


Q3. ON BALANCE, for the last twelve months, how do you feel about the performance of Central Goldfields Shire Council, not just on one or two issues, BUT OVERALL across all responsibility areas? Has it been very good, good, average, poor?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.



Overall performance

2022 overall performance (%)

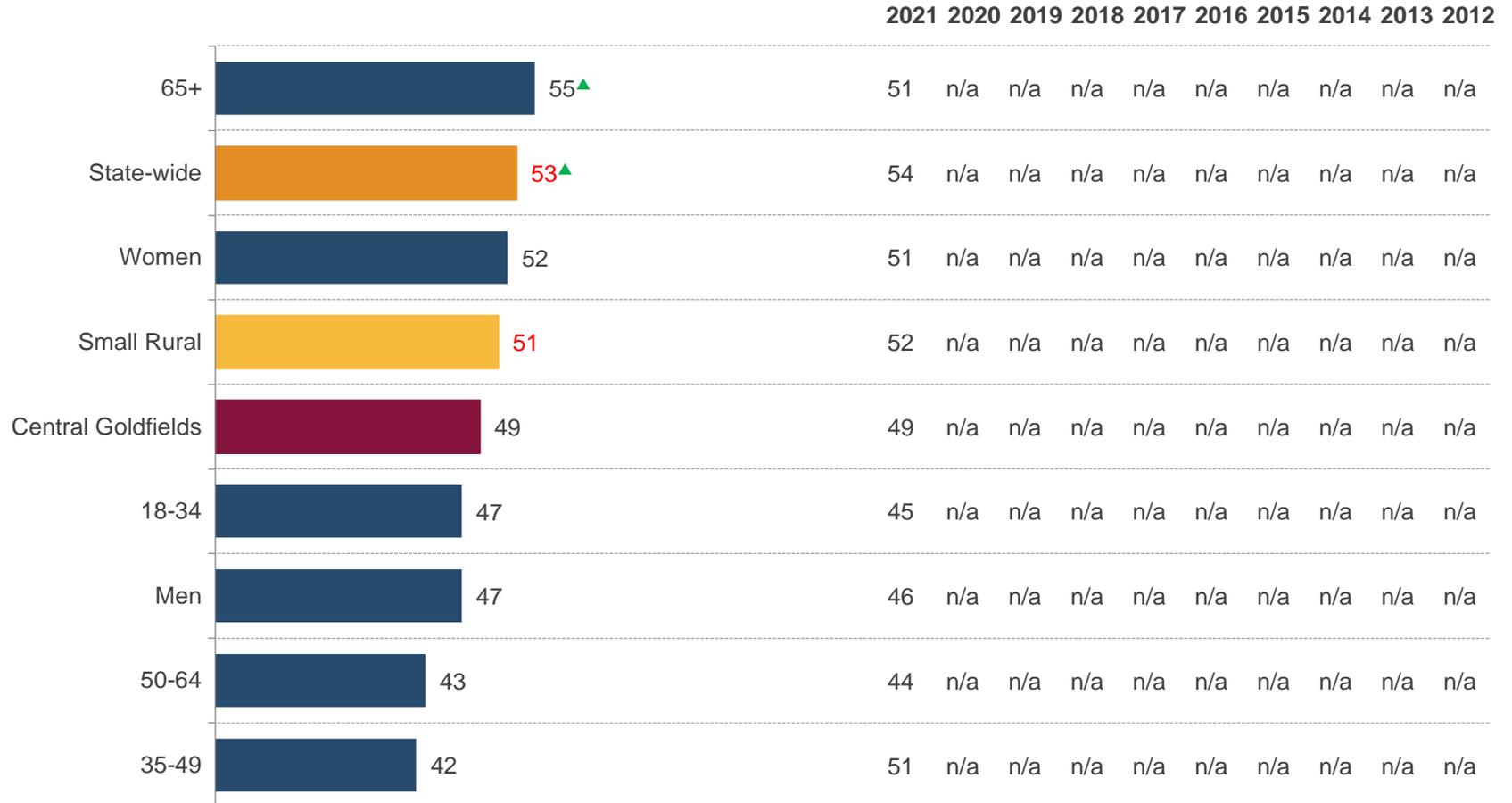


Q3. ON BALANCE, for the last twelve months, how do you feel about the performance of Central Goldfields Shire Council, not just on one or two issues, BUT OVERALL across all responsibility areas? Has it been very good, good, average, poor or very poor?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 19



Value for money in services and infrastructure

2022 value for money (index scores)



Q3b. How would you rate Central Goldfields Shire Council at providing good value for money in infrastructure and services provided to your community?

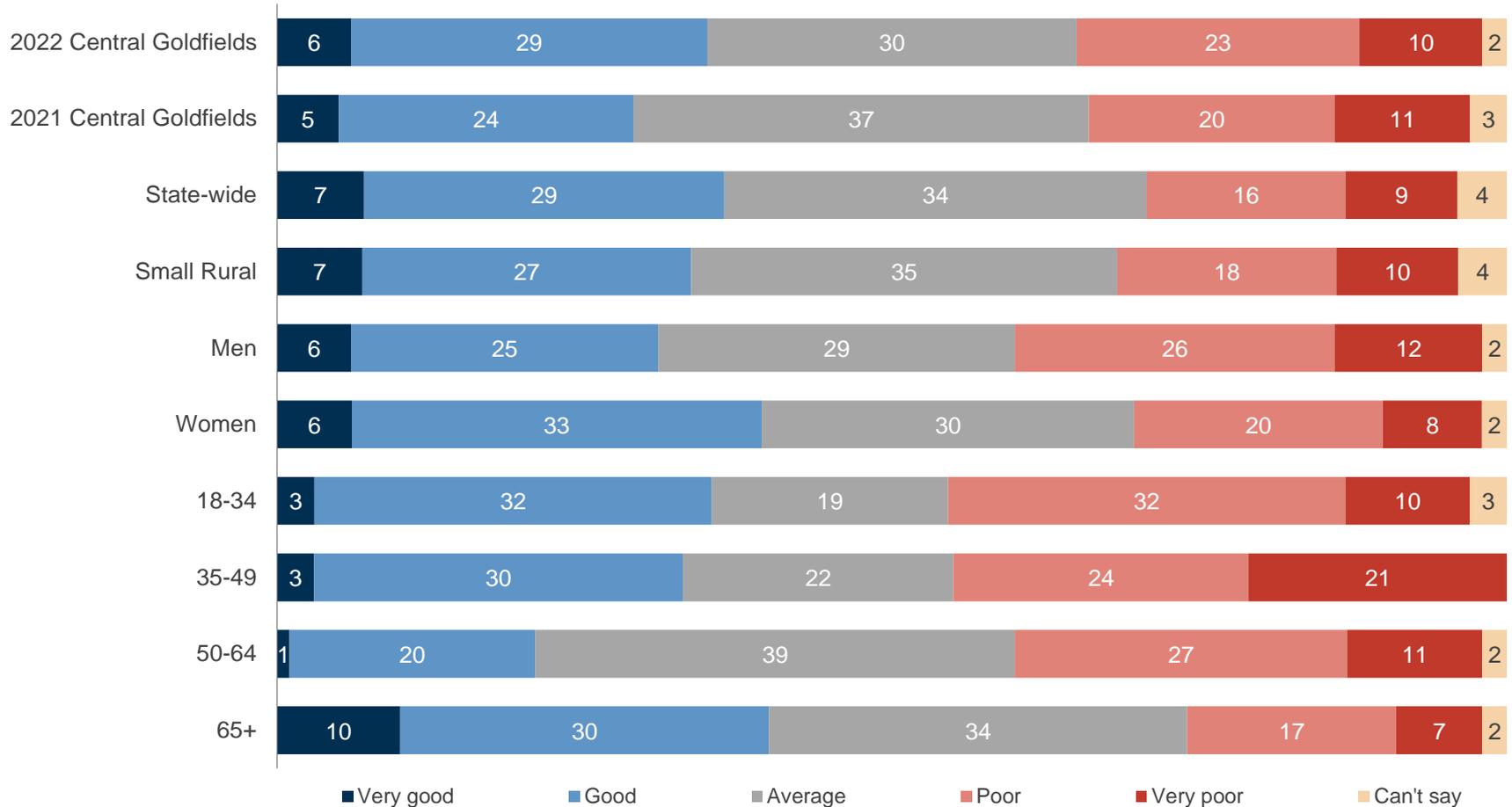
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.



Value for money in services and infrastructure

2022 value for money (%)



Q3b. How would you rate Central Goldfields Shire Council at providing good value for money i. 85 of 240
 and services provided to your community?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 66 Councils asked group: 19

Top performing service areas

Appearance of public areas (index score of 71) is the area where Council performed best in 2022.

Perceptions, however, are lower this year compared to those seen in 2019 and 2020 (both 75).

- Council performs in line with the Small Rural and State-wide council averages in this service area (index scores of 73 and 71 respectively).
- Perceptions of the appearance of Council's public areas do not differ significantly from the average among the various demographic cohorts.

Waste management and informing the community (index scores of 64 and 58 respectively) are Council's next highest rated service areas.

Perceptions of waste management decreased significantly this year (down five index points on 2021) – although perceptions on this service area have fluctuated over time.

- Notably, Council rates significantly lower than the Small Rural group and State-wide averages in this service area (both 68).
- Residents aged 65 years and over (index score of 69) rate Council significantly higher than the average in this service area. By contrast, residents aged 18 to 34 years (54) rate Council significantly lower than average.





Low performing service areas



The service area that received the lowest rating by Council residents is sealed local roads (index score of 45).

- This rating is significantly lower this year (down five points on 2021) and is the lowest rating to have been recorded for sealed local roads.
- It is also significantly lower than the Small Rural group and State-wide averages (index scores of 50 and 53 respectively).
- Ratings among men (index score of 44) decreased significantly this year (down six points) driving the overall decline in this service area.

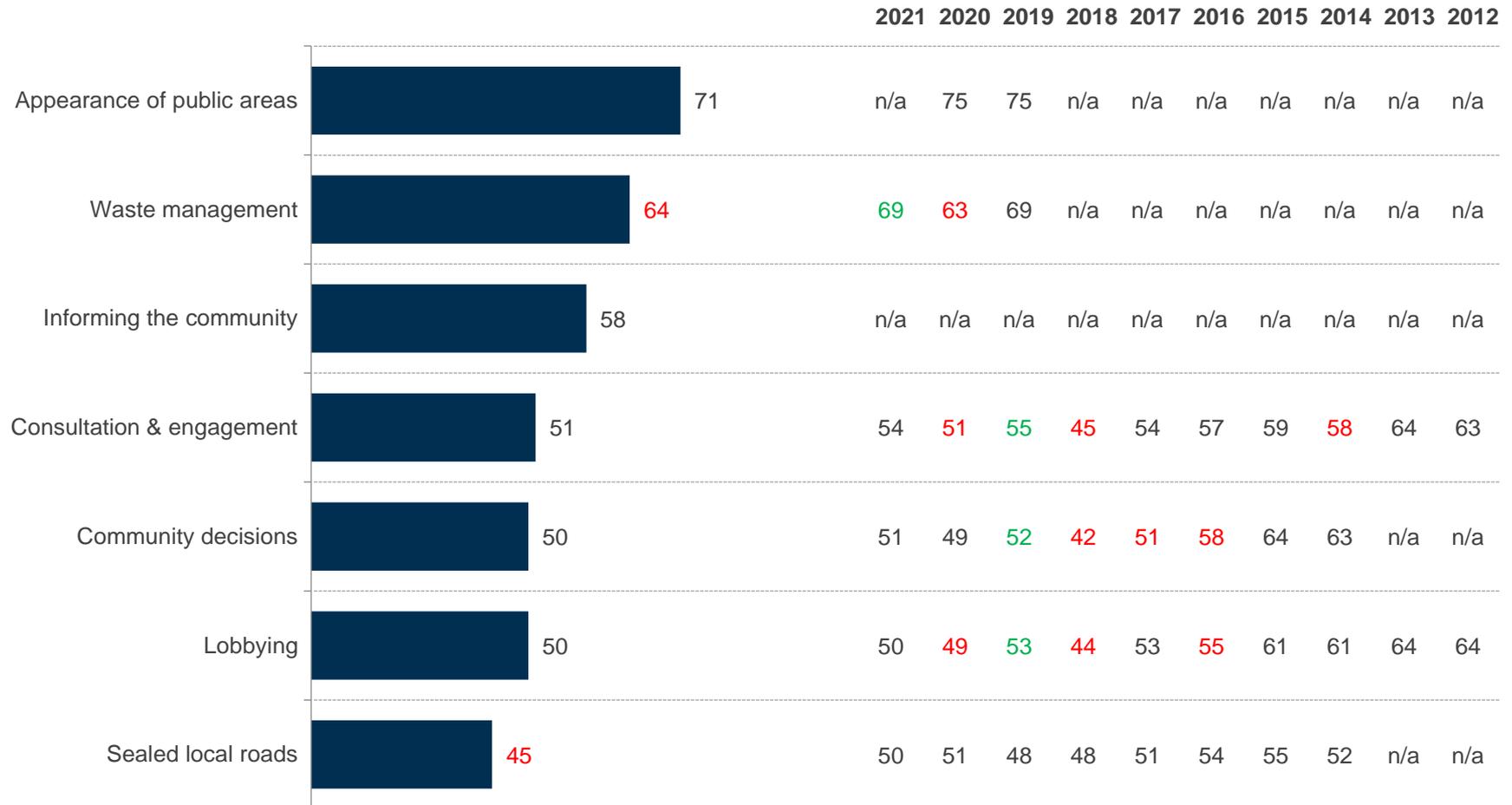
Council's next lowest areas of service are lobbying and community decisions (both with an index score of 50) and consultation and engagement (index score of 51).

- On each of these service areas, Council rates significantly lower than the Small Rural group and State-wide averages.
- Residents aged 18 to 34 years rate these service areas significantly lower this year than last year.



Individual service area performance

2022 individual service area performance (index scores)

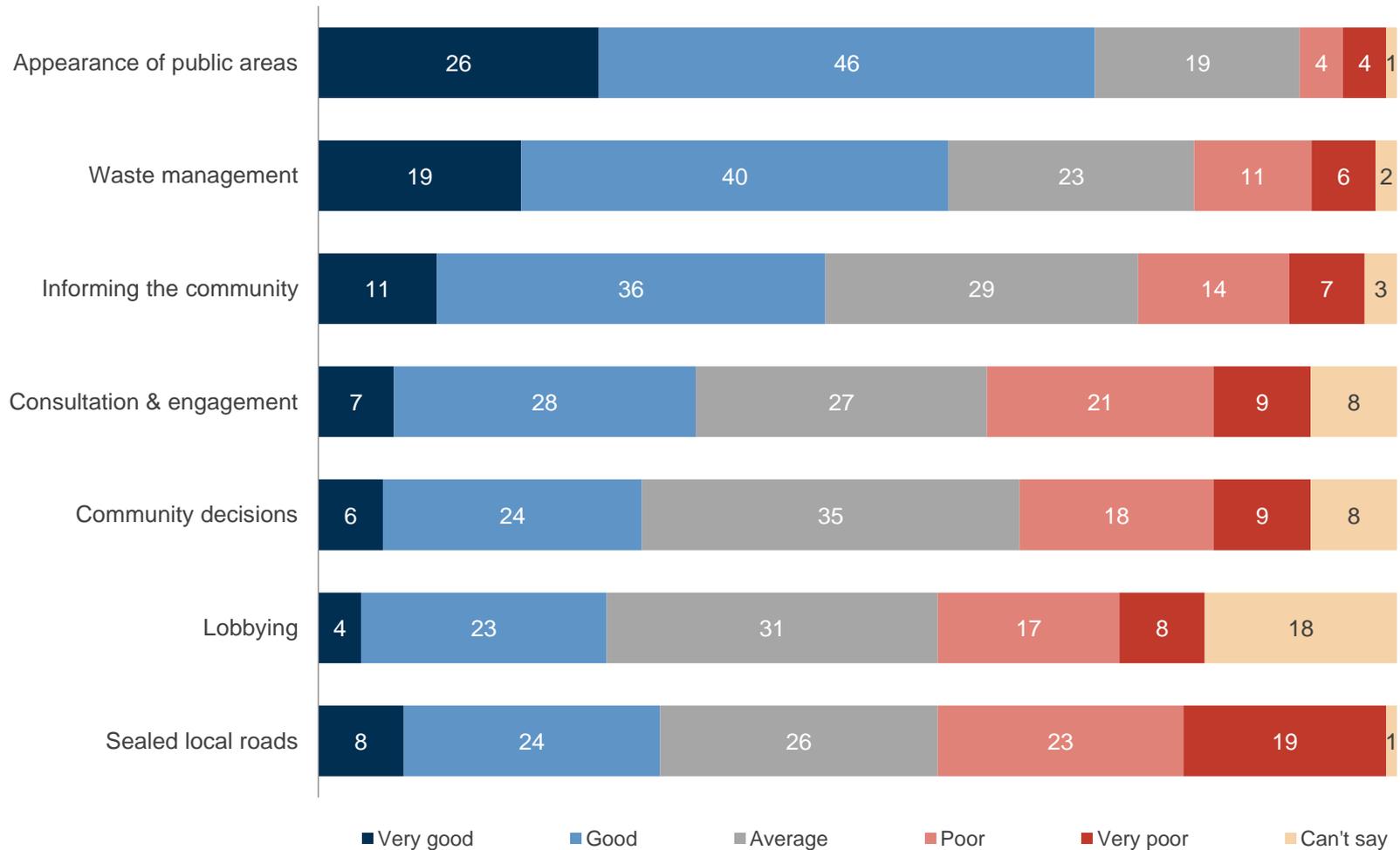


Q2. How has Council performed on [RESPONSIBILITY AREA] over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.



Individual service area performance

2022 individual service area performance (%)





Customer service



Contact with council and customer service

Contact with council

More than six in 10 Council residents (61%) have had contact with Council in the last 12 months.

- Rate of contact has remained relatively stable since 2013.
- Rate of contact is significantly higher than the Council average among residents aged 35 to 49 years (74%). This rate is also significantly higher this year (up 18 percentage points on 2021).



Among those residents who have had contact with Council, 51% provide a positive customer service rating of 'very good' or 'good', including 20% of residents who rate Council's customer service as 'very good'.

Customer service

Perceptions of Council's customer service have fallen to a record-low this year (index score of 58).

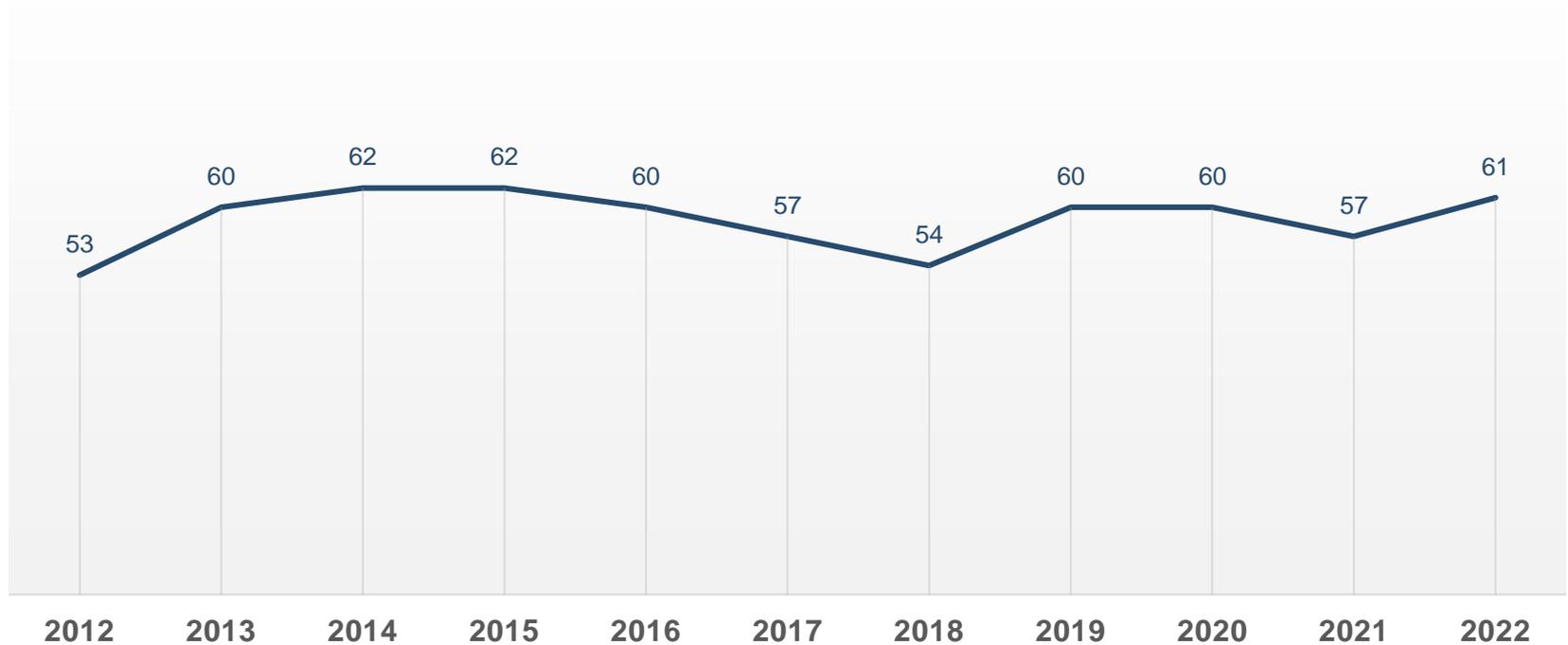
- Ratings are significantly lower than the Small Rural group and State-wide averages (index scores of 67 and 68 respectively).
- Ratings across each of the demographic cohorts are not significantly different from the Council average.

Among those residents who have had contact with Council, just over half (51%) provide a positive customer service rating of 'very good' or 'good'. However, almost three in 10 residents (29%) rate the customer service as 'poor' or 'very poor'.



Contact with council

2022 contact with council (%)
Have had contact



Q5. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with Central Goldfields Shire Council? This may have been in person, in writing, by telephone conversation, by text message, by email, through their website or social media such as Facebook or Twitter?

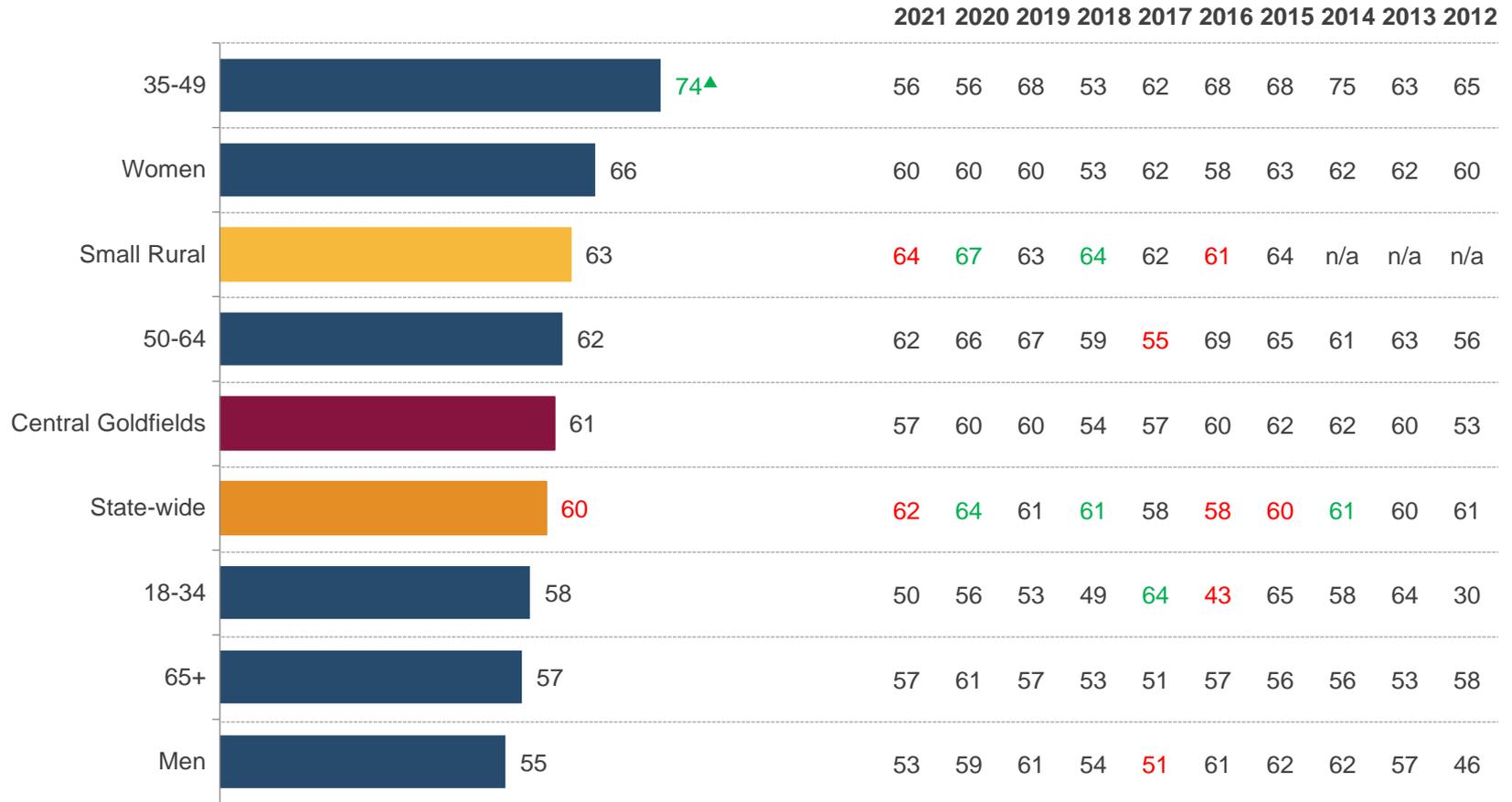
92 of 240

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 42 Councils asked group: 15



Contact with council

2022 contact with council (%)



Q5. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with Central Goldfields Shire Council? This may have been in person, in writing, by telephone conversation, by text message, by email or via their website or social media such as Facebook or Twitter?

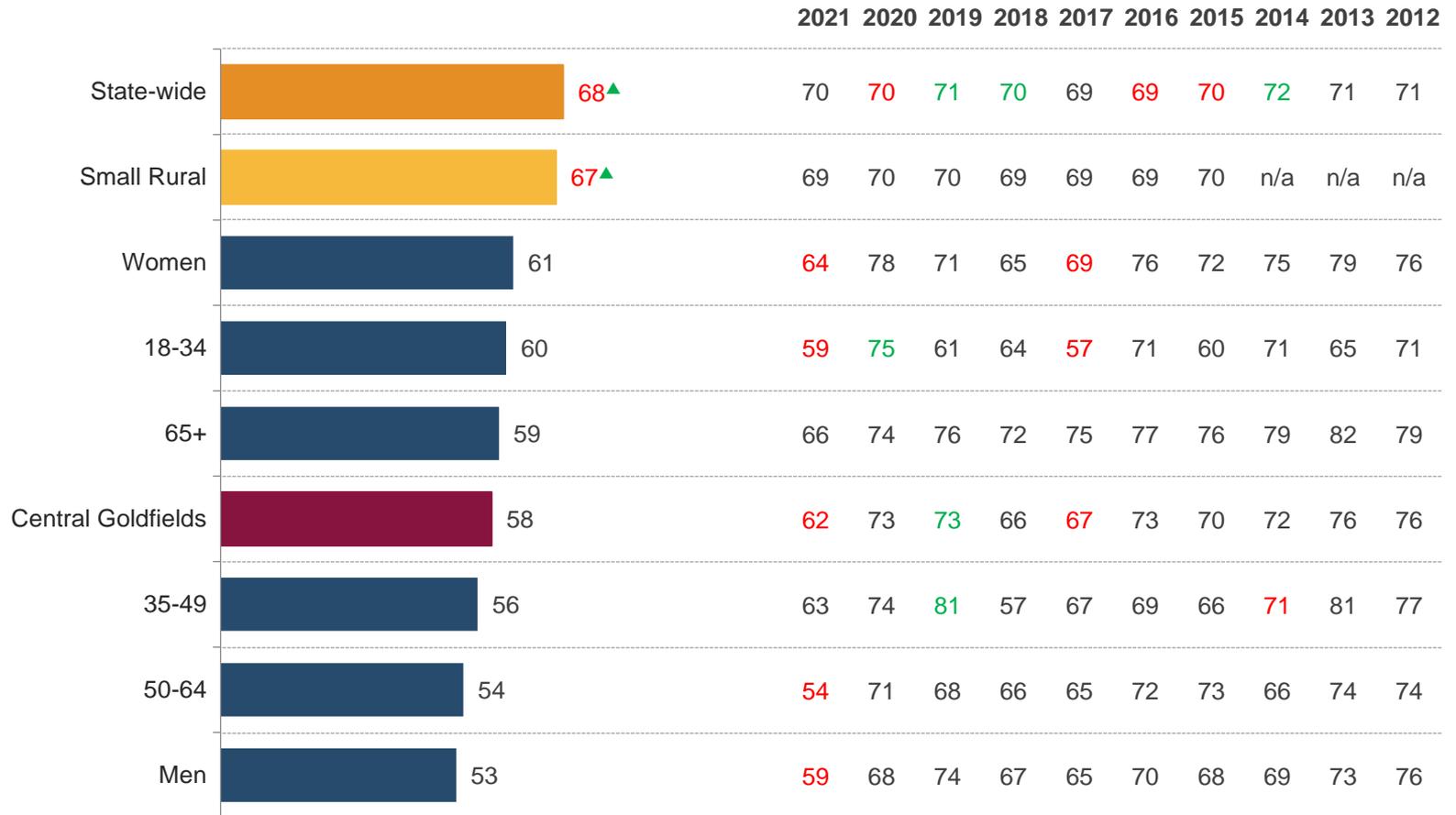
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 42 Councils asked group: 15

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.



Customer service rating

2022 customer service rating (index scores)



Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Central Goldfields Shire Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received.

Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months.

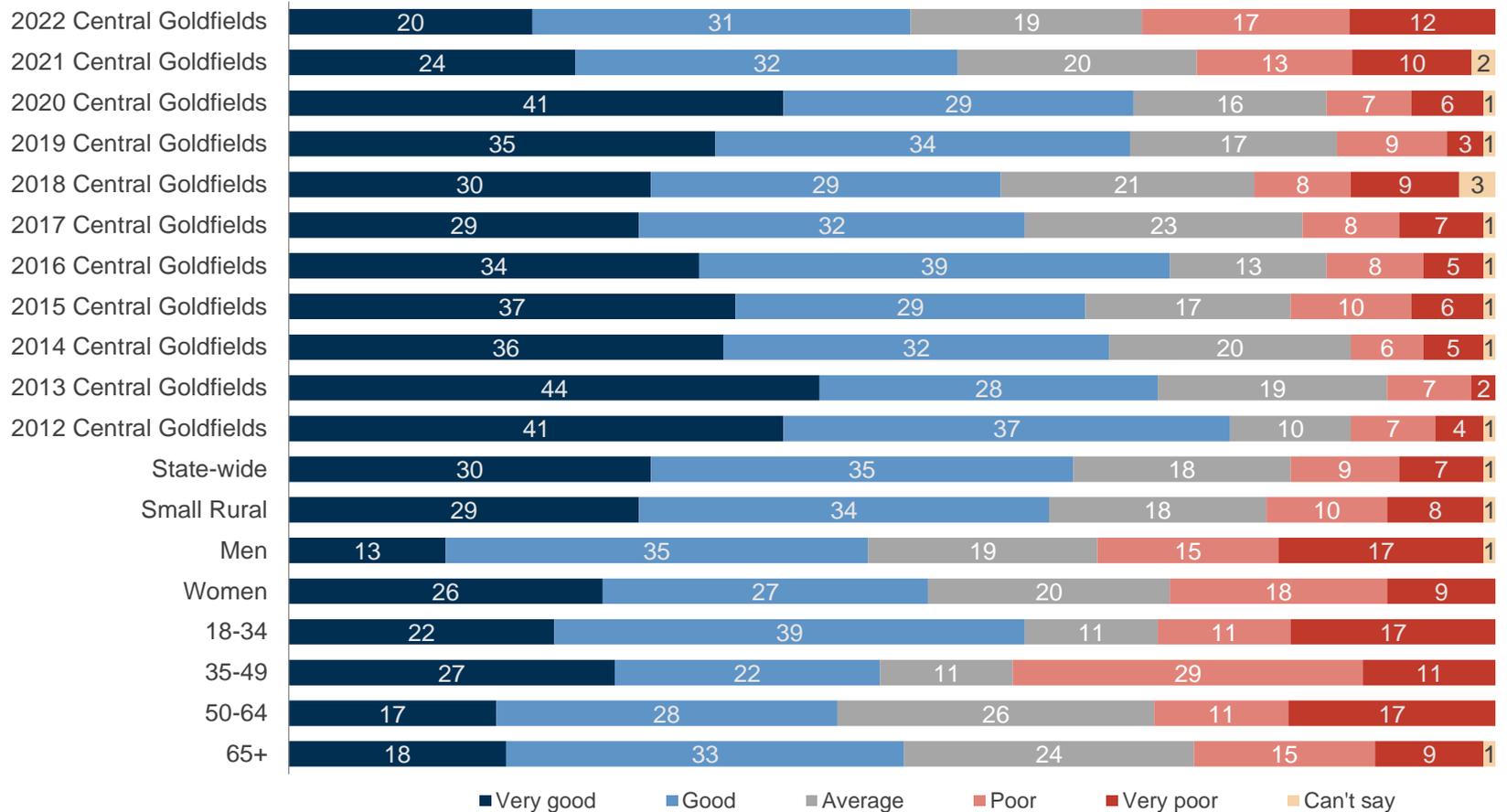
Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 19

Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.



Customer service rating

2022 customer service rating (%)



Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Central Goldfields Shire Council for customer service? Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received.

Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months.
Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 19

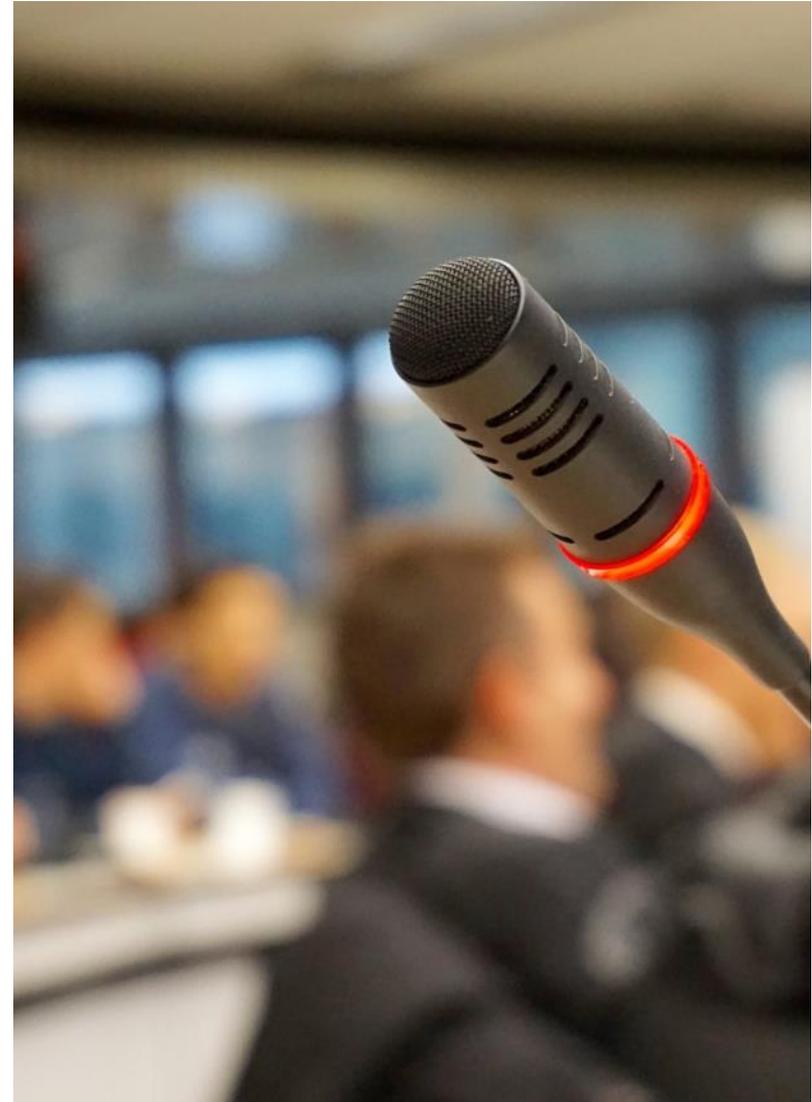


Communication

Communication

Newsletters sent via mail (31%, up from 25% in 2020) continues to be the preferred form of communication from Council about news and information and upcoming events. The next most preferred form of communication is advertising in a local newspaper (21%), followed by a Council newsletter via email (17%) and social media (14%).

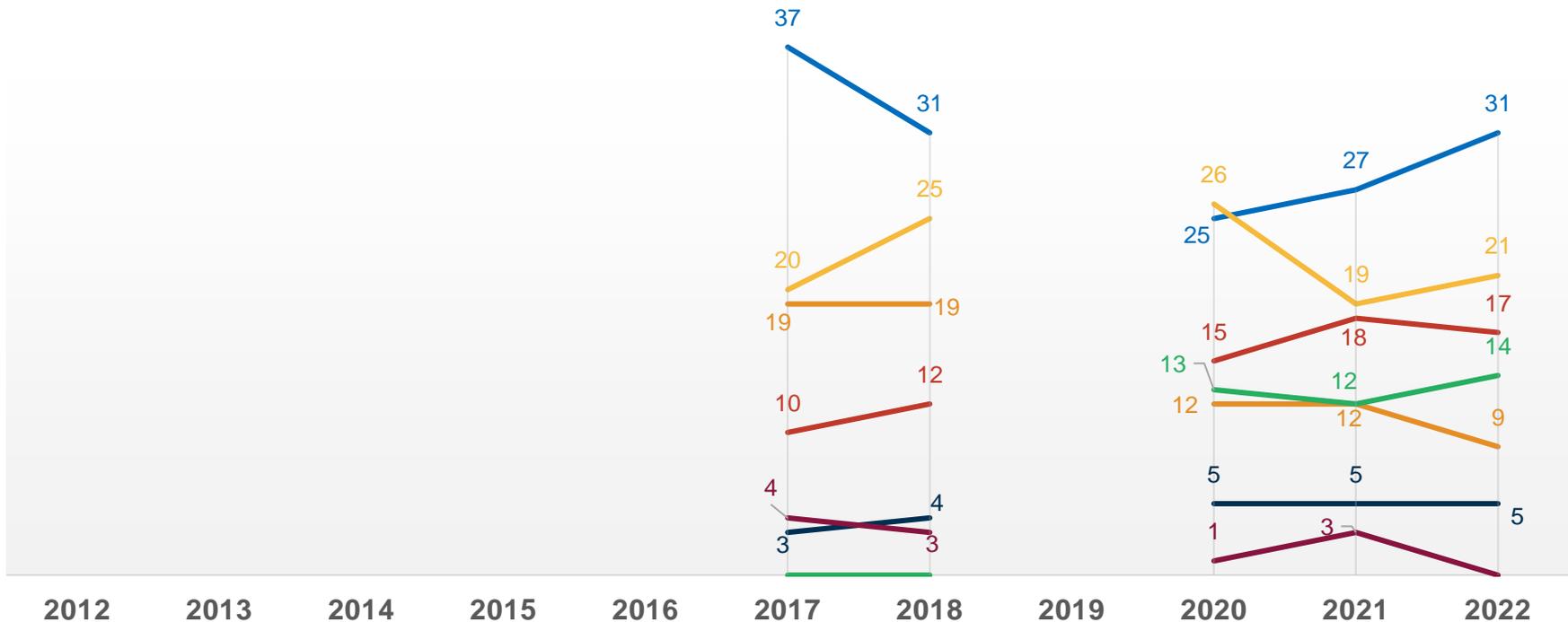
- Among residents aged under 50 years, newsletters sent via mail (28%) continue to be the preferred form of communication. However, among this age group, social media (24%) has a higher preference than other forms of communication.
- Among residents aged over 50 years, Council newsletters sent via mail (33%, up eight percentage points on 2021) have overtaken advertising in a local newspaper (25%) as the preferred form of communication. Newsletters via email (16%) are the next most preferred form of communication from Council.





Best form of communication

2022 best form of communication (%)

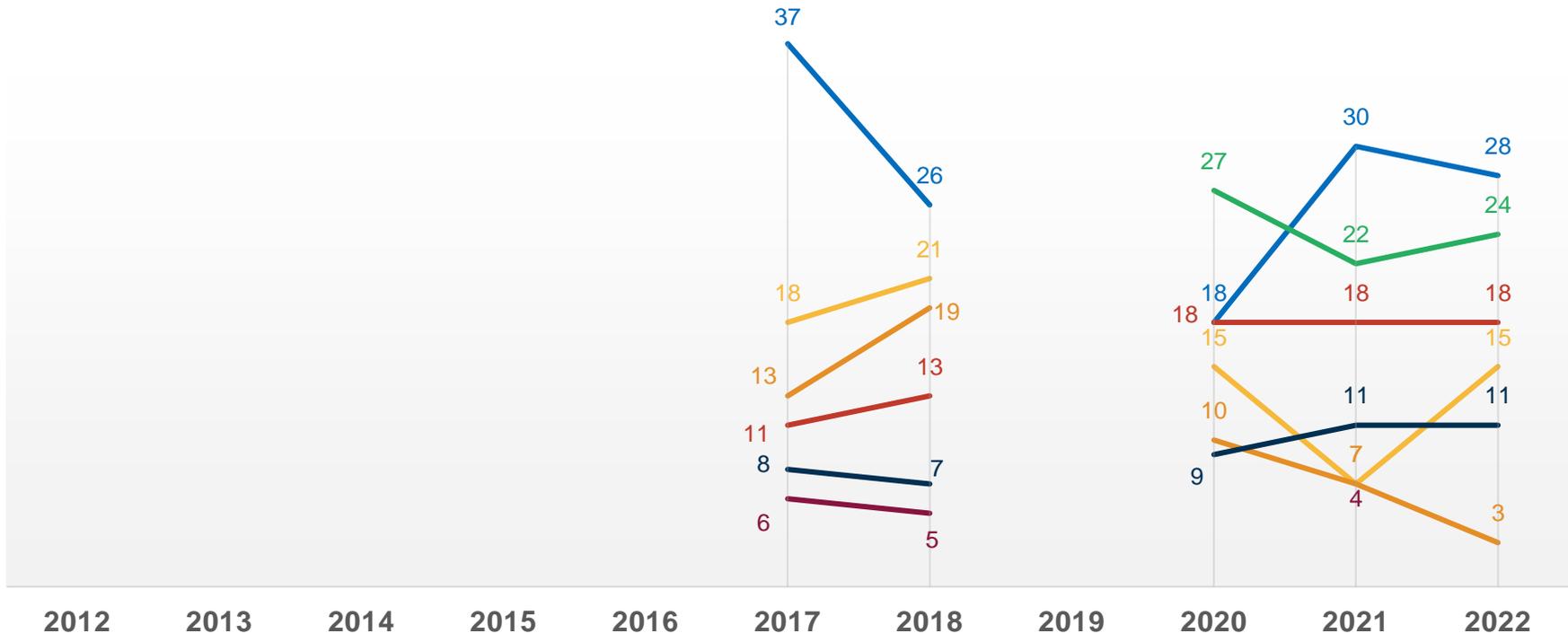


Q13. If Central Goldfields Shire Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate with you?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 39 Councils asked group: 10
 Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.



Best form of communication: under 50s

2022 under 50s best form of communication (%)



Q13. If Central Goldfields Shire Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate with you?

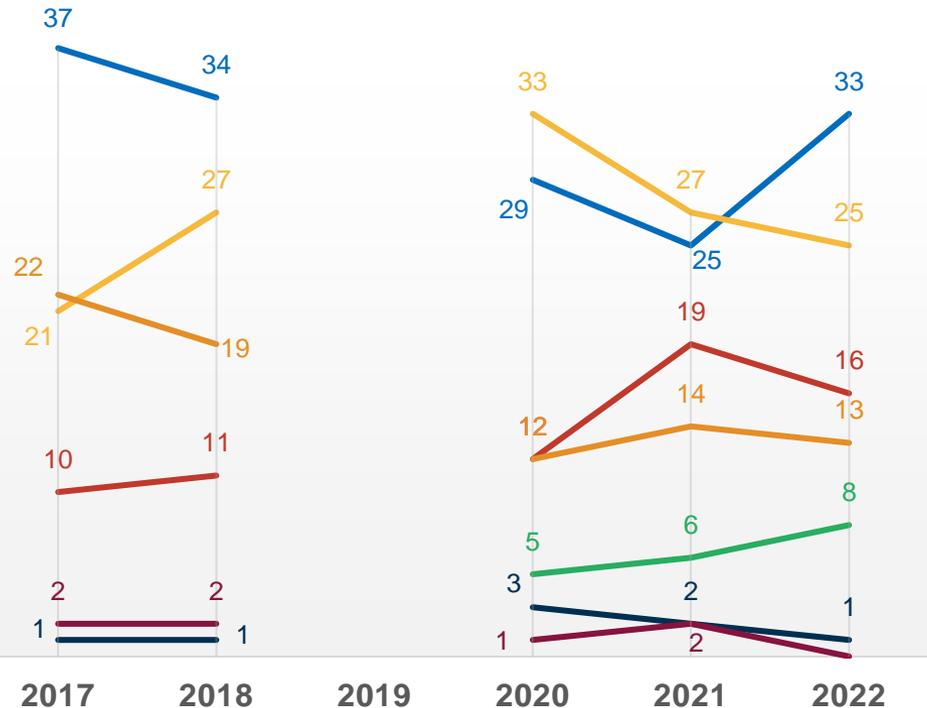
Base: All respondents aged under 50. Councils asked State-wide: 39 Councils asked group: 199 of 240

Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.



Best form of communication: over 50s

2022 over 50s best form of communication (%)



Q13. If Central Goldfields Shire Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate with you?
 Base: All respondents aged over 50. Councils asked State-wide: 39 Councils asked group: 100 of 240
 Note: 'Social Media' was included in 2019.



Council direction



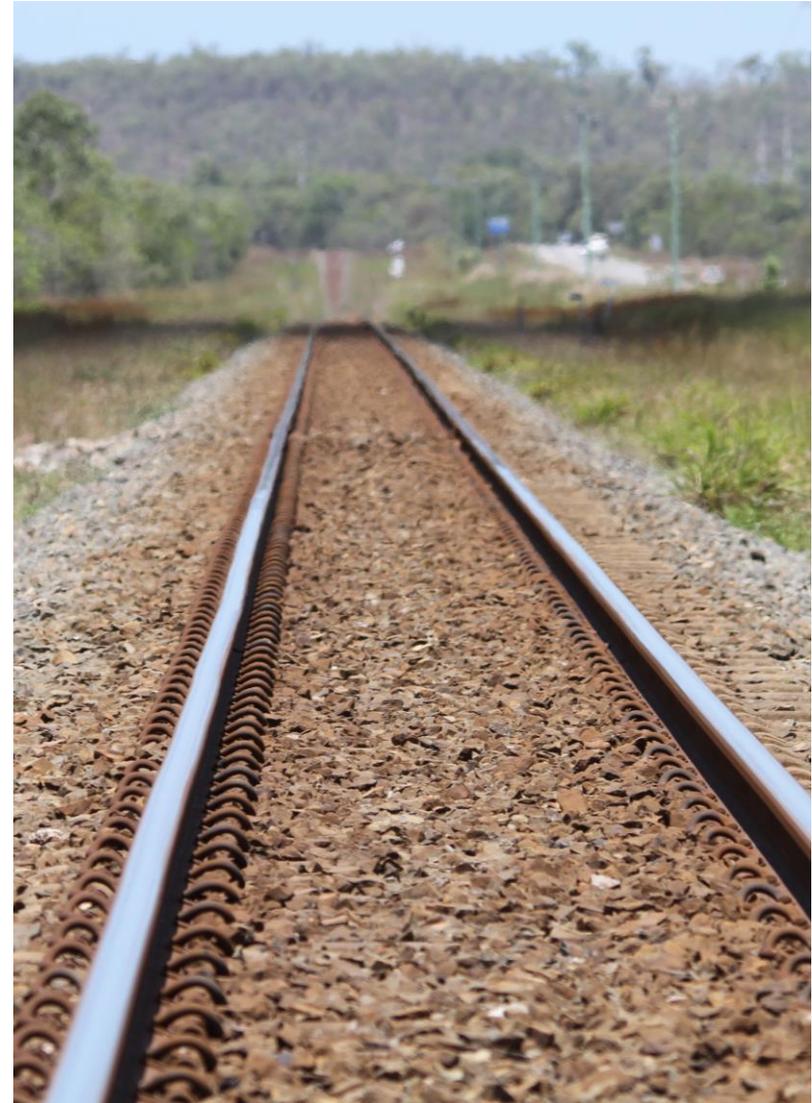
Council direction

Over the last 12 months, 47% of residents believe the direction of Council's overall performance has stayed the same – down four percentage points since 2021.

- 25% believe Council direction has improved in the last 12 months (unchanged from 2021).
- 24% believe it has deteriorated, up five points on 2021.

Perceptions of the direction of Council's overall performance (index score of 51) have not changed significantly over the last two years.

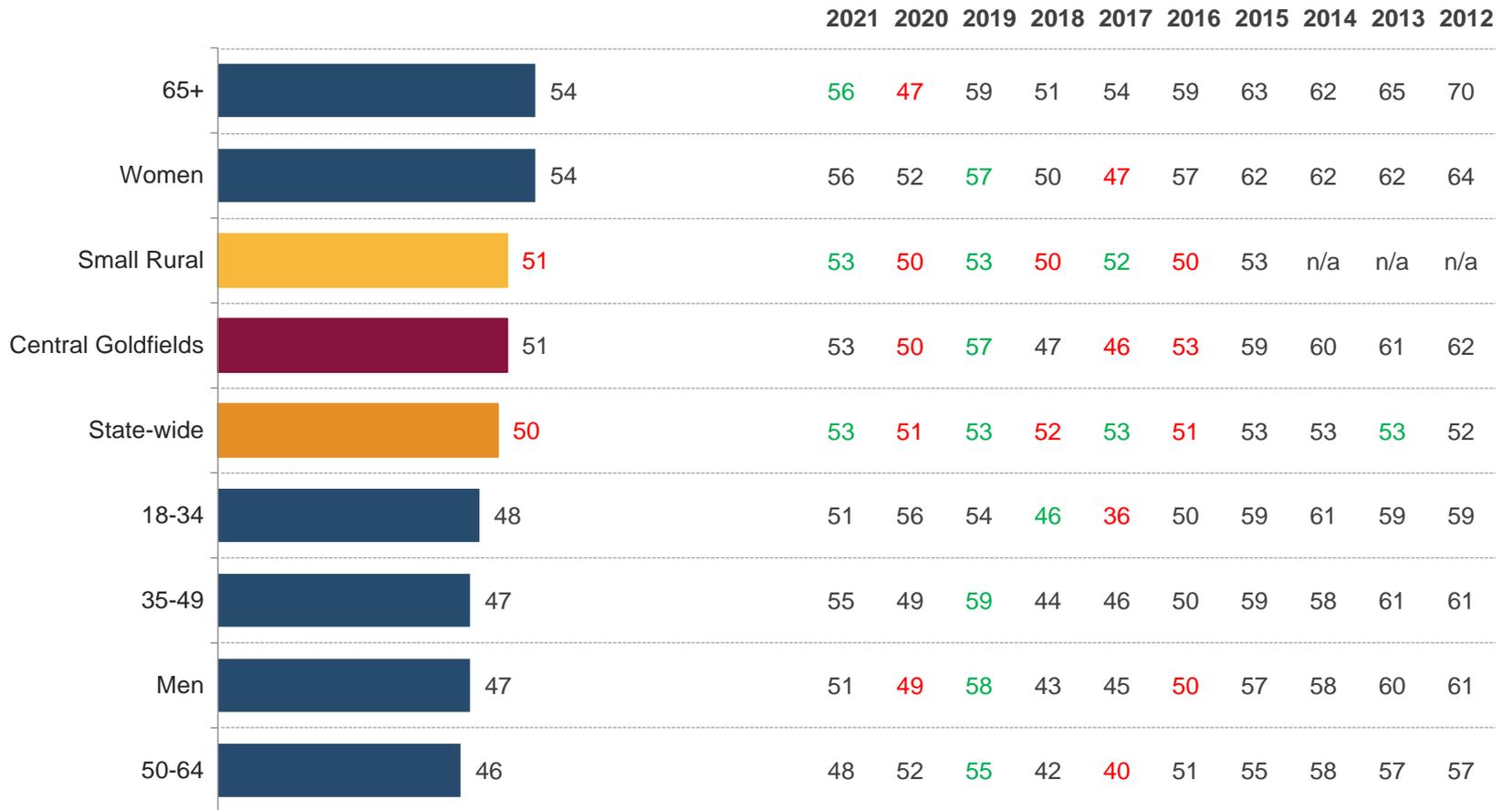
- These perceptions are in line with the Small Rural group and State-wide averages for Council (index scores of 51 and 50 respectively).
- The most satisfied with Council direction are women and residents aged 65 years and over.
- The least satisfied with Council direction are residents aged 50 to 64 years.





Overall council direction last 12 months

2022 overall council direction (index scores)

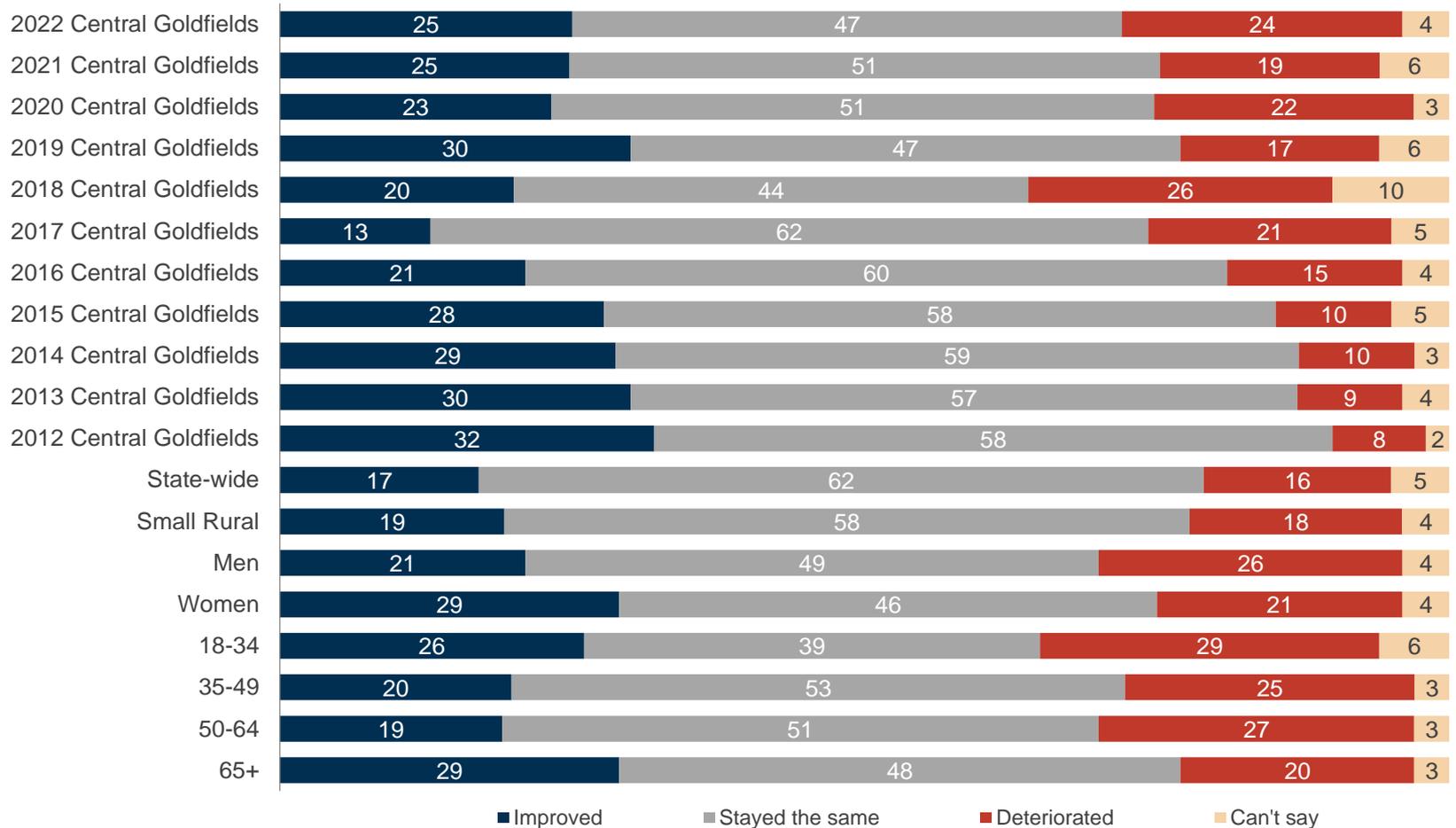


Q6. Over the last 12 months, what is your view of the direction of Central Goldfields Shire Council performance?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.



Overall council direction last 12 months

2022 overall council direction (%)



A large, dark blue, stylized letter 'W' graphic that spans the right side of the page. The 'W' is filled with a glowing, intricate network pattern of white and light blue lines, resembling a fiber optic or neural network. The background of the 'W' is a dark blue gradient.

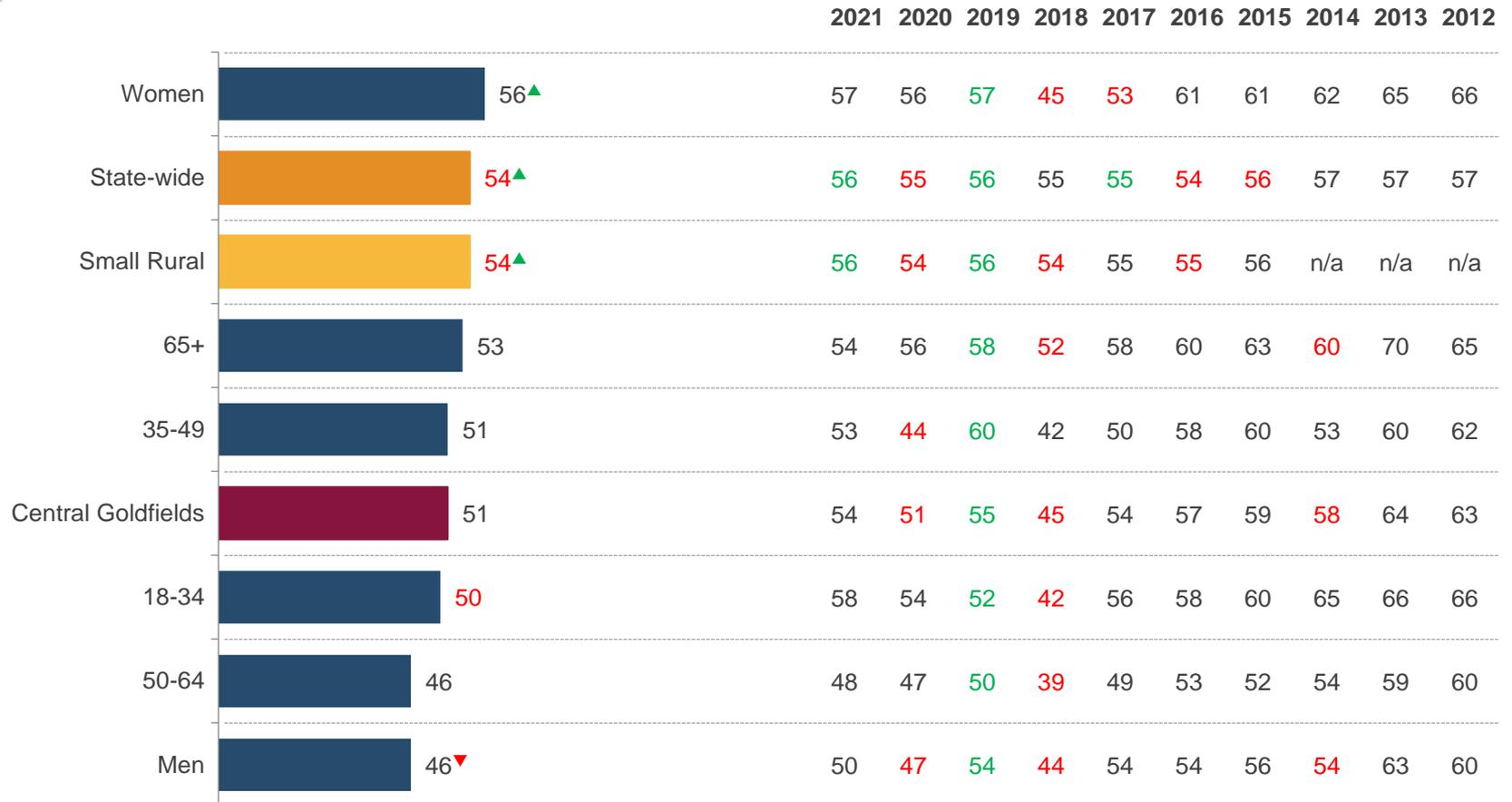
Individual service areas



Community consultation and engagement performance



2022 consultation and engagement performance (index scores)



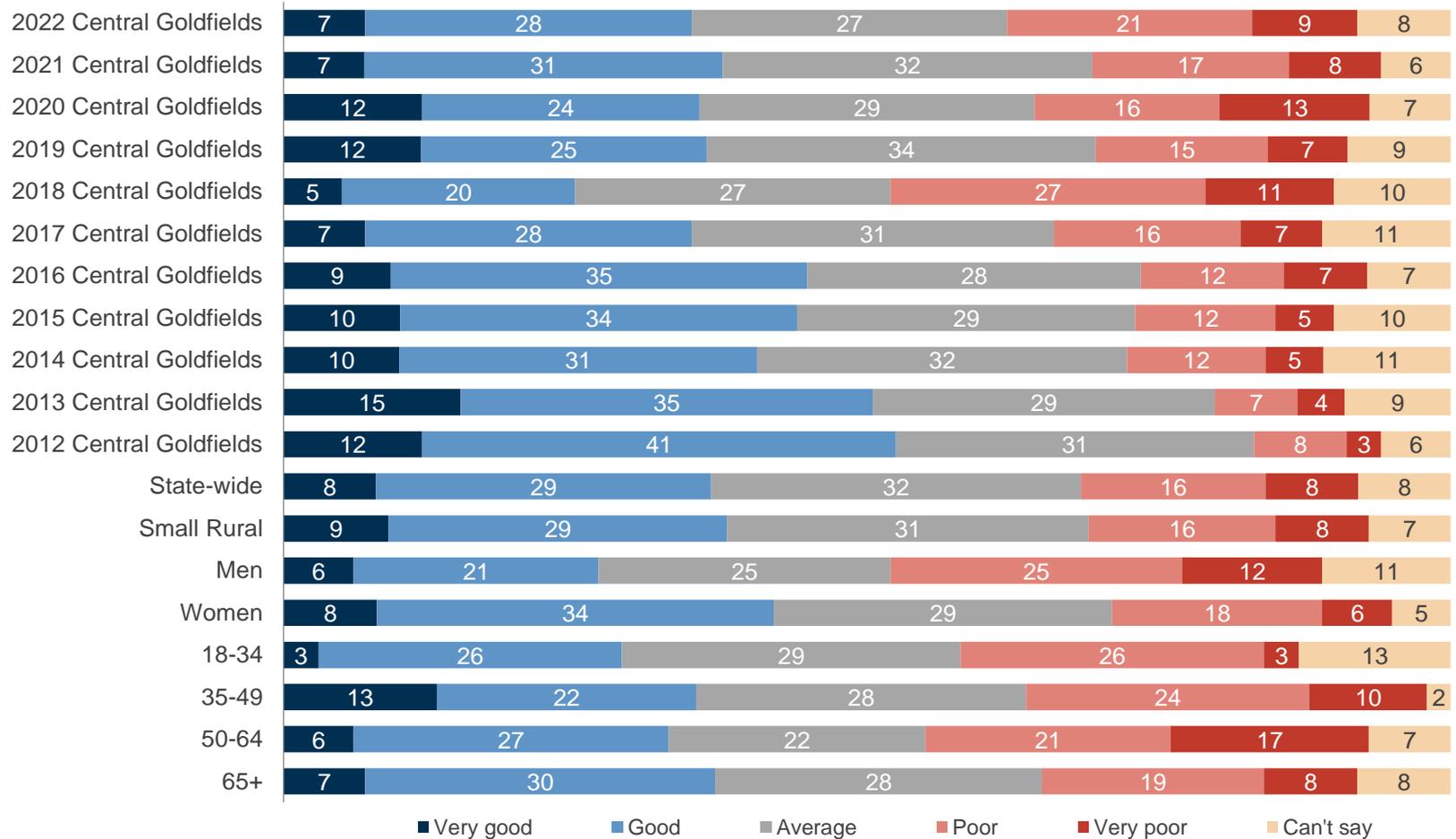
Q2. How has Council performed on 'Community consultation and engagement' over the last 10 years?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.



Community consultation and engagement performance



2022 consultation and engagement performance (%)



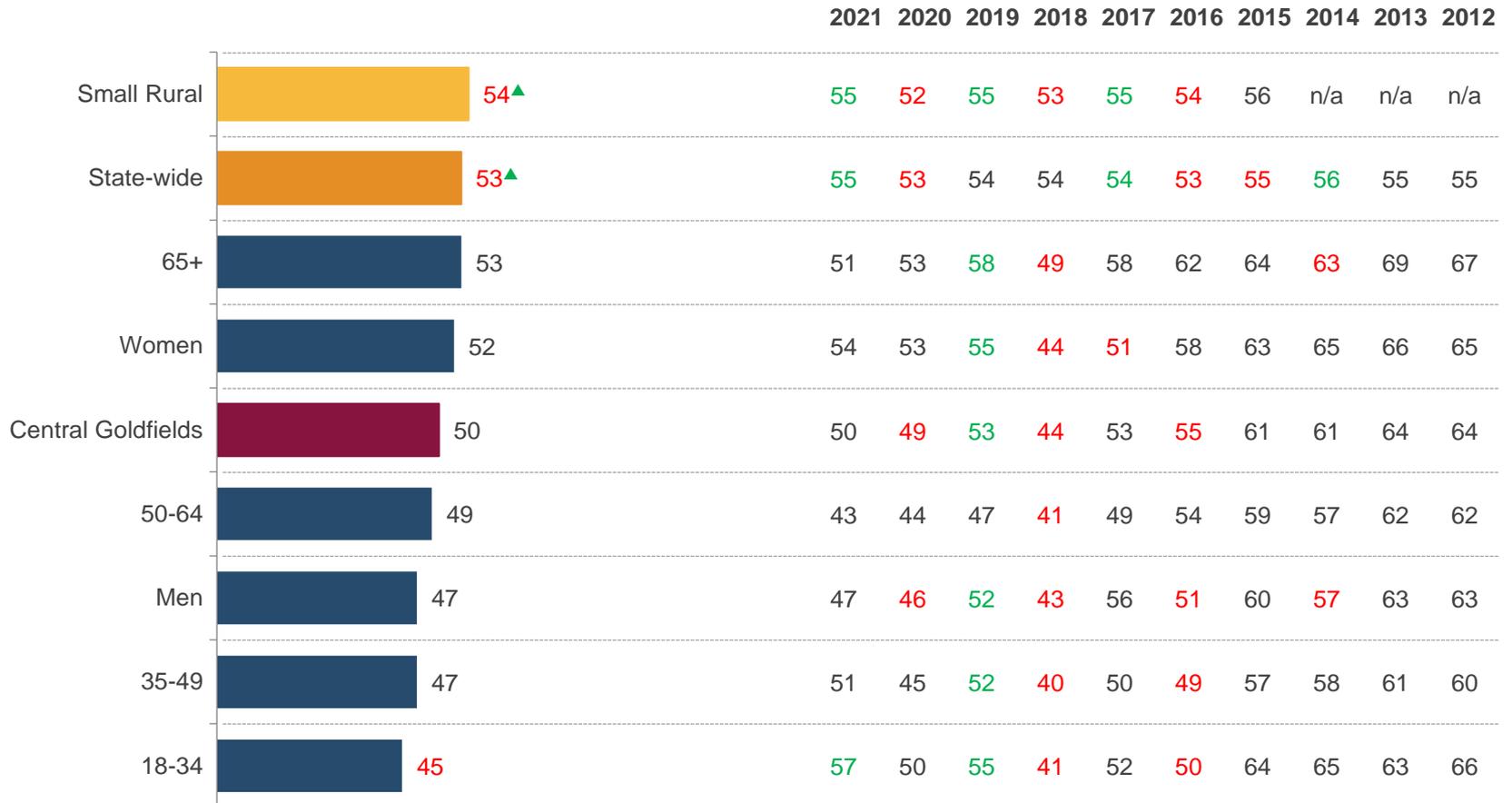
Q2. How has Council performed on 'Community consultation and engagement' over the last 107 of 240
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 19



Lobbying on behalf of the community performance



2022 lobbying performance (index scores)



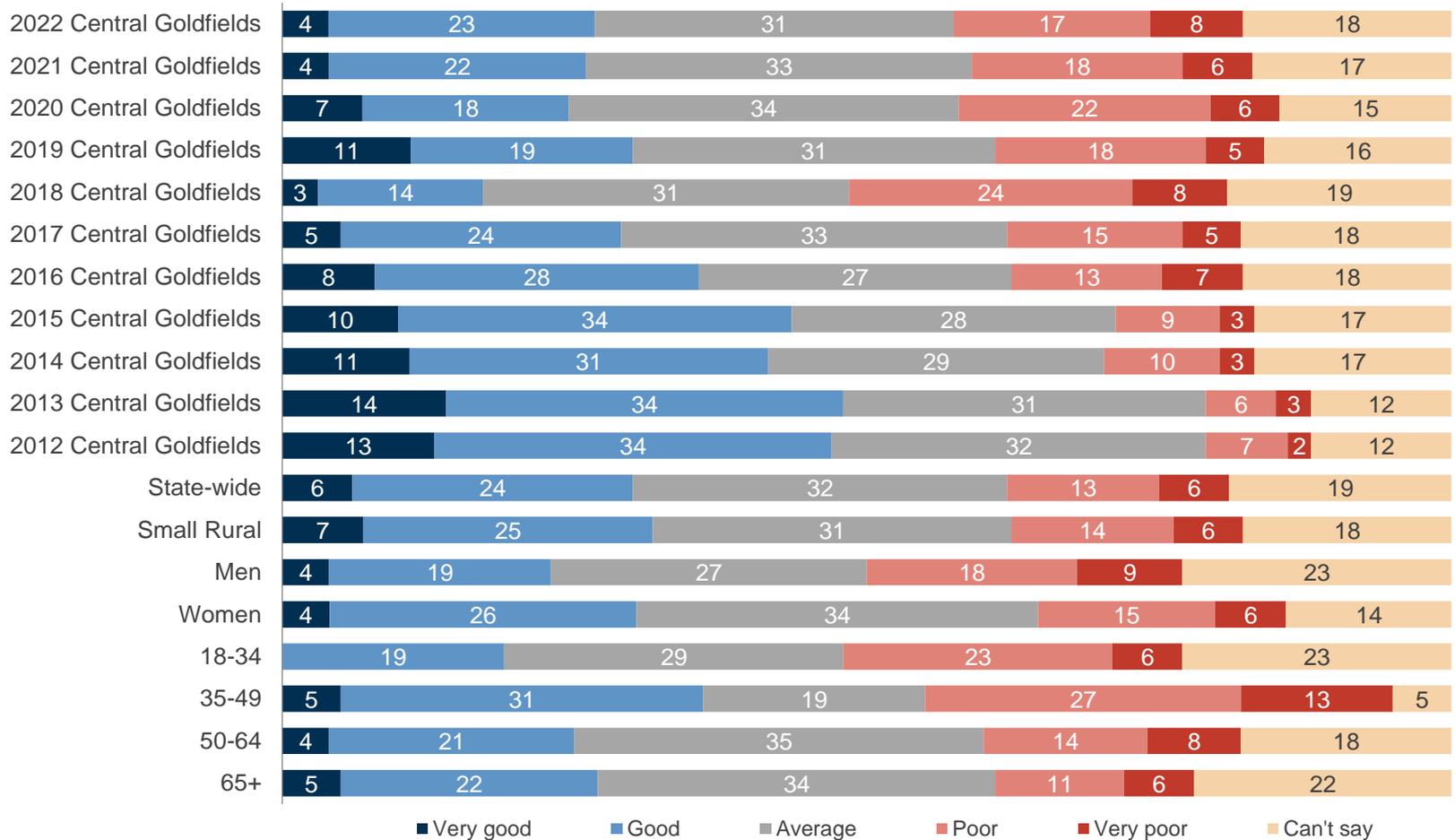
Q2. How has Council performed on 'Lobbying on behalf of the community' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 49 Councils asked group: 13
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.



Lobbying on behalf of the community performance



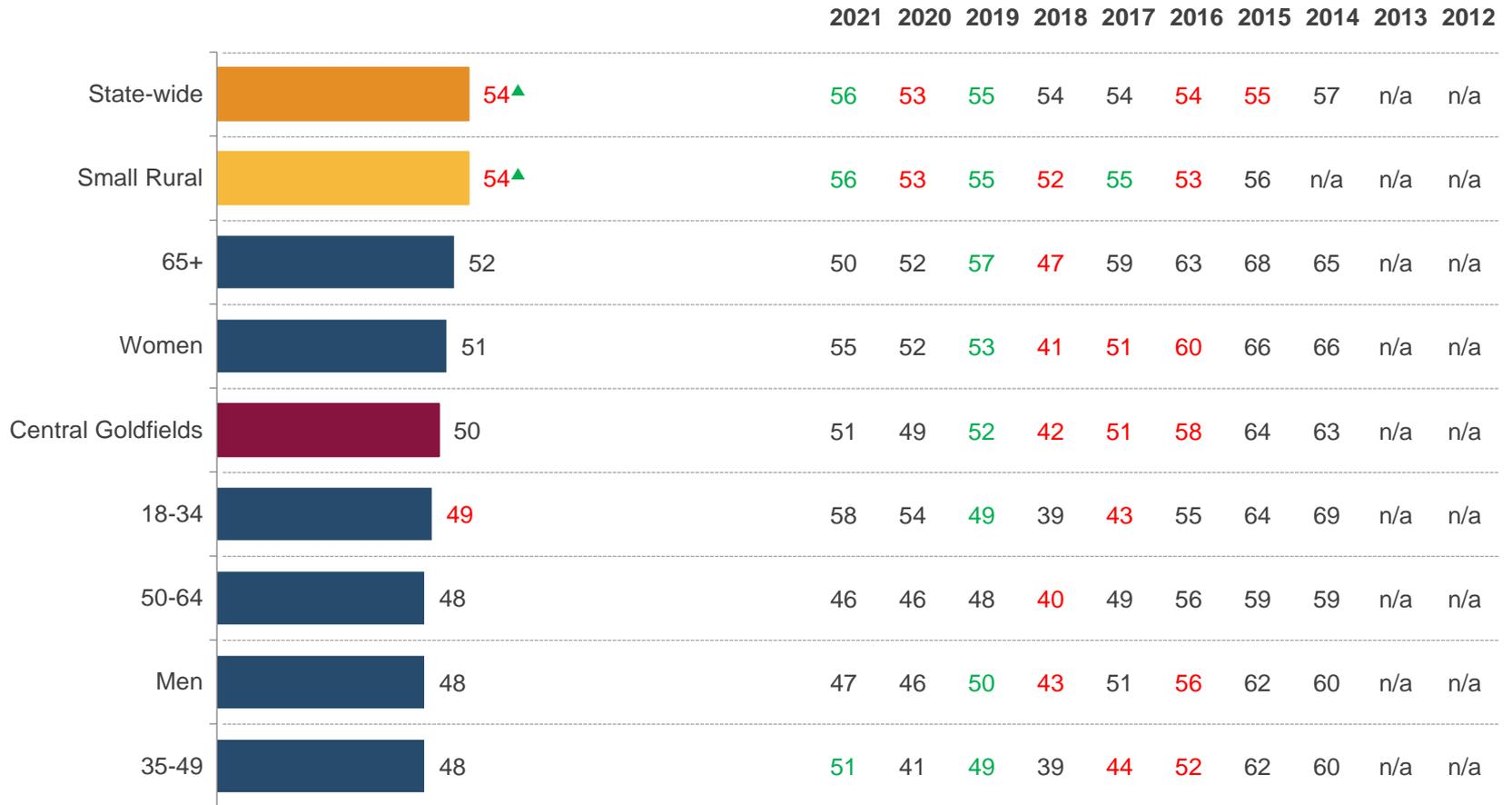
2022 lobbying performance (%)



Decisions made in the interest of the community performance



2022 community decisions made performance (index scores)

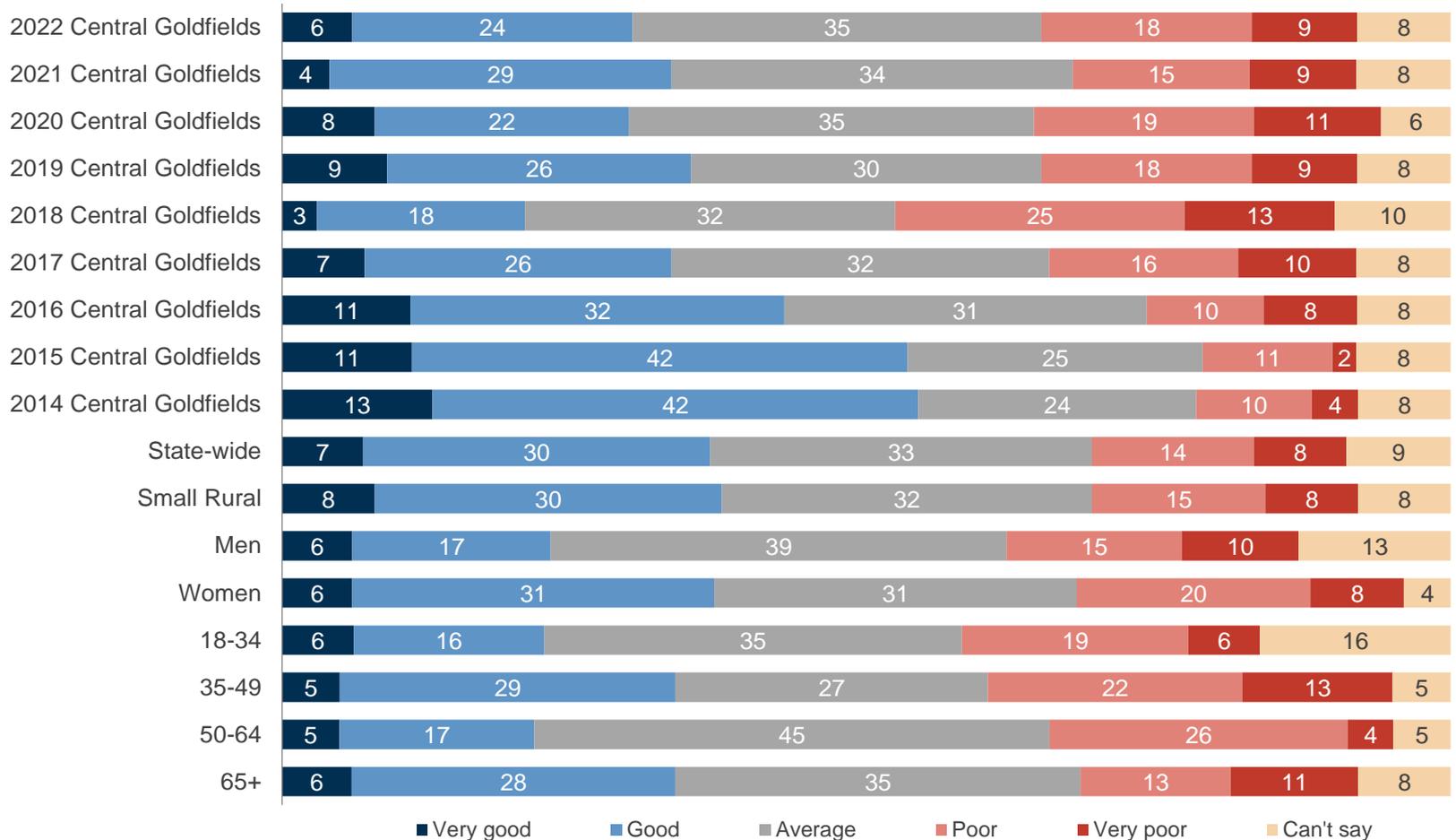


Q2. How has Council performed on 'Decisions made in the interest of the community' over the 110 of 240
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

Decisions made in the interest of the community performance



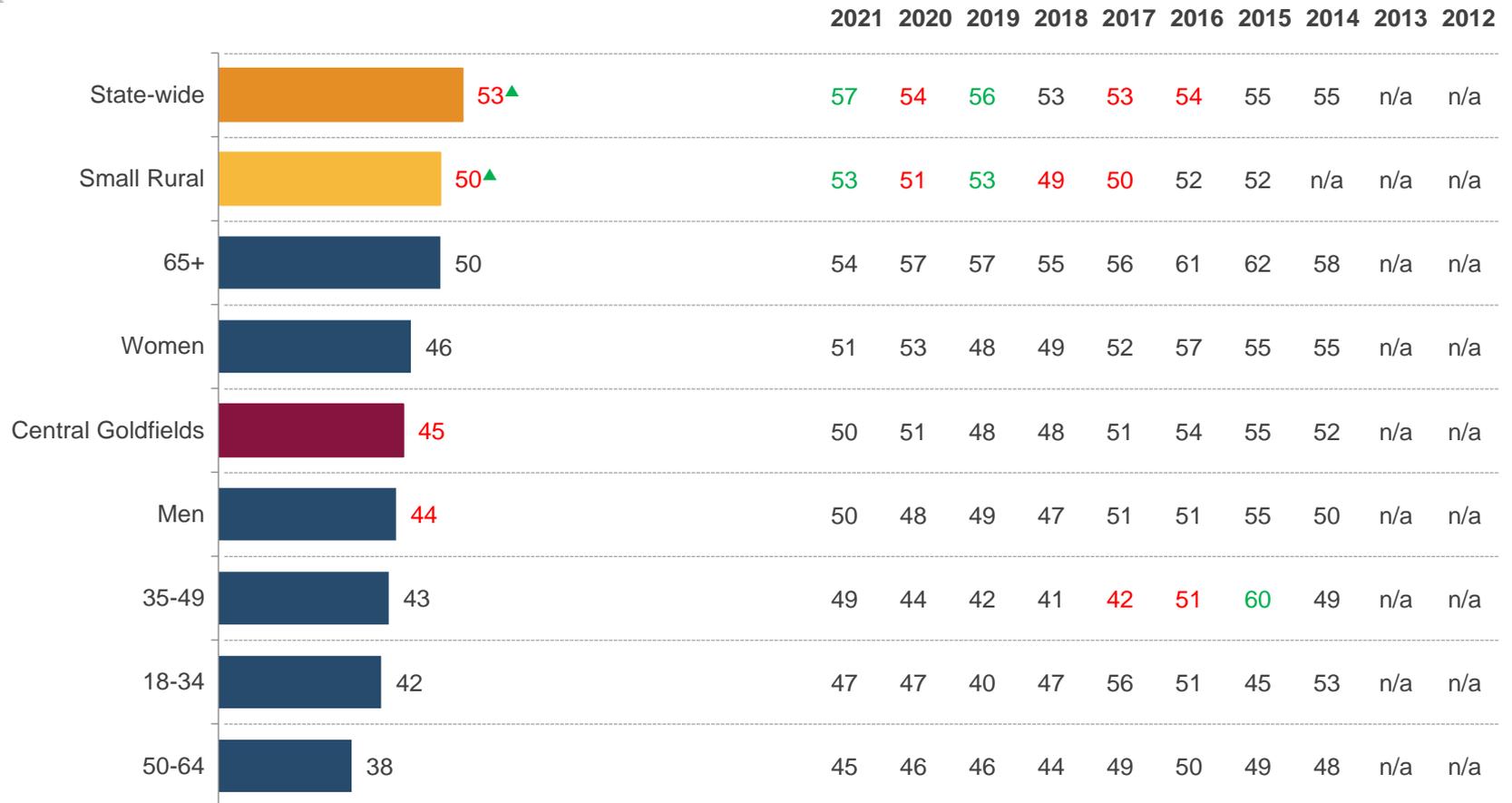
2022 community decisions made performance (%)



The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance



2022 sealed local roads performance (index scores)

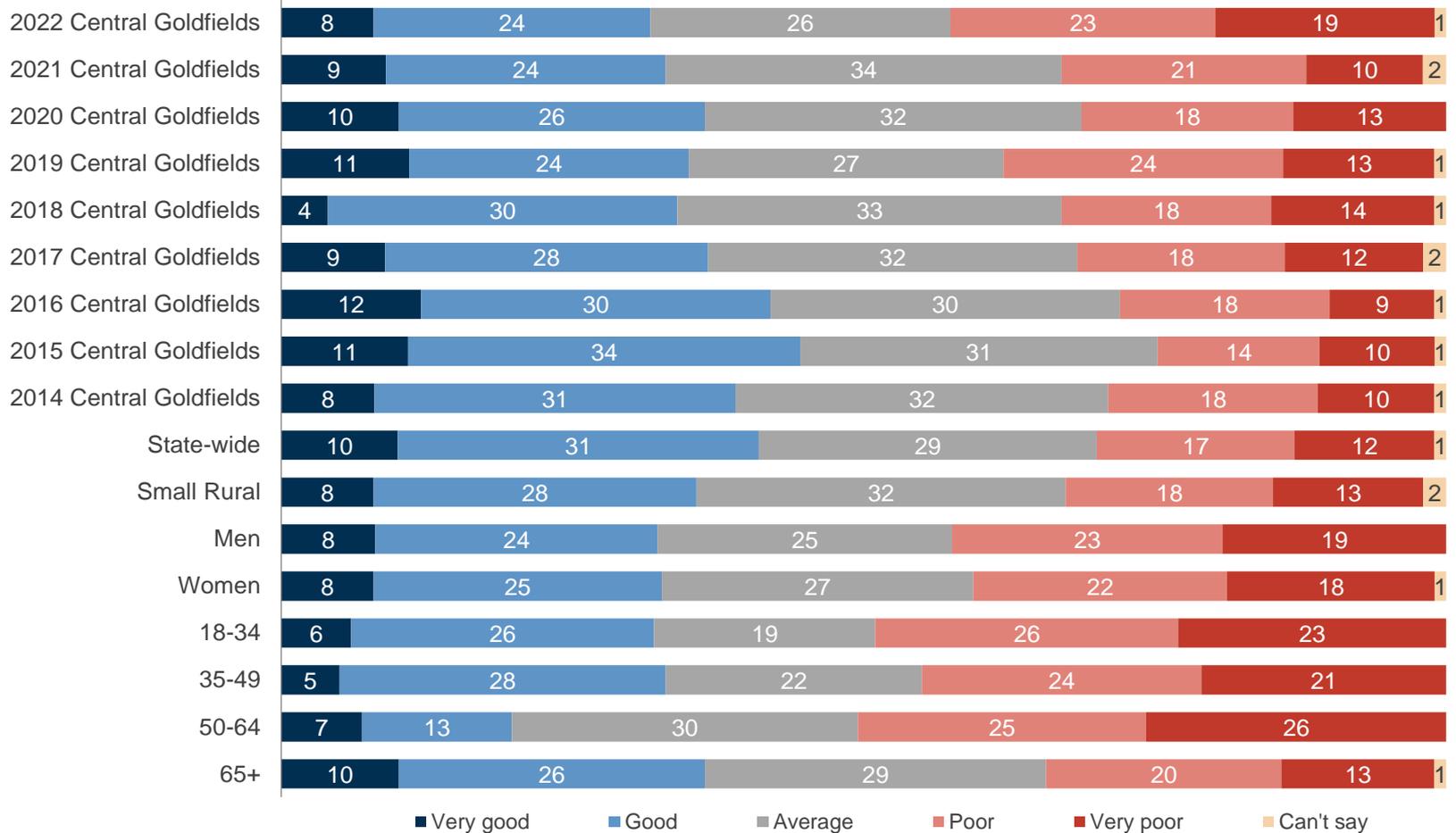


Q2. How has Council performed on 'The condition of sealed local roads in your area' over the . 112 of 240
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance



2022 sealed local roads performance (%)



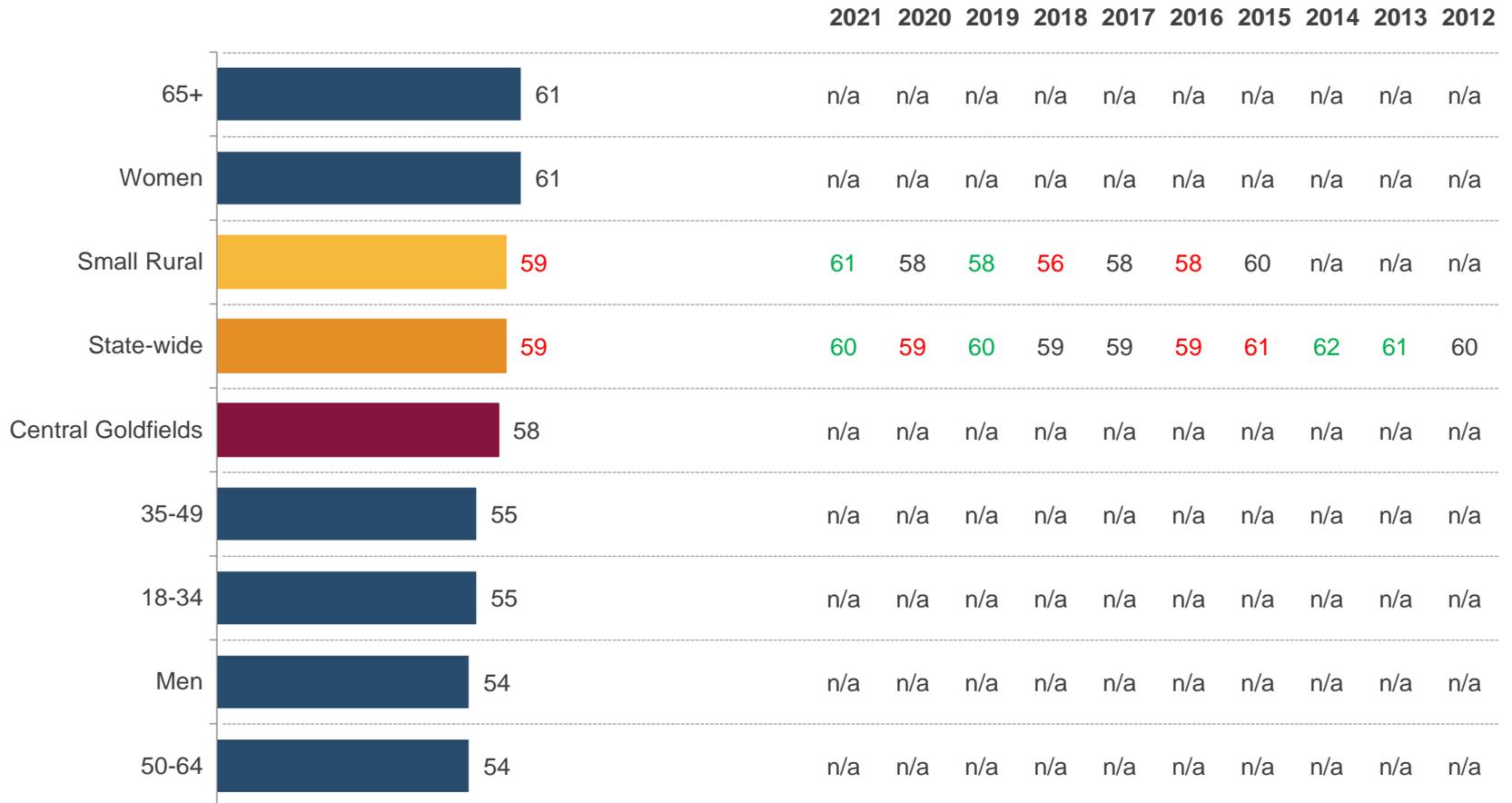
Q2. How has Council performed on 'The condition of sealed local roads in your area' over the
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 19



Informing the community performance



2022 informing community performance (index scores)



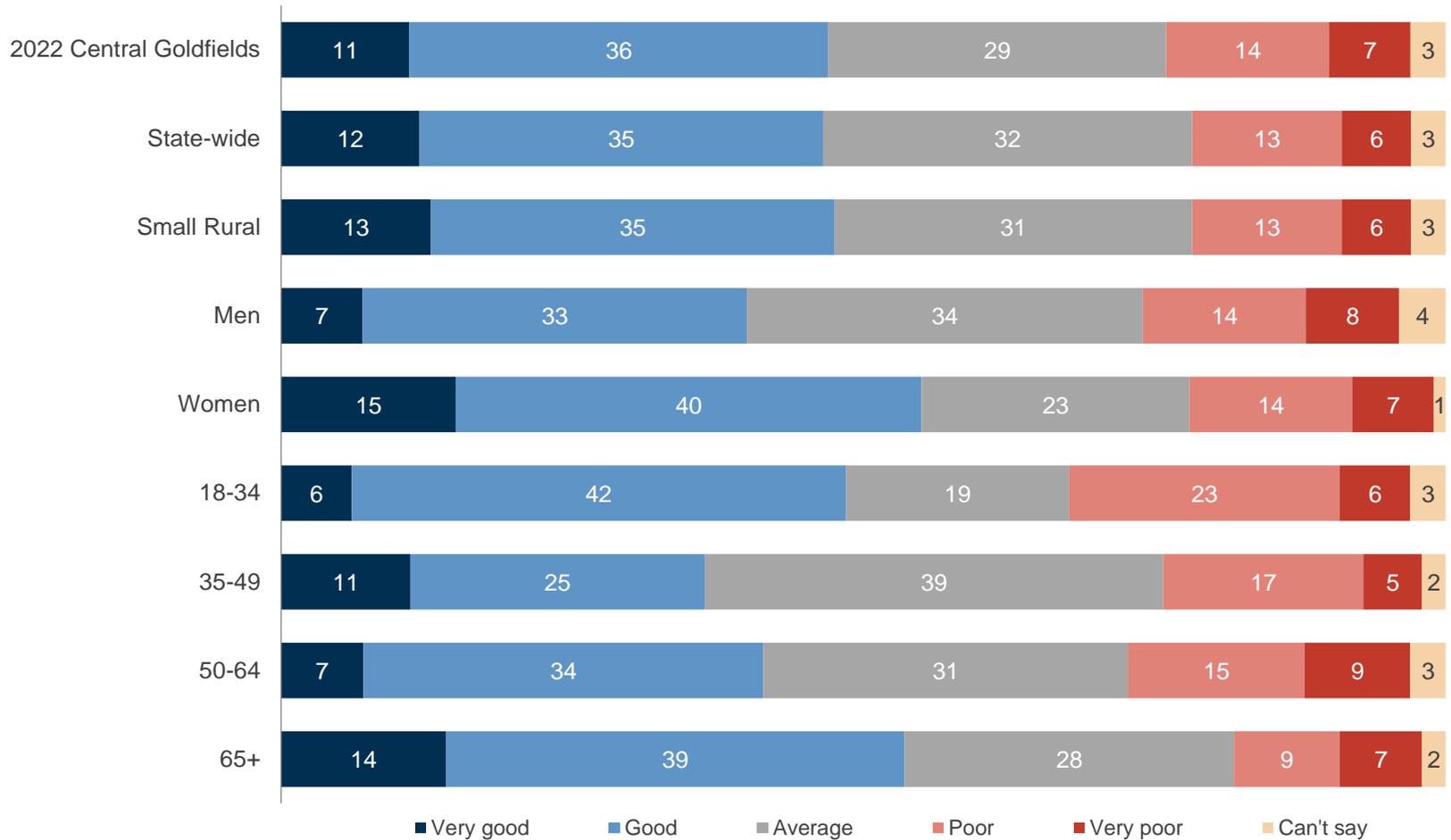
Q2. How has Council performed on 'Informing the community' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 36 Councils asked group: 10
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.



Informing the community performance



2022 informing community performance (%)





The appearance of public areas performance



2022 public areas performance (index scores)

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	
Small Rural	73	75	72	73	72	74	73	74	n/a	n/a	n/a
65+	73	n/a	76	79	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Women	73	n/a	78	75	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Central Goldfields	71	n/a	75	75	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
18-34	71	n/a	76	66	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	71	n/a	75	75	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-wide	71	73	72	72	71	71	71	72	72	71	71
Men	70	n/a	72	75	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	69	n/a	73	78	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

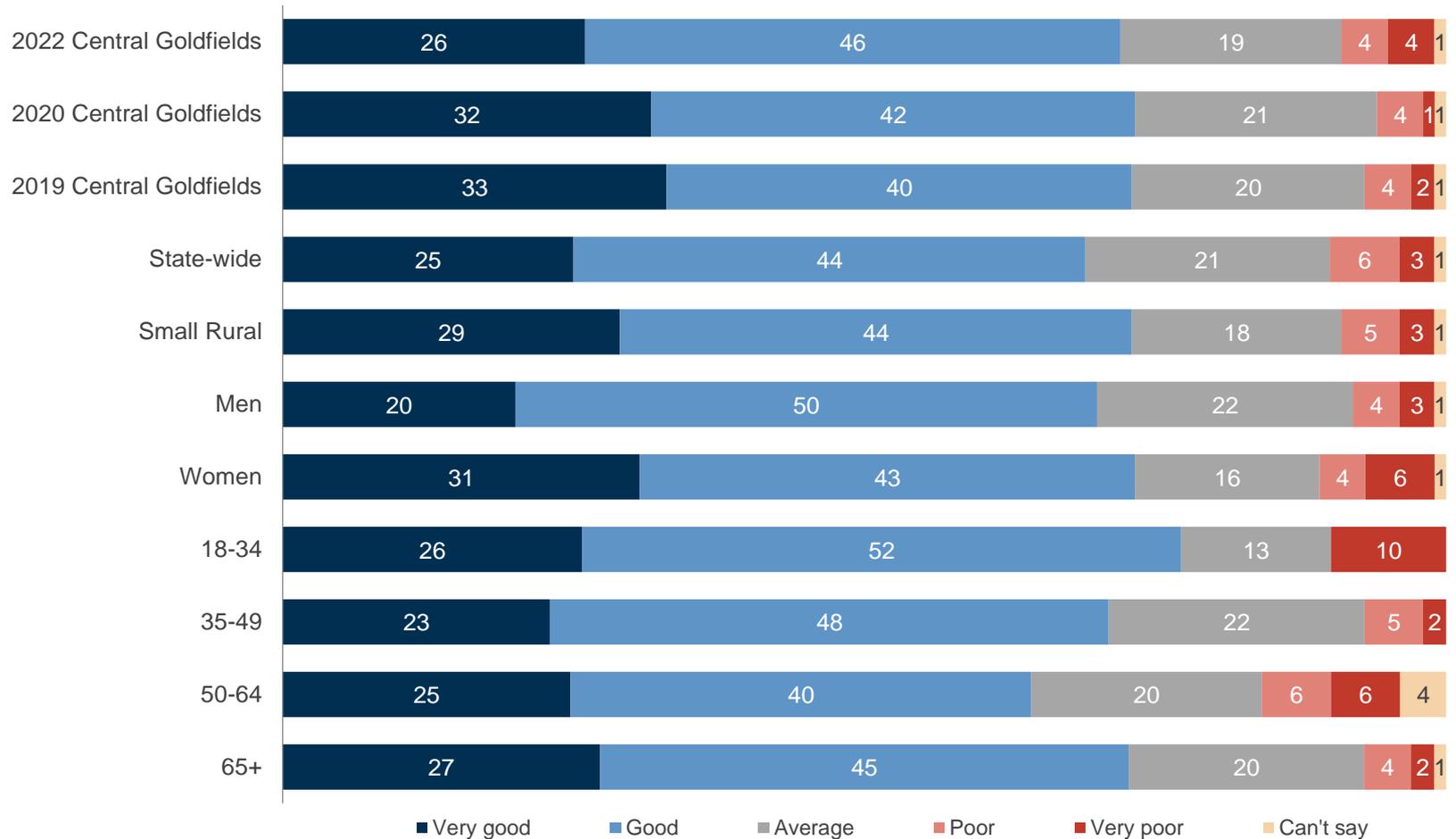
Q2. How has Council performed on 'The appearance of public areas' over the last 12 months? 116 of 240
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 43 Councils asked group: 14
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.



The appearance of public areas performance



2022 public areas performance (%)

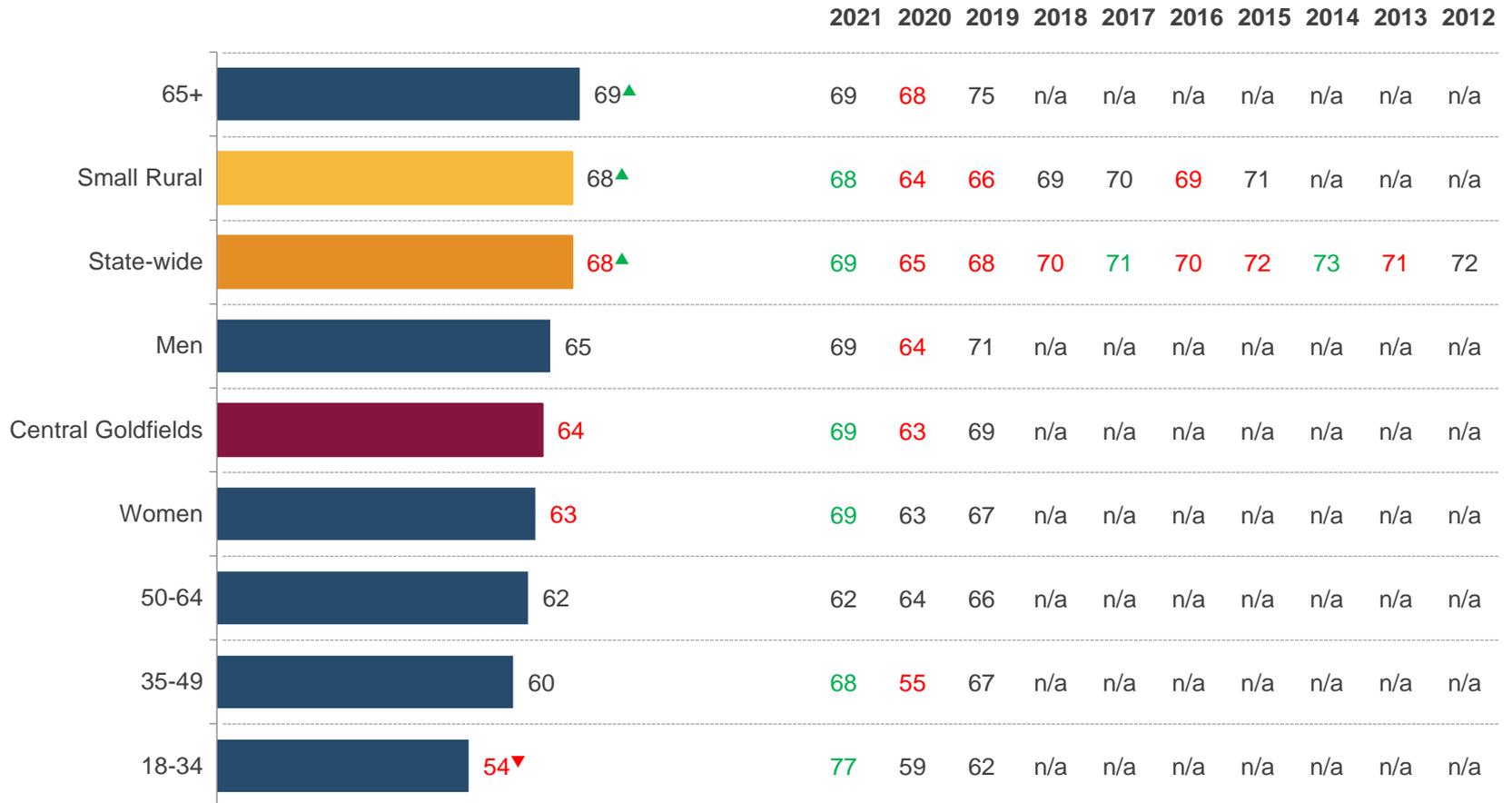




Waste management performance



2022 waste management performance (index scores)



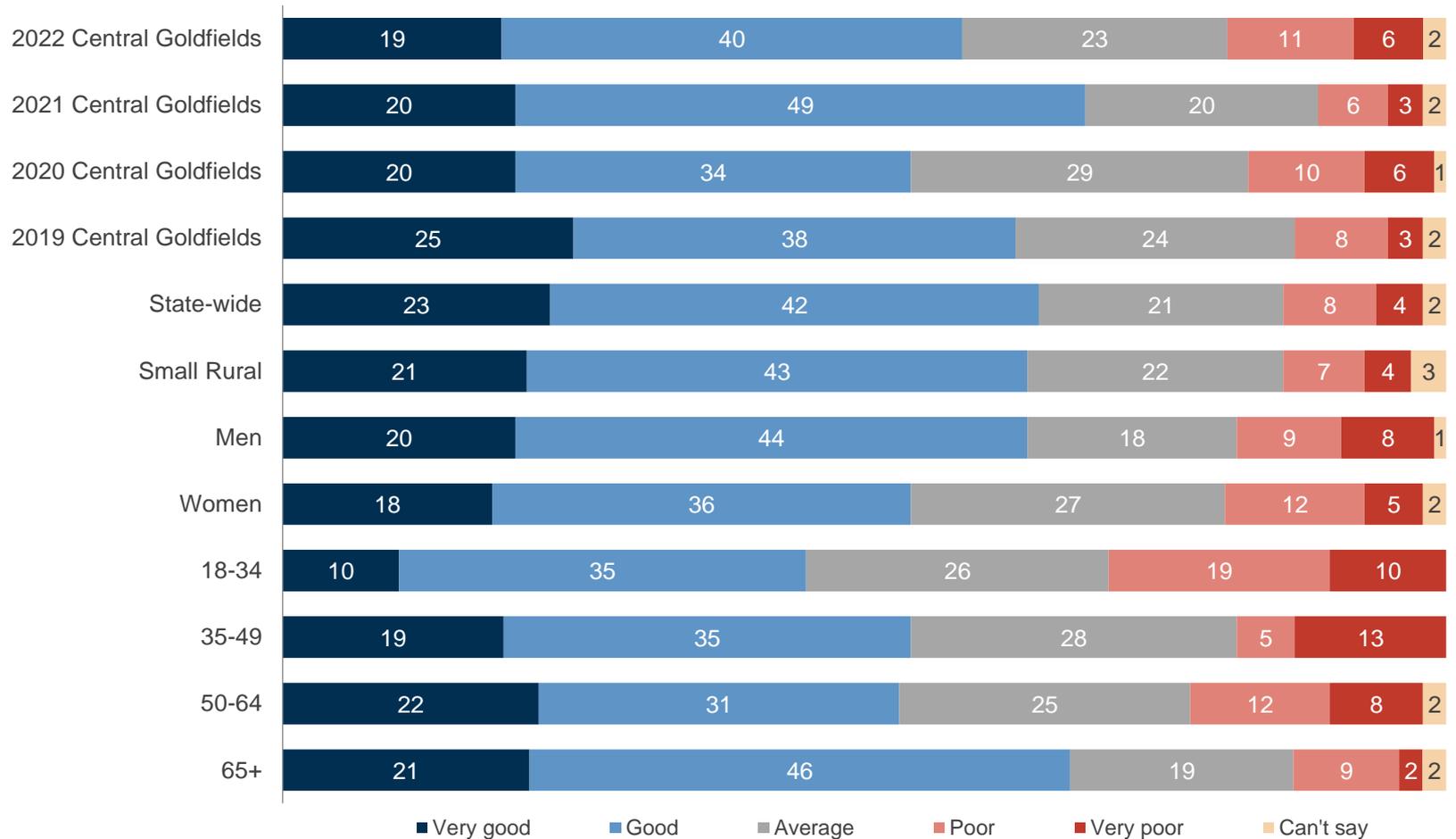
Q2. How has Council performed on 'Waste management' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.



Waste management performance



2022 waste management performance (%)





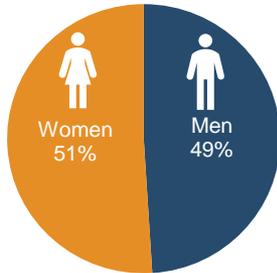
Detailed demographics



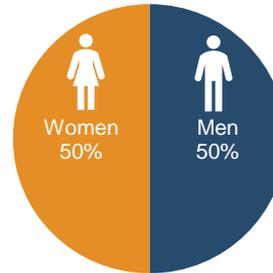
Gender and age profile

2022 gender

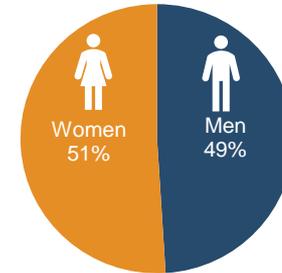
Central Goldfields



Small Rural

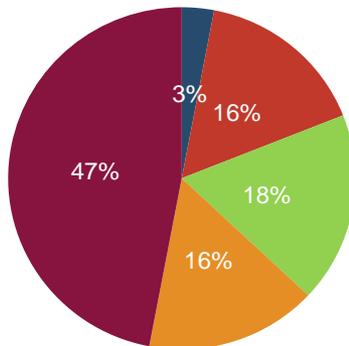


State-wide

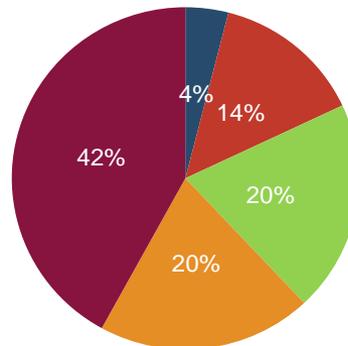


2022 age

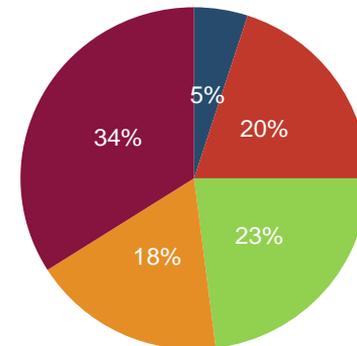
Central Goldfields



Small Rural



State-wide



■ 18-24 ■ 25-34 ■ 35-49 ■ 50-64 ■ 65+

■ 18-24 ■ 25-34 ■ 35-49 ■ 50-64 ■ 65+

■ 18-24 ■ 25-34 ■ 35-49 ■ 50-64 ■ 65+

S3. [Record gender] / S4. To which of the following age groups do you belong?

Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 67 Councils asked group: 19

Please note that for the reason of simplifying reporting, interlocking age and gender reporting



Appendix A: Index scores, margins of error and significant differences



Appendix A: Index Scores

Index Scores

Many questions ask respondents to rate council performance on a five-point scale, for example, from 'very good' to 'very poor', with 'can't say' also a possible response category. To facilitate ease of reporting and comparison of results over time, starting from the 2012 survey and measured against the state-wide result and the council group, an 'Index Score' has been calculated for such measures.

The Index Score is calculated and represented as a score out of 100 (on a 0 to 100 scale), with 'can't say' responses excluded from the analysis. The '% RESULT' for each scale category is multiplied by the 'INDEX FACTOR'. This produces an 'INDEX VALUE' for each category, which are then summed to produce the 'INDEX SCORE', equating to '60' in the following example.

Similarly, an Index Score has been calculated for the Core question 'Performance direction in the last 12 months', based on the following scale for each performance measure category, with 'Can't say' responses excluded from the calculation.

SCALE CATEGORIES	% RESULT	INDEX FACTOR	INDEX VALUE
Very good	9%	100	9
Good	40%	75	30
Average	37%	50	19
Poor	9%	25	2
Very poor	4%	0	0
Can't say	1%	--	INDEX SCORE 60

SCALE CATEGORIES	% RESULT	INDEX FACTOR	INDEX VALUE
Improved	36%	100	36
Stayed the same	40%	50	20
Deteriorated	23%	0	0
Can't say	1%	--	INDEX SCORE 56



Appendix A: Margins of error

The sample size for the 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for Central Goldfields Shire Council was n=401. Unless otherwise noted, this is the total sample base for all reported charts and tables.

The maximum margin of error on a sample of approximately n=401 interviews is +/-4.8% at the 95% confidence level for results around 50%. Margins of error will be larger for any sub-samples. As an example, a result of 50% can be read confidently as falling midway in the range 45.2% - 54.8%.

Maximum margins of error are listed in the table below, based on a population of 10,600 people aged 18 years or over for Central Goldfields Shire Council, according to ABS estimates.

Demographic	Actual survey sample size	Weighted base	Maximum margin of error at 95% confidence interval
Central Goldfields Shire Council	401	400	+/-4.8
Men	194	196	+/-7.0
Women	207	204	+/-6.8
18-34 years	31	78	+/-17.9
35-49 years	37	71	+/-16.3
50-64 years	85	64	+/-10.6
65+ years	248	187	+/-6.2



Appendix A: Significant difference reporting notation

Within tables and index score charts throughout this report, statistically significant differences at the 95% confidence level are represented by upward directing green (▲) and downward directing red arrows (▼).

Significance when noted indicates a significantly higher or lower result for the analysis group in comparison to the 'Total' result for the council for that survey question for that year. Therefore in the example below:

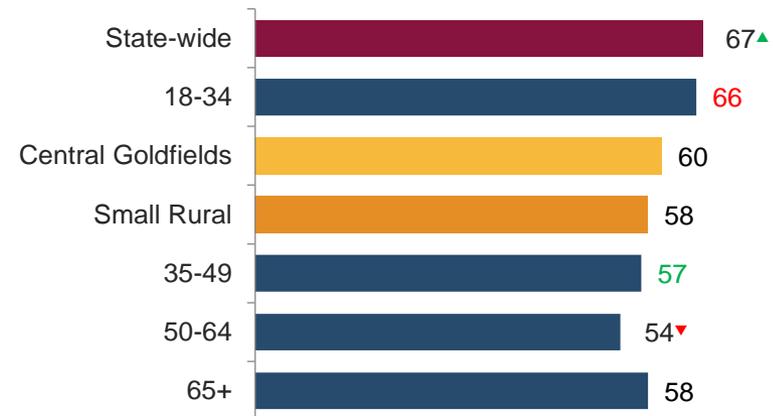
- ▲ The state-wide result is significantly higher than the overall result for the council.
- ▼ The result among 50-64 year olds is significantly lower than for the overall result for the council.

Further, results shown in green and red indicate significantly higher or lower results than in 2021.

Therefore in the example below:

- The result among 35-49 year olds in the council is **significantly higher** than the result achieved among this group in 2021.
- The result among 18-34 year olds in the council is **significantly lower** than the result achieved among this group in 2021.

**2022 overall performance (index scores)
(example extract only)**





Appendix A: Index score significant difference calculation

The test applied to the Indexes was an Independent Mean Test, as follows:

$$Z \text{ Score} = (\$1 - \$2) / \text{Sqrt} ((\$5^2 / \$3) + (\$6^2 / \$4))$$

Where:

- \$1 = Index Score 1
- \$2 = Index Score 2
- \$3 = unweighted sample count 1
- \$4 = unweighted sample count 2
- \$5 = standard deviation 1
- \$6 = standard deviation 2

All figures can be sourced from the detailed cross tabulations.

The test was applied at the 95% confidence interval, so if the Z Score was greater than +/- 1.954 the scores are significantly different.



Appendix B: Further project information



Appendix B: Further information

Further information about the report and explanations about the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey can be found in this section including:

- Background and objectives
- Analysis and reporting
- Glossary of terms

Detailed survey tabulations

Detailed survey tabulations are available in supplied Excel file.

Contacts

For further queries about the conduct and reporting of the 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, please contact JWS Research on

(03) 8685 8555 or via email:

admin@jwsresearch.com



Appendix B: Survey methodology and sampling

The 2022 results are compared with previous years, as detailed below:

- 2021, n=401 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 28th January – 18th March.
- 2020, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 30th January – 22nd March.
- 2019, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2018, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2017, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2016, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2015, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2014, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 31st January – 11th March.
- 2013, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 24th March.
- 2012, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 18th May – 30th June.

Minimum quotas of gender within age groups were applied during the fieldwork phase. Post-survey weighting was then conducted to ensure accurate representation of the age and gender profile of the Central Goldfields Shire Council area.

Any variation of +/-1% between individual results and net scores in this report or the detailed survey tabulations is due to rounding. In reporting, ‘—’ denotes not mentioned and ‘0%’ denotes mentioned by less than 1% of respondents. ‘Net’ scores refer to two or more response categories being combined into one category for simplicity of reporting.

This survey was conducted by Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) as a representative random probability survey of residents aged 18+ years in Central Goldfields Shire Council.

Survey sample matched to the demographic profile of Central Goldfields Shire Council as determined by the most recent ABS population estimates was purchased from an accredited supplier of publicly available phone records, including up to 60% mobile phone numbers to cater to the diversity of residents within Central Goldfields Shire Council, particularly younger people.

A total of n=401 completed interviews were achieved in Central Goldfields Shire Council. Survey fieldwork was conducted in the period of 27th January – 24th March, 2022.



Appendix B: Analysis and reporting

All participating councils are listed in the State-wide report published on the DELWP website. In 2022, 67 of the 79 Councils throughout Victoria participated in this survey. For consistency of analysis and reporting across all projects, Local Government Victoria has aligned its presentation of data to use standard council groupings. Accordingly, the council reports for the community satisfaction survey provide analysis using these standard council groupings. Please note that councils participating across 2012-2022 vary slightly.

Council Groups

Central Goldfields Shire Council is classified as a Small Rural council according to the following classification list:

- Metropolitan, Interface, Regional Centres, Large Rural & Small Rural.

Councils participating in the Small Rural group are:

- Alpine, Ararat, Benalla, Buloke, Central Goldfields, Gannawarra, Hepburn, Hindmarsh, Indigo, Loddon, Mansfield, Murrindindi, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Queenscliffe, Strathbogie, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack.

Wherever appropriate, results for Central Goldfields Shire Council for this 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey have been compared against other participating councils in the Small Rural group and on a state-wide basis. Please note that council groupings changed for 2015, and as such comparisons to council group results before that time can not be made within the reported charts.



Appendix B: 2012 survey revision

The survey was revised in 2012. As a result:

- The survey is now conducted as a representative random probability survey of residents aged 18 years or over in local councils, whereas previously it was conducted as a 'head of household' survey.
- As part of the change to a representative resident survey, results are now weighted post survey to the known population distribution of Central Goldfields Shire Council according to the most recently available Australian Bureau of Statistics population estimates, whereas the results were previously not weighted.
- The service responsibility area performance measures have changed significantly and the rating scale used to assess performance has also changed.

As such, the results of the 2012 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey should be considered as a benchmark. Please note that comparisons should not be made with the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey results from 2011 and prior due to the methodological and sampling changes. Comparisons in the period 2012-2022 have been made throughout this report as appropriate.



Appendix B: Core, optional and tailored questions

Core, optional and tailored questions

Over and above necessary geographic and demographic questions required to ensure sample representativeness, a base set of questions for the 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey was designated as 'Core' and therefore compulsory inclusions for all participating Councils.

These core questions comprised:

- Overall performance last 12 months (Overall performance)
- Value for money in services and infrastructure (Value for money)
- Contact in last 12 months (Contact)
- Rating of contact (Customer service)
- Overall council direction last 12 months (Council direction)
- Community consultation and engagement (Consultation)
- Decisions made in the interest of the community (Making community decisions)
- Condition of sealed local roads (Sealed local roads)
- Waste management

Reporting of results for these core questions can always be compared against other participating councils in the council group and against all participating councils state-wide. Alternatively, some questions in the 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey were optional. Councils also had the ability to ask tailored questions specific only to their council.



Appendix B: Analysis and reporting

Reporting

Every council that participated in the 2022 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey receives a customised report. In addition, the State government is supplied with this State-wide summary report of the aggregate results of 'Core' and 'Optional' questions asked across all council areas surveyed, which is available at:

<https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/our-programs/council-community-satisfaction-survey>

Tailored questions commissioned by individual councils are reported only to the commissioning council and not otherwise shared unless by express written approval of the commissioning council.



Appendix B: Glossary of terms

Core questions: Compulsory inclusion questions for all councils participating in the CSS.

CSS: 2022 Victorian Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

Council group: One of five classified groups, comprising: metropolitan, interface, regional centres, large rural and small rural.

Council group average: The average result for all participating councils in the council group.

Highest / lowest: The result described is the highest or lowest result across a particular demographic sub-group e.g. men, for the specific question being reported. Reference to the result for a demographic sub-group being the highest or lowest does not imply that it is significantly higher or lower, unless this is specifically mentioned.

Index score: A score calculated and represented as a score out of 100 (on a 0 to 100 scale). This score is sometimes reported as a figure in brackets next to the category being described, e.g. men 50+ (60).

Optional questions: Questions which councils had an option to include or not.

Percentages: Also referred to as 'detailed results', meaning the proportion of responses, expressed as a percentage.

Sample: The number of completed interviews, e.g. for a council or within a demographic sub-group.

Significantly higher / lower: The result described is significantly higher or lower than the comparison result based on a statistical significance test at the 95% confidence limit. If the result referenced is statistically higher or lower then this will be specifically mentioned, however not all significantly higher or lower results are referenced in summary reporting.

State-wide average: The average result for all participating councils in the State.

Tailored questions: Individual questions tailored by and only reported to the commissioning council.

Weighting: Weighting factors are applied to the sample for each council based on available age and gender proportions from ABS census information to ensure reported results are proportionate to the actual population of the council, rather than the achieved survey sample.

**THERE ARE
OVER
6 MILLION
PEOPLE IN
VICTORIA...**

**FIND OUT
WHAT THEY'RE
THINKING.**



Contact us
03 8685 8555



Follow us
[@JWSResearch](#)

John Scales
Founder
jcales@jwsresearch.com

Mark Zuker
Managing Director
mzucker@jwsresearch.com

Katrina Cox
Director of Client Services
kcox@jwsresearch.com

8.5 MARYBOROUGH AERODROME TASKFORCE TERM EXTENSION

Author: Economic Development Officer

Responsible Officer: General Manager Community Wellbeing

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

Council established the Maryborough Aerodrome Taskforce to provide advice on the future use and development of Maryborough Aerodrome that will provide the best economic and social benefits to the community.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for an extension to the initial term of the Taskforce.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Acknowledge the good work and efforts, amid disruptions and delays, provided by the Taskforce within its initial term; and*
- 2. Endorses an extension to the term of the Maryborough Aerodrome Taskforce, and its existing membership, for a further twelve months until August 2023.*

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025 – Our Growing Economy

The Community's vision 2. Well supported business and industry

Initiative: Support existing and new and emerging business and industry.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At its meeting of 1 December 2020, Council raised the future of the aerodrome as urgent business. The Council meeting of 27 April 2021 resolved to allocate funding for a Maryborough Aerodrome business plan, establish the Maryborough Aerodrome Taskforce and commence an Expression of Interest process for Taskforce membership.

At the Council Meeting of 29 July 2021, a six-person Taskforce was appointed - consisting of Neil Arbuthnot (Chair), Neville Boyle, Rod Brown, Ian Carfrae, Anthony Ohlsen and Kim Skyring.

A budget allocation of \$35,000 was provided to undertake an independent report on the management model, costings and the potential for further development and expansion opportunities.

REPORT

The approved Maryborough Aerodrome Taskforce Terms of Reference outlines the selection process and initial appointment period, together with the role that the Taskforce was asked to undertake:

SELECTION OF MEMBERS

The members will be selected by calling for nominations. An advertisement will be placed in the local media and on Council's website.

Interested representatives must submit an Expression of Interest.

Appointment will be for an initial period of 12 months and will be reviewed one month prior to the expiry of the term.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Taskforce does not operate with any delegated powers conferred by Council, The Taskforce provides guidance and recommendations to Council for decisions relating to the management and development of the Aerodrome.

Roles:

- 1. Contribute to the development of a Business Plan for the Aerodrome that best serves the economic and social interests of the community by
 - a. identifying issues and opportunities for the growth and development of the Aerodrome including, but not restricted to, commercial and industry development; tourism potential; pilot training; refuelling facility; health and medical services; leisure and lifestyle and emergency management;*
 - b. identifying options for the day to day management of the Aerodrome; and*
 - c. considering the costs and benefits of CASA registration for the Aerodrome if recommended to meet the objectives of the business case**
- 2. Upon endorsement of the Business Plan by Council, undertake a review of the rescinded 2012 Maryborough Aerodrome Master Plan that encompasses the operational needs of the aerodrome and functional layout, management responsibilities, and any other matters needed to realise the business case model.*
- 3. identify the investment required to implement the Master Plan and the cost benefit of this.*
- 4. Provide advice to Council on any grants or other funding opportunities available to implement the Business Plan and or Master Plan.*

The first Taskforce meeting was held on 27th September 2021 and eight subsequent meetings have been held to date. Lockdowns due to the Covid 19 pandemic across the past year resulted in delays in commencing various Taskforce actions. The early identification of safety and potential risk factors has further delayed the ability of the Taskforce to provide input into

the development of the business case as proposed. A safety issue concerning pilot landing was identified by the Taskforce resulting in the need to undertake an Obstacle Limitation Survey (OLS). The OLS report highlighted some safety matters that were subsequently used as part of briefings in January and March 2022 by the Taskforce to Council on potential risks and safety currently existing at the aerodrome. Consequently, priority was diverted to addressing the safety and risks issues over the development of the scoping documentation for the business case.

A draft scoping document is now being reviewed by the Taskforce, which is the first action outlined in the role of the Taskforce. Additional time is needed to finalise it before seeking to procure external expertise to undertake the business case. Once the business case has been completed, the Taskforce would then be charged with the 2012 Master Plan review and identifying future investment funding options.

A further year extension of the original 12 month period for the Taskforce would be a recognition of the initial challenges around meetings due to Covid restrictions; their identification of potential safety and risk issues; the need to brief the Council on their findings to date; and potential actions to address these concerns.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

No community consultation is required for this matter. A review of the Taskforce was part of the Council resolution to establish the Maryborough Aerodrome Taskforce. Taskforce members have been canvassed on their willingness to remain on the Taskforce, should Council grant a time extension to the Taskforce, and all have indicated they are willing to do so.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The 2021/22 Council Budget provided an allocation of \$35,000 for the Maryborough Aerodrome business case. The prioritisation of the safety and risk issues has resulted in approximately \$20,000 expenditure to undertake the OLS, engage external expertise to undertake a review of the safety and risk issues and to obtain data on flight movements at the Aerodrome.

The recent and current activities by experts in aviation being undertaken around an OLS, safety and risk assessment, and pilot movements data collection will provide valuable information that would reduce some of the costs normally associated with a business case investigation as envisaged.

Consideration on the level of additional specific funding in 2022/23 financial year to undertake the business case will need to be predicated on the outcomes of the external safety analysis currently underway to meet safe landing conditions for pilots in the immediate to medium term. The Economic Development Officer would be expected to continue to provide administrative support to the Taskforce.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk Property and Assets - Failure to maintain, renew and expand our assets in a timely and robust way, that considers service and delivery needs by developing a business case to manage the future of the aerodrome asset.

CONCLUSION

Council established the Maryborough Aerodrome Taskforce to serve four key roles, as outlined in the Terms of Reference. Two major factors, Covid 19 and the early identification of safety and potential risk issues, has resulted in the Taskforce being unable to progress those roles as required over the past year. A further term extension of 12 months would enable the Taskforce, with its endorsed membership, to continue its work as required to deliver on its roles and responsibilities.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Nil

8.6 YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP ENDORSEMENT BRIEFING

Author: Youth Worker

Responsible Officer: General Manager Community Wellbeing

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the proposed membership of the 2022-23 Central Goldfields Shire Youth Council (Youth Council).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse:

1. the successful applicants of the Youth Council expression of interest process as Central Goldfields Shire Youth Councillors, and
2. the Youth Council planned project actions outlined in this report.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025 – Leading Change

The Community's vision 1. Everyone is valued and belongs and has every chance to grow, prosper and thrive

Local Government Act 2020: part 3, division 1, no. 56, "the community engagement principles", pg. 70

Central Goldfields Shire Council Plan 2021 – 2025 – Strategic objective 4, action 1: actively engage, inform and build the leadership capacity of community members and organisations.

- "Build the capacity of young and emerging leaders through youth leadership and co-design initiatives."

Central Goldfields Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2024

Our aim: to establish and sustain a partnership approach (pg. 18)

- "Undertake deeper engagement with children and young people about how they can lead actions to support community health and wellbeing"

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Central Goldfields Shire Council has a Funding Agreement with the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to deliver the Engage! Program 2022-2024. A key commitment is the establishment of a Youth Council.

There are no previous Council decisions regarding this project.

The Youth Council project has four primary goals:

- To create a platform from which young people can provide advice to the Central Goldfields Shire Council on plans, policies, strategies and projects so that they reflect the needs of young people;
- To engage with young people to identify their short, medium and long-term priorities;
- To advocate on issues that directly impact young people; and
- To providing opportunities for young people in Central Goldfields to develop as leaders in their communities.

The Youth Council is open to young people aged 14 – 23 who live, work, study, volunteer, or play in, or otherwise have a strong connection to, the Central Goldfields Shire and the surrounding region. It is an advisory group and does not have decision-making capacity. Young people participate on a voluntary basis and are not remunerated.

There have been other Youth Council or Youth Action Group projects in Central Goldfields. However, were unable to continue due to a lack of ongoing funding.

Recruitment

In May 2022 the Central Goldfields Shire Youth team opened a public expression of interest process in which young people could apply to be a Youth Councillor. As part of the expression of interest process, applicants were asked to respond to key selection criteria outlining why they were interested in becoming a Youth Councillor; what they are passionate about; what issues they believe to be important for young people in the community; any previous leadership experience; and their goals for achievements in the role. The expression of interest process was open for the month of May and closed on Tuesday, May 31st.

The expression of interest process advertised 12 available roles; the Shire received 14 applications. All applicants then proceeded to an interview process in June. They were interviewed by a 3-member panel consisting of the Mayor, CGSC Youth Worker, and a community member.

At the conclusion of the interview process on June 15th the panel's feedback regarding the applicants was overwhelmingly positive. The panel recommended that 13 of the 14 applicants be accepted to the Youth Council. The remaining applicant did not engage with the interview process or return calls and so was unable to be progressed.

The makeup of the body of successful applicants is as follows:

- They come from the communities of Maryborough, Dunolly, Adelaide Lead, Bealiba, Avoca, and Newstead.
- Four are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- They range in age from 14 – 17 years.

REPORT

Proposed project actions

The current Youth Council term is proposed to run until December 2023, at which point current Youth Councillors will finish their term and be required to re-apply if they wish to continue.

The Youth Council will meet fortnightly during school terms and will be governed by a Terms of Reference document to be finalised in consultation with the Youth Councillors. Youth Councillors will also be asked to work collaboratively to define priority areas they would like to focus on. This will assist in providing structure and direction to their term.

The Terms of Reference governing the Youth Council is currently in development in a collaborative process with the Youth Councillors. As the first cohort of Youth Councillors as part of this program, they are being given the opportunity to shape the document and provide feedback. A framework taken from the City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council Terms of Reference was brought in draft to Youth Councillors for feedback during induction, and their suggested changes are being incorporated into the document. The finalised Terms of Reference and Priorities Statement documents, when approved by the Youth Council, will be brought to Council for endorsement.

Youth Councillors will be offered a series of training opportunities to assist them to grow in their roles and will receive the support of the Central Goldfields Shire Council Youth team. The Youth Worker responsible will also explore mentoring opportunities for the Youth Council.

Following endorsement and public announcement of the Youth Council membership, an application process will be established for both internal and external parties to present concepts, plans, and ideas to the Youth Council for feedback or input. The application process will be overseen by the Youth Worker and managed in balance of Youth Councillors' commitments and capacities. The wellbeing of Youth Councillors is paramount within this project, and the role of the Youth Worker will be to ensure Youth Councillors are not overcommitted or overburdened by their participation in the program.

At minimum, Youth Councillors will be asked to provide feedback into the Children and Young People First Project (VicHealth Local Government Partnership) as an action of the *Central Goldfields Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025*. They will also be asked to provide letters of support for relevant Council projects e.g. recreation infrastructure development applications targeted at young people.

The selected members of the Youth Council are:

- Anakin Hurley
- Annabelle Verdon-Price
- Amayah Rowe
- Benjamin Smith
- Elizabeth Lewington
- Felix Skilling
- Khoa Do
- Miller Tranter
- Ned Cotter
- Safhira Rowe
- Silas Knighton-Weire
- Talos Adcock
- Tiago Santos

There are currently no other established or ongoing forums for young people to provide advice to Council and other organisations in the community. Additionally existing leadership and skill development programs for young people are piecemeal and disjointed. The Youth Council project aims to provide a platform through which young people can gain skills to develop as

leaders in the community, providing a distinct benefit to young people in the community as their voices are represented.

The Youth Council's objective to advocate for issues impacting on young people and to create an impetus for positive change in the community.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

The expression of interest process for Youth Council applications was advertised to the community on Monday, 2 May 2022 and throughout the month until it closed on Tuesday, 31 May.

The expression of interest opportunity was advertised by media release, social media, newspaper advertisements, distribution to community networks and schools, and direct engagement with young people already involved in community groups.

Council's Community Engagement Team will provide public announcements and promotion of the Youth Councillors and their role.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Youth Council project is fully funded through an external funding agreement with the Victorian State Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Engage! program until December 2024.

No additional funding or resource implications will be incurred by the adoption or implementation of the recommendations of this report.

Ongoing funding of the Youth Council project beyond December 2024 will be dependent on the successful acquisition of further funding, most likely through the Engage! program.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk Community engagement - Inadequate stakeholder management or engagement impacting brand reputation and community satisfaction in Council decision making by by creating a platform for ongoing community engagement with young people - as a demographic of the community.

The primary risks of declining to endorse the proposed membership of the Youth Council are:

- Reputational risk to the organisation related to a lack of support for young people.
- Additional resource requirements from staff to re-advertise or re-design the program to meet requirements of the external funding agreement.

The primary risks involved in the Youth Council project are:

- A possible lack of ongoing funding beyond December 2024 preventing the project from continuing and removing the associated benefits to young people and the community. This may be mitigated through renewed applications for external funding opportunities where they arise.
- Lack of retention of young people involved / high turnover rates. Part of the Youth Council's draft Terms of Reference outlines a process for advertising and filling casual vacancies in the event that a member decides to step down from their role or otherwise leaves the program.

- Reputational risk to the organisation if there is a negative incident involving the Youth Council or a Youth Councillor. This is mitigated by requiring Youth Councillors to abide by the organisation's Code of Conduct and other relevant policies, and through adequate supervision of Youth Councillors by staff during meetings and activities.

CONCLUSION

The overarching objectives of the Youth Council project are to provide a forum through which the feedback and input of young people can be sought by and provided to Council on relevant topics and projects; and to create a program through which young people can develop skills and be supported to become leaders in the community.

There are no financial or resource implications if the recommendation is adopted and implemented.

This report therefore recommends that Council endorse the membership and planned project actions of the 2022-23 Central Goldfields Youth Council.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2022 – 2024 Central Goldfields Engage! Program Plan Funding Agreement Extract

Activity type <i>For example: youth-led projects</i>	Description <i>Provide details on the activity that you will be delivering.</i>	Frequency <i>For example: one-off, weekly, monthly, per term</i>	Annual participation target
Civic participation groups	<p>Central Goldfields Youth Advisory Group</p> <p>The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) will be formed in the early 2022 through public advertisement and will be the primary group through which the broader Central Goldfields Engage! program will be co-designed. This group will provide feedback on current needs for young people in the community and be given scope to design the responses with assistance from Central Goldfields staff. The name of this group may change with feedback from young people participating.</p> <p>The group will also provide a platform for young people's voices and leadership in Council decision-making in the municipality.</p> <p>Young people participating in the YAG will be supported to develop policy platforms and advocate for young peoples' needs and perspectives to be incorporated not only into strategic Council documents (such as the Youth Strategy, Health and Wellbeing Plan, and Council Plan) but also to be promoted in other community forums where appropriate. Participants will sign up for a 1 year term (with the option to re-join in subsequent years) and be supported through a program of personal development training activities, community celebrations of achievement, and staff support.</p> <p>Emphasis is placed on the need for representation of a diverse range of young people in this group. Target groups include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people - LGBTIQ+-identifying young people - Young people with a disability - Young people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds - Young parents - Young people from different age groups - Young people in out-of-home care <p>The long-term aim of this project (by the end of 2025) is to foster the development of young leaders in the community and advocate for the transition of the group into a formalized Youth Council, with its own scope for decision-making within Council business.</p>	Fortnightly / monthly (pending young people's feedback)	10

8.7 MAJORCA PLANTATION AND TALBOT TIMBER

Author: Economic Development Officer

Responsible Officer: General Manager Community Wellbeing

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide recommended actions following the recent deputation to Councillors from Alistair Hull (Talbot Timber owner) and Sebastian Klein (Wood4Good Director). The deputation outlined their organisations' aspiration to use the Majorca Plantation State Forest as a demonstration model for sustainable timber production and to request Council advocacy support for this project.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Writes to the relevant State Minister to advocate for the Majorca Plantation to be developed as a demonstration of sustainable timber production;*
- 2. Provides a letter of support to accompany funding program applications by Talbot Timber to undertake a silvicultural management plan;*
- 3. Support and encourage new plantation establishments in the Shire; and*
- 4. Shire staff continue to liaise with relevant government departments to understand opportunities to further support this region's timber communities.*

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025 – Our Growing Economy

The Community's vision 2. Well supported business and industry

Initiative: Includes support for existing business in the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy

Central Goldfields Shire Economic Development Strategy 2020 – 2025

Theme 1: A productive, sustainable and creative shire

Action: Attract investment and develop infrastructure, innovation & capabilities in the local agriculture sector

Action: Support renewable energy and green industry initiatives and projects

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Strategy and Economic Development team visited the Talbot Timber site on Wednesday 2nd December 2020 to meet with the owner, Alistair Hull, and Sebastian Klein, a Director of Wood4Good, following a request for assistance.

Talbot Timber currently operate a timber mill site that requires upgrading but the viability of investing in this is threatened by diminishing access to timber in nearby state forests. The prospect of greater access to local timber, via the Majorca Plantation, would underpin a significant investment in a new purpose build facility within the Shire. The company currently has limited access to the Majorca Plantation and is seeking support for being granted control of the whole plantation. Their intent is to demonstrate long term sustainability of this industry in regional centres whilst VicForests continues to develop and evolve their policies on future forest management.

The Majorca Plantation State Forest is around 500 acres (approx. 200 hectares) of sugar gum trees that were planted in the gold rush era, to replace the timber cut down to enable the gold mining industry and people working in the area to survive and prosper. This became less important as regrowth and the mining intensity diminished. The current Majorca site also functions as a recreational area with walking and bike riding tracks that encourage people to the area.

Talbot Timber and Wood4Good approached the Shire's Strategy and Economic Development team to seek support for their proposal around the Majorca Plantation and the expected increased activities including expansion of the existing timber products. The Talbot sawmill operator and Wood4Good alliance is seeking to transition to a sustainable model as native forest access for harvesting decreases. The ability to gain a long-term lease over the 500 acres could offer a model of sustainability for the transitioning Victorian Timber Industry, with particular benefits for small to medium regional towns.

REPORT

The proponents suggest that the Majorca Sugar Gum Plantation presents a demonstration of sustainable timber production that would create additional employment and value add to the Central Goldfields Shire and wider regional economy. Staff from the Shire undertook to explore targeted access to VicForests, via its networks, to enable the proposal to be considered. VicForests is a state-owned business responsible for the harvest, commercial sale and regrowing of timber from Victoria's state forests on behalf of the government. VicForests' remit is to regrow all harvested areas with the same type of forest that was originally there. The Majorca plantation does not fit the standard VicForests model as it is an introduced monoculture rather than re-growth of local endemic species.

The development of a Silvicultural Management Plan (SMP) generally enables the identification of goals and objectives; location details; protection and maintenance; description

of the various species of trees and inventory data; yield calculations; harvesting; and actions and control arrangements in the forest area. This would be an important activity to demonstrate transferability of learnings from the SMP to future plantations post 2030.

Consequently there is a need for Councillors to consider seeking the support of the State Minister to address this opportunity to secure the future of the Majorca Plantation for a range of benefits including carbon sequestration & biodiversity, sustainable timber options and ongoing economic activity in both the Shire and the region.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

The Economic Development Strategy has highlighted the unmet opportunities for agribusiness in the Shire. This Majorca Plantation proposal has the potential to be a showcase of a local solution to a state-wide issue around timber harvesting and the value-added production. Advocacy to the State Minister is considered crucial by Talbot Timber to allow the Plantation to be excluded from the VicForests charter so a transition to sustainable agroforestry can be demonstrated. It is also their belief that there is a need to seek Departmental support for timber communities in the region beyond 2030 when native forest clearing is banned.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct financial cost to Council arising from this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk of Community Well-being - Failure to recognise and manage the impact of changing social and economic conditions on the community by considering proposals brought forward.

CONCLUSION

The recent deputation was an opportunity for Councillors to hear directly from both Alistair Hull (Talbot Timber owner) and Sebastian Klein (Wood4Good Director) regarding their proposal and associated request for advocacy from the Shire. Supporting the recommendations would provide an opportunity to address sustainability and growth of a local business as well as an economic boost to the Shire's desire to grow the agribusiness sector, including agroforestry, in the region.

ATTACHMENTS

NIL

8.8 PLANNING PERMIT 018/21 FOR BROILER FARM AT 683 AND 705 BARINGHUP ROAD, CARISBROOK

Author: Acting Manager Statutory Services

Responsible Officer: General Manager Infrastructure Assets and Planning

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek a Council determination for planning permit application 018/21 for the use and development of the land for a broiler farm (Class A with a capacity up to 400,000 birds) and ancillary caretaker's dwelling with associated buildings and works within the Farming Zone at 683 and 705 Baringhup Road, Carisbrook.

Notice of the application has not been given as the proposal meets the 'Class A' requirements under the *Victorian Code for Broiler Farms 2009 (plus 2018 amendments)*. Where a permit application for a broiler farm meets the Class A requirements, the Central Goldfields Planning Scheme exempts it from any notice requirements and review rights. In short, the permit application was not advertised to the owners and occupiers of surrounding land, because the mandatory State Government provisions within the planning scheme explicitly prevents this.

The application has been assessed against the Central Goldfields Planning Scheme and it is considered that the proposed use and development is appropriate.

This report recommendation is that a planning permit be issued.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, having considered all matters generally required under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the Central Goldfields Planning Scheme, resolves to grant and issue a planning permit in respect of planning permit application no. 018/21 for the land known and described as 683 and 705 Baringhup Road, Carisbrook, for the use and development of the land for a broiler farm (Class A with a capacity up to 400,000 birds) and ancillary caretaker's dwelling with associated buildings and works within the Farming Zone, in accordance with the endorsed plans and subject to the following conditions:

Endorsed plans/documents

1. The use and development of the land must be undertaken generally in accordance with the endorsed plans and any endorsed documents. The endorsed plans and any other plan or document endorsed under a condition of this permit must not be altered or modified without the written consent of the responsible authority.

Site requirements

2. A maximum of 400,000 birds must not be exceeded on the site at any time.

3. The use and development of the land must be carried out at all times in accordance with the requirements of the *Victorian Code for Broiler Farms 2009 (plus 2018 amendments)* or as revised/updated, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
4. The use and development of the land must be carried out at all times in accordance with the requirements of the endorsed Environmental Management Plan, including:
 - a. Spent litter and other waste must be removed from the property and must not be stockpiled, composted, or spread on the broiler farm site.
 - b. Any temporary stockpiling of spent litter must be done on an impervious surface, appropriately bunded and located 100m from any waterway/drainage line.
 - c. Dead birds must be collected daily and removed from the broiler farm site, while being appropriately managed and disposed.
 - d. Dead birds must not to be stored in open containers/bins under any circumstances.
 - e. All waste transported by vehicles must be securely covered to prevent dust or spillage.

Materials and finishes

5. All buildings and structures must be clad and roofed in non-reflective materials and finished in natural colours and tones to improve their visual integration with the natural landscape, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Landscaping

6. All landscaping works must be carried out and completed in accordance with the endorsed plan to the satisfaction of the responsible authority within three (3) months of the commencement of use or immediately within the next suitable planting season.
7. Once the landscaping is carried out, it must thereafter be maintained in good health, including the replacement of any dead or diseased plants to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
8. The landscaped areas must not be used for any other purpose except with the prior written consent of the responsible authority.

Landscaping performance bond

9. Before the landscaping works are carried out, the permit holder/landowner must establish a suitable landscaping performance bond to ensure effective implementation and maintenance of the landscaping until it becomes well established, including:
 - a. A quote that the permit holder/landowner obtains from a reputable landscape business to implement the endorsed landscaping, with sufficient detail to identify the costs of materials, plants and labour;
 - b. The responsible authority's verification of the quote;

- c. Application of a 25 per cent margin of the verified quote for unforeseen costs (that is, the total bond equals the cost of the quotation plus a 25 per cent margin);
 - d. A bank guarantee for the total amount of the bond to be lodged by the permit holder/landowner with the responsible authority; and
 - e. A timeframe for the landscaping works to be completed.
10. When the landscaping works are completed to the satisfaction of the responsible authority, 85 per cent of the bond shall be released to the permit holder/landowner. The remaining 15 per cent of the bond shall be retained by the responsible authority as a maintenance bond for three years after the landscaping works are completed.
 11. At the end of the three-year maintenance period, there shall be an inspection by the responsible authority and release of the maintenance bond if the landscaping has been maintained to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. If the landscaping has not been satisfactorily maintained, the maintenance bond amount shall be used by the responsible authority to restore the landscaping to the required standards.

Complaint management

12. The permit holder must keep a written record of any complaints that are received regarding the use and development of the land allowed under this permit. The permit holder must make this record available to the responsible authority on request.
13. The broiler farm operation must nominate a designated contact who will generally be available to discuss the general operation of the site should the need arise. The permit holder must update the responsible authority within a reasonable timeframe if this contact changes.

Lighting

14. Any lighting must be located, designed, and baffled to avoid or minimise spill and impacts on nearby sensitive uses, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Site identification

15. A sign identifying the broiler farm site must be clearly displayed at the main access point.

Goulburn-Murray Water

16. All construction and ongoing activities must be in accordance with sediment control principles outlined in 'Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control' (EPA, 1991).
17. The development must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Victorian Code for Broiler Farms, 2009 (including 2018 amendments).
18. Potentially contaminated stormwater and drainage from the sheds and hardstand areas must be directed to a retention dam which must be designed with a capacity and freeboard to enable the run-off from a 1 in 10-year storm to be retained. Any overflow from the dam must not cause erosion.

19. The retention dam must be lined with an impervious liner and if clay is used it must be compacted to a seepage rate of not greater than 1×10^{-9} m/sec. The dam must be operated to a minimum level to ensure the liner does not dry out and crack. There must be no overflow of water from the dam directed to any waterways.
20. Stormwater from catchment unrelated to the development area must not be directed to the retention dam.
21. The floors of the sheds must be constructed with an impervious surface such as concrete or of clay compacted to achieve a design permeability of 1×10^{-9} m/sec. The shed must be designed to ensure that all litter can be retained within the shed until removal is required.
22. Contaminated litter removed from the sheds must be transported off site by an approved contractor to an approved site.
23. There must be no spent litter from the sheds stockpiled on the site. Any temporary storage areas for wet litter must have an impermeable base and bunding to ensure contaminated run-off does not discharge from the temporary storage area.
24. No land application of contaminated litter is to occur.
25. All dead birds must be disposed of off-site or managed on-site to the satisfaction of the EPA.
26. All wastewater from the proposed manager's residence and amenities buildings must be treated and disposed of using EPA approved systems, installed, operated, and maintained in compliance with the relevant EPA Code of Practice and Certificate of Conformity.
27. All wastewater disposal areas must be located at least 100m from any waterways, 60 from any dams, 40m from any drainage lines and at least 20m from any bores.
28. The wastewater disposal areas must be kept free of all infrastructure including buildings, driveways, carparking and service trenching and must be planted with appropriate vegetation to maximise their performance. Stormwater must be diverted away.
29. Any chemicals stored onsite must be kept in accordance with relevant EPA Publications and Australian Standards.

Engineering

Roads

30. Hurses Lane is to be constructed from Baringhup Road to 25 metres north of the main entrance to the proposed development. The road to be constructed to accommodate B-Double trucks, with a minimum pavement width of 6.6 metres and a design depth of pavement to be verified by subgrade and pavement materials testing.
31. The intersection of Baringhup Road and Hurses Lane is to be asphalt overlaid with a 40mm thick 10mm aggregate Type H asphalt for 50 metres in length (25 metres either side of the centre-line of Hurses Lane), and 25 metres into Hurses Lane.

32. Prior to the commencement of any roadworks, the permit holder/landowner(s) must submit detailed construction plans and make further application for, and have approved, a Consent for Works permit. All works constructed or carried out must be in accordance with the approved plans/permit(s) to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Access

33. The use and development of the land must be carried out at all times in accordance with the requirements of the endorsed Traffic Management Plan, including that access to and from the broiler farm site must be from Hurses Lane via Baringhup Road. No alternative routes are permitted without approval from the responsible authority.
34. The intersection of Hurses Lane and the internal access road must be designed to accommodate B-Double trucks to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
35. Prior to the commencement of any crossover/driveway works, the permit holder/landowner(s) must submit detailed construction plans and make further application for, and have approved, a driveway crossing permit(s). All works constructed or carried out must be in accordance with the approved plans/permit(s) and to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
36. Once constructed, the crossover must be thereafter maintained by the landowner(s) in good condition to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Loading/unloading

37. All loading/unloading of vehicles and collection/delivery of goods to and from the site must be undertaken entirely within the boundaries of the site and conducted to cause minimum interference with other traffic, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
38. The surface of parking and loading areas as well as internal access roads must be constructed to a relevant specification and maintained to the satisfaction of the responsible authority to prevent dust and drainage run-off causing a loss of amenity to the site or broader area. All such surfaces, areas and roads must be constructed to ensure all-weather use and access.

Drainage

39. All stormwater must be accommodated and treated within the subject land to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
40. All stormwater and surface water drainage from the proposed buildings, hard stand areas, driveways and yards must be designed to be contained within the site and designed for stormwater quality and quantity to comply with the *Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines for Urban Storm water (CSIRO) 1999*, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
41. All stormwater and surface water drainage from the proposed buildings, hard standing areas, driveways, and yards is to be collected and discharged to the proposed retention dam on the development to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

42. In the event of an extreme stormwater event, any discharge of stormwater from the proposed dam to the surrounding land shall be treated and managed to prevent erosion of the land to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Expiry

43. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:
- a. The development is not commenced within two years of the date of this permit.
 - b. The development is not completed within six years of the date of this permit.
 - c. The use is not commenced within six years of the date of this permit.
 - d. The use allowed by this permit is discontinued for a period of two years after commencing.

The responsible authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before the permit expires or within six months afterwards (for a request to extend the time to commence a development) or twelve months after the permit expires (for a request to extend the time to complete the development).

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council’s Council Plan 2021-2025 – Leading Change

The Community’s vision 4. Transparent decision making;

This report has been developed in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act), the Central Goldfields Planning Scheme (planning scheme), and the *Victorian Code for Broiler Farms 2009 (plus 2018 amendments)* (Broiler Code).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Primarily, the proposal is for the construction of six sheds that would house a maximum of 400,000 birds. The sheds would be 156m in length and 25.5m in width, with a height of about 2.7 at the eaves and a maximum height of 4.7m at the ridgeline. The sheds would be clad with fire-retardant panels/colourbond above concrete dwarf walls and roofed with zincalume. The sheds would be constructed in parallel with a gap of 16m between them, where open table drains would be located to direct stormwater runoff into a proposed retardation dam located to the west. Each shed would have a floor area of 3,978m², with a combined floor area of 23,868m² across the six sheds.

The broiler farm is proposed to operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Most work and traffic generation would occur between the hours of 7am and 7pm weekdays and 7am and 1pm on Saturday, although the collection of birds for slaughter is required to be done at night when the birds are asleep and largely inactive. The broiler farm would be operated by three full time equivalent staff for most of the time, with a further two full time equivalent staff used between batches to clean, wash, and prepare the sheds for new birds.

The proposed production cycle for the broiler farm involves a growing period of about 7 weeks for each batch of day-old birds that are received. Between batches, there would be a period of approximately 14 days to clean, sanitise and prepare the sheds for the next batch. It is anticipated there would be approximately 5.7 batches raised each year, with each shed

accommodating up to 66,666 birds. Based on 5.7 batches, it is estimated that the proposal would generate 820 vehicle visits per year (an average of 2.25 per day or 144 per batch).

The floor level of each shed would be constructed above the surrounding ground level to satisfy drainage requirements and ensure the sheds remain dry. Apart from air exhaust fans on their northern ends and air inlets on their roofs, the sheds would be completely enclosed. However, ventilation and temperature within the sheds would be controlled by a state-of-the-system that is automated and housed in control rooms adjoining each shed.

Although the floors within the sheds are proposed to be constructed of concrete, prior to the introduction of a new batch of birds, the whole floor area would be covered in a layer of litter (chopped straw or woodshavings). At the end of each batch, the litter is removed and replaced. Litter would not be stockpiled on the site.

Dead birds are proposed to be collected daily from the sheds and removed from the farm.

Feed for the birds would be kept in proposed silos to be erected, while drinking water is proposed to be provided from a dam (located to the south) that is fed by underground bore and piped to 3 storage tanks with a capacity for about 1,000,000 litres. These water tanks would provide at least 7 days backup if there is a failure of water supply from the dam. Chemicals required to be used include detergents and sanitizers for washing and sanitising sheds and equipment and are not considered hazardous.

The proposal is primarily sited on 683 Baringhup Road (Lots 1-4 TP 098373). The only works within 705 Baringhup Road (Lot 1 TP 018831) are for the water supply pipe to the farm that is fed by the underground bore and a desalination plant.

The land is currently used for agriculture and any land not used for the broiler farm operation would continue to be used for agricultural purposes.

In addition to the sheds, it is proposed to construct various buildings and structures, such as amenities buildings/sheds, an energy facility, feed silos, a water tank (or tanks), the retardation dam, and areas for septic tank absorption. The proposal includes five car parking spaces (including a disabled space) as well as security fencing. Furthermore, a proposed 4-bed caretaker's dwelling is proposed to be constructed to the west of the broiler farm, which is ancillary to the main use of the land.

Entrance and exit from the site would be from Hurses Lane via a new access track and through a bio-security gate; this access track has been located to avoid any native vegetation removal. It is proposed to upgrade Hurses Lane (at the applicant's expense) from its current clay base to crushed rock, creating an all-weather road from the intersection of Baringhup Road to the proposed entrance. A permit is not assessed as being required for this work, because the water flow path will not be redirected or obstructed, and the work will also avoid the removal of any native vegetation. Baringhup Road is within the Transport Zone 3 (TRZ3) as a significant municipal road, and capable of handling larger vehicles and traffic volumes.

The proposal includes a 10m landscaping buffer around the main broiler farm as well as some of the other buildings and structures. This includes three rows (each row 2-3m apart) of tree and shrub tube stock planted 2m apart, resulting in 1,930 mostly local indigenous plants including lightwood, grey box, and shrub violet. The landscaping would mature in time to screen the proposal from adjoining and surrounding properties and minimise visual impacts as well as reducing the risk of dust and light spill. The proposal will also use mounds of local soil around the proposal to provide for screening.

The proposed broiler farm is classified as Class A under the Broiler Code. A broiler farm is classified as Class A if the farm capacity is between 10,000 and 400,000 birds and the minimum separation distance requirement is fully contained within the broiler farm boundary. Both requirements are assessed as being satisfied, as the proposal will have a capacity of up to 400,000 birds and all land within the required separation distance of 686m (measured from the external edge of a broiler shed) is contained within the broiler farm property boundaries.

REPORT

Proposal

The application proposes the use and development of the land for a broiler farm (Class A with a capacity up to 400,000 birds) and ancillary caretaker's dwelling with associated buildings and works within the Farming Zone at 683 and 705 Baringhup Road, Carisbrook, as described above. Refer to Attachment 1: Proposed plans.

Site and Surrounds

The site is located at 683 and 705 Baringhup Road, Carisbrook, about 8km northeast of Carisbrook. Refer to Attachment 2: Site and surrounding area. The relevant parcels of land are described as Lots 1-4 TP 098373 (683 Baringhup Road) and Lot 1 TP018831 (705 Baringhup Road). The site is estimated to be approximately 365ha in area across these relevant land parcels.

The site is used for agricultural purposes (broadacre cropping and/or sheep grazing) but does not appear to contain any buildings or structures apart from boundary fencing. The site is bound to the north by Allans Road and to the west by Hurses Lane, while land beyond the boundaries of the site in all directions falls within the FZ and is generally used for agricultural purposes. The site's northern and eastern boundaries are also on the boundary with the Mount Alexander Shire. The topography of the site is generally flat and featureless, although there is an area of native vegetation on the western boundary of Lot 3 TP 098373 (part of 683 Baringhup Road) adjacent to Hurses Lane.

Under the planning scheme, the site is within the Farming Zone (FZ). The site is partially affected by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) over the southern part of Lot 3 TP 098373, although no use or development is proposed within this area.

The site is within a Designated Water Supply Catchment (Laanecoorie Reservoir Catchment – Loddon River) but is not within an area of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity.

Apart from any existing or proposed dwellings in the applicant's ownership, the nearest third-party dwellings are about 900m to the north (310 Allans Road), 1,600m to the northeast (148 Allans Road), 2,200m to the southwest (122 Carisbrook-Baringhup Road), 2400m to the south (396 Bald Hill Road) and 2600m to the south (370 Bald Hill Road). All these dwellings are within the FZ.

There is an approved broiler farm development approximately 3200m to the southeast at 396 Bald Hill Road (planning permit 050/20).

Planning Permit Trigger

Under the planning scheme, a planning permit is required for the following:

- Pursuant to clause 35.07-1, a permit is required for a Section 2 use of the land in the FZ for a broiler farm, with the relevant condition being met.

- Pursuant to clause 35.07-4, a permit is required to construct a building or carry out works associated with a Section 2 use in the FZ.

Planning Scheme Provisions

Planning Policy Framework

The following clauses of the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) are relevant to this application:

Clause 12.03-1S River corridors, waterways, lakes and wetlands

- Objective: To protect and enhance river corridors, waterways, lakes and wetlands.

Clause 13.02-1S Bushfire planning

- Objective: To strengthen the resilience of settlements and communities to bushfire through risk-based planning that prioritises the protection of human life.

Clause 13.05-1S Noise abatement

- Objective: To assist the control of noise effects on sensitive land uses.

Clause 13.06-1S Air quality management

- Objective: To assist the protection and improvement of air quality.

Clause 13.07-1S Land use compatibility

- Objective: To protect community amenity, human health and safety while facilitating appropriate commercial, industrial, infrastructure or other uses with potential adverse off-site impacts.

Clause 14.01-1S Protection of agricultural land

- Objective: To protect the state's agricultural base by preserving productive farmland.

Clause 14.01-2S Sustainable agricultural land use

- Objective: To encourage sustainable agricultural land use.

Clause 14.01-2L Sustainable agricultural land use - Central Goldfields

- Strategies: Encourage development of poultry abattoirs and finished poultry product processing in the Shire; and ensure intensive agriculture is located to minimise risks associated with effluent disposal and protect the amenity of adjacent land uses.

Clause 14.02-1S Catchment planning and management

- Objective: To assist the protection and restoration of catchments, waterways, estuaries, bays, water bodies, groundwater, and the marine environment.

Clause 14.02-2S Water quality

- Objective: To protect water quality.

Clause 14.02-2L Water quality - Central Goldfields

- Strategy: Ensure effluent disposal systems in unsewered areas are located and maintained to minimise the risk of pollution to waterways.

Clause 15.01-6S Design for rural areas

- Objective: To ensure development respects valued areas of rural character.

Clause 15.02-1S Energy and resource efficiency

- Objective: To encourage land use and development that is energy and resource efficient, supports a cooler environment and minimises greenhouse gas emissions.

Clause 17.01-1S Diversified economy

- Objective: To strengthen and diversify the economy.

Clause 17.01-1R Diversified economy - Loddon Mallee South

- Strategies: Support the ongoing role and contribution of the region's small towns, settlements and non-urban areas through investment and diversification of their economies; and facilitate new manufacturing and food processing industries that build on supply chains and take advantage of well-located and affordable land.

Clause 18.01-1S Land use and transport integration

- Objective: To facilitate access to social, cultural and economic opportunities by effectively integrating land use and transport.

Clause 19.03-3S Integrated water management

- Objective: To sustainably manage water supply, water resources, wastewater, drainage and stormwater through an integrated water management approach.

Clause 19.03-3L Integrated water management - Central Goldfields

- Strategies: Ensure effluent disposal systems can be contained within the site; and minimise the potential for pollution if reticulated sewerage is not available.

Zoning

35.07 Farming Zone

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To provide for the use of land for agriculture.
- To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.
- To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.

- To encourage the retention of employment and population to support rural communities.
- To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.
- To provide for the use and development of land for the specific purposes identified in a schedule to this zone.

Overlays

44.04 Land Subject to Inundation

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To identify flood prone land in a riverine or coastal area affected by the 1 in 100 (1 per cent Annual Exceedance Probability) year flood or any other area determined by the floodplain management authority.
- To ensure that development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, responds to the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood level or flow velocity.
- To minimise the potential flood risk to life, health and safety associated with development.
- To reflect a declaration under Division 4 of Part 10 of the *Water Act 1989*.
- To protect water quality and waterways as natural resources by managing urban stormwater, protecting water supply catchment areas, and managing saline discharges to minimise the risks to the environmental quality of water and groundwater.
- To ensure that development maintains or improves river, marine, coastal and wetland health, waterway protection and floodplain health.

Particular Provisions

52.06 Car Parking

- To ensure that car parking is provided in accordance with the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To ensure the provision of an appropriate number of car parking spaces having regard to the demand likely to be generated, the activities on the land and the nature of the locality.
- To support sustainable transport alternatives to the motor car.
- To promote the efficient use of car parking spaces through the consolidation of car parking facilities.
- To ensure that car parking does not adversely affect the amenity of the locality.
- To ensure that the design and location of car parking is of a high standard, creates a safe environment for users and enables easy and efficient use.

53.09 Poultry Farm

- To facilitate the establishment and expansion of poultry farms, including broiler farms, in a manner that is consistent with orderly and proper planning and the protection of the environment.

General Provisions

65.01 Approval of an Application or Plan

Before deciding on an application or approval of a plan, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

- The matters set out in section 60 of the Act.
- Any significant effects the environment, including the contamination of land, may have on the use or development.
- The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- The purpose of the zone, overlay or other provision. Any matter required to be considered in the zone, overlay or other provision.
- The orderly planning of the area.
- The effect on the environment, human health and amenity of the area.
- The proximity of the land to any public land. Factors likely to cause or contribute to land degradation, salinity or reduce water quality.
- Whether the proposed development is designed to maintain or improve the quality of stormwater within and exiting the site.
- The extent and character of native vegetation and the likelihood of its destruction. Whether native vegetation is to be or can be protected, planted or allowed to regenerate.
- The degree of flood, erosion or fire hazard associated with the location of the land and the use, development or management of the land so as to minimise any such hazard.
- The adequacy of loading and unloading facilities and any associated amenity, traffic flow and road safety impacts.

Operational Provisions

71.01 Operation of the Municipal Planning Strategy

The Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) provides an overview of important local planning issues in an introductory context, sets out the vision for future use and development in the municipality and establishes strategic directions about how the municipality is expected to change through the implementation of planning policy and the planning scheme.

A responsible authority must take into account and give effect to the MPS when it makes a decision under this planning scheme.

Clause 71.02 Operation of the Planning Policy Framework

The PPF seeks to ensure that the objectives of planning in Victoria, as set out in section 4 of the Act are fostered through appropriate land use and development planning policies and practices that integrate relevant environmental, social, and economic factors in the interests of net community benefit and sustainable development.

Society has various needs and expectations such as land for settlement, protection of the environment, economic wellbeing, various social needs, proper management of resources and infrastructure. Planning aims to meet these needs and expectations by addressing aspects of economic, environmental, and social wellbeing affected by land use and development.

Planning and responsible authorities should endeavour to integrate the range of planning policies relevant to the issues to be determined and balance conflicting objectives in favour of net community benefit and sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations.

Referrals

The following table outlines referrals undertaken under section 55 of the Act and clause 66 of the planning scheme.

Organisation	Response
Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) s.55 / cl. 66.02-5	Conditional consent

The application was also referred to the following external agency and internal department of the Council for comments and/or recommended conditions:

Organisation	Response
Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria	No objection but suggest the inclusion of a note about new duties under the amended <i>Environment Protection Act 2017</i> , including the general environmental duty (GED) and 'state of knowledge'.
Council Engineering	Conditional consent

ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATION

The following assessment addresses the effects that the proposed use and development may have while considering the provisions of the planning scheme and the objectives of planning in Victoria. Further, where relevant, the assessment addresses the comments of referral authorities as well as any significant effects the development may have on the environment or which the environment may have on the development. In this regard, the assessment of the application is consistent with section 60 of the Act.

Farming Zone

Under Clause 73.04, a 'broiler farm' is nested under 'agriculture' and therefore the location of the proposal within the FZ is appropriate, as the FZ has a key purpose to provide for the use of land for agriculture. While the proposal will remove the land containing the broiler farm from more traditional forms of agriculture (i.e. cropping and grazing), a broiler farm is still a form of agriculture and the remaining land will continue to be able to be used for conventional

agricultural activities. Further, the subject land does not appear to have any significant productivity but is typical of common agricultural land throughout Victoria. Finally, the proposal will generate employment to support the rural community, while the broiler farm has been comprehensively designed to implement sustainable land management practices. Overall, the proposal is assessed as meeting the purpose of the FZ.

Clause 35.07-6 states that before deciding on an application to use land as well as construct a building or carry out works, the responsible authority must consider the following decision guidelines, as appropriate:

General issues

A Land Capability Assessment (LCA) has been submitted with the application and both GMW and Council's EHO and are generally satisfied that the on-site treatment and disposal of effluent can be managed appropriately, subject to conditions.

As above, the proposed broiler farm has been comprehensively designed to implement sustainable land management practices, as outlined in the submitted Environmental Management Plan (EMP). This plan has been developed in accordance with the guidance and direction outlined in the Broiler Code and addresses a range of topics, including landscaping; facilities standards; roads and traffic; feed, water and electricity supply; odour; noise; litter and dust; chemicals; bird management and biosecurity; other environmental controls; contingency plans; and community participation.

The site is an extensive landholding, with the nearest third-party dwellings being approximately 900m to the north (310 Allans Road), 1,600m to the northeast (148 Allans Road), 2,200m to the southwest (122 Carisbrook-Baringhup Road), 2400m to the south (396 Bald Hill Road) and 2600m to the south (370 Bald Hill Road). All these dwellings are located within the FZ, where there is generally a lower expectation for residential amenity values. Further, all these dwellings are outside of the relevant separation distance of 686m, being the distance from the nearest external edge of a new broiler shed to the nearest external edge of an existing dwelling. The separation distance from the Broiler Code is designed to provide sufficient space to minimise the risk of offensive odour and dust emissions adversely impacting the amenity of existing sensitive uses (i.e. dwellings), as well as protecting these sensitive uses from noise, light spill and impacts on visual amenity.

Stormwater runoff will be managed within proposed on-site drainage systems, including a retardation dam. Water supply will be piped from an underground bore, and there will be appropriate on-site storage with a tank or tanks. The proposal makes use of the existing road network, although including an upgrade to Hurses Lane (at the applicant's expense) from its current clay base to crushed rock, creating an all-weather road surface.

Overall, the proposal meets the decision guidelines for general issues.

Agricultural issues and the impacts from non-agricultural uses

As above, a 'broiler farm' is nested under 'agriculture' and therefore the location is assessed as being appropriate, as the FZ has a key purpose to provide for the use of land for agriculture. While the proposal will remove the land containing the broiler farm from more traditional forms of agriculture (i.e. cropping and grazing), a broiler farm is still a form of agriculture and the remaining land will continue to be able to be used for conventional agricultural activities. Further, the proposal will not discernibly impact the operation of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses or the potential for these uses to expand. Finally, the site is an extensive landholding with the capacity to sustain the proposal, and the site also has agricultural qualities that are suitable for the proposal.

Overall, the proposal meets the decision guidelines for agricultural issues and the impacts from non-agricultural uses.

Accommodation issues

The proposal includes a caretaker's dwelling; the use of this dwelling will be specifically linked to the ongoing operation of the broiler farm. This dwelling is integral to the proposal and required so that a farm manager can be on-site 24 hours a day to supervise operations and respond to any issues immediately, including in relation to the welfare of the broilers. The approval of this dwelling will not result in the loss of agricultural land or lead to a concentration of dwellings in the area. The dwelling will not be adversely affected by agricultural activities, including because it is intrinsically tied to the proposed agricultural activity of the broiler farm, and will not adversely affect the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.

Overall, the proposal meets the decision guidelines for accommodation issues.

Environmental issues

The proposal has acceptable impacts on the natural physical features and resources of the area. The site is a generally flat area of land with little to no features of significance. The site has minimal environmental constraints, including no overlays that are being impacted, and does not contain any wetland areas or any apparent waterways/drainage lines (this has been checked on VicPlan). The proposal does not involve the removal of any native vegetation and there will be limited, if any, impacts on biodiversity values. If anything, these values will be enhanced by the proposed landscaping, which will mature in time and may provide habitat. Both GMW and Council's EHO and are generally satisfied with the submitted LCA and conclude that the on-site treatment and disposal of effluent can be managed appropriately, subject to conditions.

Overall, the proposal meets the decision guidelines for environmental issues.

Design and siting issues

The proposal is appropriately located within the site, offering generous setbacks from adjoining properties in different ownership, from nearby roads, and from dwellings in the surrounds. The various proposed buildings and structures have been located together and positioned to avoid adverse impacts on surrounding agricultural uses as well as to minimise the loss of agricultural land.

The siting, scale and appearance of the various buildings and structures protects the rural character of the area they are located within, noting that there are no visual amenity values of particular significance. Although the proposal will be visible from surrounding viewpoints, any impacts are acceptable in the context and will diminish over time as the proposed landscaping matures and becomes established.

The proposal has been located and designed to respond to existing and proposed infrastructure. Arrangements for various services have been described above. The proposal will not require any traffic management measures apart from the initial upgrade of Hurses Lane (at the applicant's expense) to an all-weather road surface.

Overall, the proposal meets the relevant decision guidelines for design and siting issues.

Land Subject to Inundation

The broader subject site has a small section of land affected by the LSIO in the southern part of Lot 3 TP 098373. However, no use or development is proposed within this area of land, and a permit is not required under the LSIO.

Car Parking

The use of land for a broiler farm is not a listed used within Table 1: Car Parking Requirements. As such, and in accordance with clause 52.06-6, car parking spaces must be provided to the satisfaction of the responsible authority before the use commences.

The application proposes five car parking spaces (including a disabled space). The broiler farm is proposed to be operated by three full time equivalent staff for most of the time, with a further two full time equivalent staff at certain times. Considering the number of staff and the proximity of the caretaker's dwelling that is likely to house the farm manager's vehicle(s), the number of car parking spaces provided is acceptable. Further, it is noted there is suitable space elsewhere within the site for trucks to park for any deliveries/collections.

Poultry Farm

Clause 53.09-3 sets out that an application to use land or construct a building or construct or carry out works for a broiler farm must comply with the Broiler Code. The application has been assessed against the Broiler Code and is assessed as being consistent with its requirements, as follows below.

The Broiler Code sets to provide mandatory requirements to ensure that the use of the site for a broiler farm is compatible with adjoining and nearby uses and development. There are six elements; location, siting and size; farm design, layout and construction; traffic, site access, on farm roads and parking; landscaping; waste management; and farm operation and management (Environmental Management Plan (EMP)). The six elements are commented on via their standards and approved measures.

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Assessment of approved measures</u>
<i>Standard E1 S1 Amenity protection</i>	Any nearby third-party dwellings are outside the separation distance of 686m, being the distance from the nearest external edge of a new broiler shed to the nearest external edge of an existing dwelling, which provides adequate protection from potential adverse impacts on amenity. All activities will located some distance from the property boundary. The site and surrounds are within the FZ and the site is some distance from a residential zone or zone that provides for rural living.
Adverse impacts on the amenity of the surrounding area are minimised by ensuring broiler sheds, temporary litter stockpiles, compost piles and litter spreading areas are adequately separated from existing and planned residential and rural living areas, sensitive uses and broiler farm property boundaries.	

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Assessment of approved measures</u>
	to be appropriately bunded, located on an impervious surface, and at least 100m from any waterway/drainage line.
<p data-bbox="193 481 796 544"><i><u>Standard E1 S2 Waterway protection</u></i></p> <p data-bbox="193 546 796 846">Adverse impacts on waterways are avoided by ensuring that broiler sheds, temporary litter stockpiles, compost piles, outdoor range areas and litter spreading areas are adequately separated from waterways, or other risk mitigation measures are incorporated and approved by the responsible authority.</p>	The site does not contain any wetland areas or waterways/drainage lines. However, in any case, the approved measures will be incorporated via planning permit conditions to mitigate risk, including in relation to the management of spent litter, other waste, and drainage (both stormwater and wastewater).
<p data-bbox="193 848 796 947"><i><u>Standard E1 S3 Protecting the visual quality of the landscape</u></i></p> <p data-bbox="193 949 796 1214">Buildings and works are sited to account for the topography of the site and views from public roads, to minimise their visual impact on the landscape.</p>	The various proposed buildings, structures, and works have been suitably suited to minimize impacts on the landscape. The area is generally flat and a typical rural area without significant visual amenity values; the proposal is acceptable within this context. Buildings and works are not sited on steep slopes and the proposed landscaping, which will mature in time to screen the proposal, will further mitigate any visual impacts.
<p data-bbox="193 1216 796 1279"><i><u>Standard E1 S4 Biosecurity</u></i></p> <p data-bbox="193 1281 796 1547">An appropriate distance is provided between the broiler farm (that is the broiler sheds, temporary litter stockpiles, compost piles and litter spreading areas), and other existing poultry farms under separate management, to minimise the risk of disease transmission.</p>	There is an approved broiler farm approximately 3200m to the southeast at 396 Bald Hill Road (planning permit 050/20). At this distance, the proposal easily satisfies the approved measures.
<p data-bbox="193 1550 796 1646"><i><u>Standard E1 S5 Future use and development of neighbouring land</u></i></p>	The application is for a Class A broiler farm, as the required separation distance of 686m

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Assessment of approved measures</u>
<p>Broiler sheds are sited so that offensive odour, dust and noise emissions will not adversely impact the orderly and sustainable use and development of land located beyond the farm property boundary, including the ability to establish a dwelling (excluding a bed and breakfast or caretaker's house) on a vacant property, having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the existing and likely future use and development of the land including any approved sensitive uses • the existing physical and environmental characteristics of the land • the purpose and requirements of the zone applying to the land • any applicable land use decision guidelines, policies and strategies in the planning scheme. 	<p>is fully contained within the broiler farm property boundaries. Therefore, the future use and development of neighbouring land is not required to be assessed. The approved measures relate to Class B broiler farms as well as Special Class and Farm Clusters.</p>
<p><u>Standard E2 S1 Protecting the visual quality of the landscape</u></p> <p>Buildings and works are designed and constructed to minimise their visual impact. Site topography and existing and proposed vegetation are used to best advantage to screen new buildings and works from public roads and neighbouring properties.</p>	<p>Being site on flat land, the proposal has sought to rely on mounding as well as proposed landscaping, which will mature in time, to provide screening from nearby roads and dwellings on neighbouring properties. Permit conditions will be imposed in relation to landscaping requirements.</p> <p>Further permit conditions will be imposed requiring buildings and structures to be clad in non-reflective materials and finished in natural colours and tones to improve their visual integration with the natural landscape.</p>
<p><u>Standard E2 S2 Efficient farm operation</u></p> <p>The design and layout of the whole broiler farm provides environmental and amenity protection while maximising the efficiency of farm operations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • orderly management of feed and water, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ adequate (quality and quantity) water supply ○ drinker technology that minimises wetting of litter through water spillage ○ treatment and disinfection of non-potable drinking water supply (dams, rivers and bores). • efficient placement of silos and feed systems • efficient placement and collection of birds 	<p>The application is accompanied by a range of material, including in the EMP, which demonstrates that the proposal meets the approved measures within the Broiler Code.</p> <p>Efficient and orderly feed and water arrangements will be in place, including adequate supply and measures to minimize spill. Birds will be collected in an efficient manner and there are suitable procedures in relation to both fresh and spent litter. Acceptable provision is made for cleaning and maintenance activities, and protection will be provided against vermin or wild bird infestations. World-leading heating and ventilation equipment will be used, which has been sourced from Denmark and is not currently being used in Australia.</p>

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Assessment of approved measures</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • efficient placement of fresh litter • collection, handling and treatment of all wastes • cleaning and maintenance of collection areas • protection against birds and other vermin • efficient energy and water use. 	<p>The above measures will be secured through suitable permit conditions.</p>
<p><u>Standard E2 S3 Avoiding environmental impacts from broiler sheds</u></p>	<p>All broiler shed floors and hardstand areas are to be constructed in impermeable concrete, in accordance with the approved measures of the Broiler Code. The finished floor levels of the broiler sheds will be above natural surface level to prevent the entry of stormwater, and litter will be retained and confined within the sheds. Suitable permit conditions will be imposed in this regard.</p>
<p>Broiler shed floors and areas surrounding the sheds are designed and constructed to avoid the leaching of nutrients into the ground.</p>	
<p><u>Standard E2 S4 Noise management</u></p>	<p>The design and siting of any mechanical equipment will limit the generation of noise and the likelihood of off-site impacts. Further, the generous separation distances that are available help to avoid or mitigate any potential noise impacts. Suitable permit conditions will be imposed, including in relation to general environmental duties that will address the use of farm vehicles.</p>
<p>The broiler farm development meets the requirements of the <i>Interim Noise from industry in regional Victoria (2011)</i> (or its most recent update). To achieve this, in addition to the requirements of Element 1, Standard 1 (E1 S1); and Element 3, Standard 2 and Standard 4 (E3 S2 and E3 S4), the broiler farm further manages noise levels by ensuring farm vehicles and equipment associated with farm operations do not cause adverse noise impacts on nearby sensitive uses.</p>	
<p><u>Standard E2 S5 Stormwater drainage</u></p>	<p>The proposed drainage systems have been appropriately designed to manage any issues and be compliant with the approved measures within the Broiler Code. Stormwater will be collected in table drains and a retardation dam is provided. While the site does not contain any waterway/drainage lines, the proposed systems will ensure no contamination of groundwater. The finished floor levels of the broiler sheds will be above</p>
<p>Stormwater and / or wastewater run-off from the broiler farm does not contaminate nearby waterways or groundwater, or cause erosion. Stormwater is also prevented from entering the broiler sheds</p>	

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Assessment of approved measures</u>
	natural surface level to prevent the entry of stormwater. Finally, the site is generally flat and not expected to be subject to erosion.
<u>Standard E3 S1 Site access (Standard 1)</u>	The application meets the approved measures within the Broiler Code. Access tracks will be constructed to a suitable standard, with suitable manoeuvring arrangements. The proposal involves an upgrade to Hurses Lane to an all-weather surface. The gate to the broiler farm is well within the property boundary, so larger vehicles can park off the public road.
Vehicle access points are designed and constructed to allow all-weather safe entry and exit for the anticipated type and frequency of vehicles, accounting for road and traffic conditions.	Further, Council's Engineering Department have provided conditional consent and permit conditions will be imposed to secure their requirements.
<u>Standard E3 S2 Site access (Standard 2)</u>	The single vehicle access point is located well away from any sensitive use not associated with the broiler farm.
Vehicle access points to the broiler farm from public roads are located to minimise noise and vehicle light impacts on existing sensitive use.	Any lighting will be managed through appropriate permit conditions, including to limit spill.
<u>Standard E3 S3 Internal roads and car parking (Standard 1)</u>	Internal access tracks and car parking areas will need to be constructed to meet the Council's Engineering Department requirements, which will be adequate to satisfy drainage issues.
Internal roads and parking areas are designed, constructed and maintained to operate in all weather conditions. Adequate provision is made for the parking and movement on the property of articulated and other vehicles associated with the farm's operation, including the delivery of birds, litter and feed to the premises, and the collection of birds and waste.	Suitable provision is made for larger vehicles to park that are involved in loading and unloading stock, feed, litter, and waste.
<u>Standard E3 S4 Internal roads and car parking (Standard 2)</u>	Internal roads and car parking areas are simply and efficiently designed, and vehicles leaving the site will be able to do so in a forward-facing direction.
Internal roads and parking areas are designed and sited to minimise noise and light impacts on neighbouring sensitive uses.	Internal roads and car parking areas are located well away from any sensitive uses, which is made possible by the generous separation distances that are available. Any lighting will be managed through appropriate permit conditions, including to

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Assessment of approved measures</u>
	limit spill, which is not expected due to the separation distances from sensitive uses.
<p data-bbox="193 344 796 412"><i><u>Standard E4 S1 Landscaping</u></i></p> <p data-bbox="193 412 796 1285">Landscaping provides substantial visual screening from roads, public areas, nearby sensitive uses not associated with the broiler farm; integrates the farm into the surrounding landscape; and provides adequate access and clearance around the sheds.</p>	<p data-bbox="796 344 1394 882">While the site is vacant of any existing native vegetation, the proposal includes a 10m landscaping buffer around the main broiler farm as well as some of the other buildings and structures. Specifically, there will be three rows of tree and shrub tube stock, including lightwood, grey box, and shrub violet, which will provide effective upper and lower-level screening. Soil mounds will also be used to provide screening (this will be sourced from site excavations). The landscaping would mature in time to screen the proposal from adjoining and surrounding properties and minimise visual impacts as well as reducing dust and light spill.</p> <p data-bbox="796 882 1394 1084">The proposed landscaping is located at least 30m from the broiler sheds to ensure adequate shed ventilation, minimise vermin habitats, and provide adequate shed access and firefighting protection. Unpaved areas around sheds will be grassed.</p> <p data-bbox="796 1084 1394 1285">A suitable permit condition will be imposed requiring the establishment of a landscape performance bond to ensure the approved landscaping is effectively implemented, in line with the relevant approved measure.</p>
<p data-bbox="193 1285 796 1352"><i><u>Standard E5 S1 Spent litter</u></i></p> <p data-bbox="193 1352 796 1733">The management and disposal systems for spent litter are designed to minimise odour and dust generation and the likelihood of disease transmission, and to prevent nutrient run-off to surrounding land, waterways or groundwater.</p>	<p data-bbox="796 1285 1394 1442">The application proposes to remove spent litter from the property to limit risks around odour, dust, disease transmission and drainage run-off.</p> <p data-bbox="796 1442 1394 1733">A permit condition will be imposed preventing stockpiling, composting or spreading of spent litter on-site. A further permit condition will be imposed requiring any temporary stockpiles to be appropriately bunded, located on an impervious surface, and at least 100m from any waterway/drainage line.</p>
<p data-bbox="193 1733 796 1800"><i><u>Standard E5 S2 Dead birds</u></i></p> <p data-bbox="193 1800 796 2000">The management and disposal of dead birds is designed to minimise the likelihood of disease transmission, complies with the <i>National Biosecurity Manual for Contract Meat Chicken Farming</i> (or its most recent</p>	<p data-bbox="796 1733 1394 2000">The application proposes that all dead birds will be collected daily and removed from the property. A permit condition will be imposed in this regard, including a requirement that dead birds must be managed and disposed appropriately in accordance with relevant approved measures within the Broiler Code.</p>

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Assessment of approved measures</u>
update) and minimises odour and dust generation.	
<p data-bbox="193 454 794 495"><u>Standard E5 S3 Chemical waste</u></p> <p data-bbox="193 528 794 663">The management and disposal systems for chemical waste and general farm waste are designed to ensure the safe storage, use and disposal of chemicals.</p>	<p data-bbox="807 454 1396 730">Appropriate arrangements are in place for the management and disposal of all chemicals, chemical waste and general farm waste, including secure sheds with concrete floors and appropriate bunding to avoid runoff. The requirement in the relevant safety data sheets for the chemicals will be followed.</p>
<p data-bbox="193 757 794 797"><u>Standard E6 S1</u></p> <p data-bbox="193 831 794 1032">An environmental management plan (EMP) is developed that includes strategies and measures to avoid or minimise environmental risks, and also contingency actions to manage environmental problems that may arise</p>	<p data-bbox="807 757 1396 965">The application is accompanied by a suitable site-specific EMP, which has been assessed against the approved measures within the Broiler Code and assessed as being acceptable. The EMP will be endorsed as part of the permit.</p> <p data-bbox="807 976 1396 1312">The EMP addresses a relevant range of matters in an auditable format and sets out various measures/strategies as well as who is responsible for them. Further, the EMP sets out monitoring requirements, trigger levels as well as contingency actions. Importantly, the EMP sets out procedures to respond to complaints as well as procedures to investigate causes if there is an environmental incident.</p>

Additionally, clause 53.09-6 states that before deciding on an application to use land, construct a building, or carry out works, the responsible authority must consider the following decision guidelines, as appropriate. The following assessment is made in this regard.

As above, the proposal generally accords with the purpose of the FZ and is suitable in terms of any design and siting issues. The proposed landscaping is acceptable and meets relevant approved measures, and there are generous separation distances available to protect the amenity of existing uses on adjoining land. The proposal is not anticipated to cause any significant impacts on the surrounding area, the site does not contain any waterways/drainage lines, and there are no natural physical features or biodiversity values of note. Finally, while the proposal will remove the land containing the broiler farm from more traditional forms of agriculture (i.e. cropping and grazing), a broiler farm is still a form of agriculture and the remaining land will continue to be able to be used for conventional agricultural activities, which is consistent with one of the key purposes of the FZ to provide for the use of land for agriculture.

Conclusion

Overall, the proposal is assessed as being an orderly planning outcome that represents net community benefit and sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

Clause 53.09-4 of the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes exempts certain planning permit applications from the notice requirements of section 52(1)(a), (b) and (d), the decision requirements of section 64(1), (2) and (3) and the review rights of section 82(1) of the Act. This includes:

- An application to use land or construct a building or construct or carry out works for a new broiler farm..., if the application meets the requirements of a “Class A Broiler Farm”, as specified in the Victorian Code for Broiler Farms 2009 (plus 2018 amendments).

The application meets the requirements of a Class A broiler farm. Therefore, it is exempt from any notice requirements.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The assessment of planning permit applications is within the normal operational budget of Council.

Should the permit applicant appeal any decision that Council makes, there would be a Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) hearing. Additional costs will be incurred if a VCAT hearing occurs.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council’s strategic risk of Governance - Failure to transparently govern and embrace good governance practices by ensuring our assessment of the application meets all relevant legislation and regulations. The risk management issues in relation to this planning permit application have been discussed above.

There is a risk to Council should it not decide within the statutory timeframes of a ‘failure to determine’ appeal at VCAT.

Should the proposal be approved by Council and VCAT (upon appeal) there is a risk to non-compliance with the permit conditions. Council has a planning compliance function to mitigate this risk.

CONCLUSION

The planning permit application seeks approval for the use and development of the land for a broiler farm (Class A with a capacity up to 400,000 birds) and ancillary caretaker’s dwelling with associated buildings and works within the Farming Zone at 683 and 705 Baringhup Road, Carisbrook.

A Council determination is sought on the application.

This report recommendation is that a planning permit be issued for the following key reasons:

- A broiler farm is a form of agriculture and the location within the FZ is appropriate, given it has a key purpose to provide for the use of land for agriculture.

- The remaining land within the site will continue to be able to be used for conventional agricultural activities.
- The broiler farm will generate employment to support the rural community
- The proposal, including the caretaker's dwelling, will not discernibly impact the operation of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses or the potential for these uses to expand.
- The site is an extensive landholding that offers generous setbacks for the broiler farm from any sensitive uses and roads; all nearby dwellings are outside of the relevant separation distance of 686m, which will minimize impacts on their amenity values.
- The siting, scale and appearance of the various buildings and structures protects the rural character of the area the proposal is located within. Landscaping will mature in time to provide screening.
- On-site treatment and disposal of effluent can be managed appropriately.
- Suitable arrangements are made in relation to infrastructure/services, including an upgrade of Hurses Lane (at the applicant's expense) to an all-weather road surface.
- The broiler farm has been comprehensively designed to implement sustainable land management practices, as outlined in the EMP.
- The caretaker's dwelling will be specifically linked to the ongoing operation of the broiler farm and is integral to the proposal and required so that a farm manager can be on-site 24 hours a day to supervise operations and respond to any issues immediately, including in relation to the welfare of the broilers. This dwelling will not result in the loss of agricultural land or lead to a concentration of dwellings in the area.
- The proposal has acceptable impacts on the natural physical features and resources of the area.
- The site does not contain any wetland areas or any waterways/drainage lines.
- The proposal does not involve the removal of any native vegetation.
- Any biodiversity values may be enhanced by the proposed landscaping, which will mature in time and could provide habitat.

Council must determine a position on the application for a planning permit and take one of the following options:

- I. Grant a permit subject to conditions and issue a Planning Permit; or
- II. Refuse to grant a permit on any ground it thinks fit and issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Permit.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed plans
2. Subject site and surrounding area



E	ENTRANCE ONTO HURSES LANE	NM	10-01-2022	
F	LOT BOUNDARIES	NM	15-02-2022	
G	HURSES LANE PAVEMENT UPGRADE	NM	16-03-2022	
H	TULLAROOP CREEK PIPELINE	NM	21-06-2022	
REV	REVISION	BY	DATE	SHEET No.

NOTES

- AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN FROM GOOGLE MAPS
- CULTURAL HERITAGE SENSITIVITY DATA HAS BEEN GENERATED FROM THE STATE OF VICTORIA DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES.

DESIGNED DATE	NM	8-01-2021
DRAWN DATE	NM	8-01-2021
CHECKED DATE		

LAND MANAGEMENT SURVEYS (MELBOURNE)
 SURVEYORS ENGINEERS PLANNERS
 ABN 22 057 933 516
 34 BALCOMBE ROAD MENTONE 3194
 Ph. (03) 9583 0888 Fax. (03) 9583 5888

AS/NZS ISO 9001 Certified
 ISO 9001:2015
 DRG FILE No. I:\12046\ACAD\DRAWINGS\IC3D\12046_Engineering_Farm_9_05.dwg

POULTRY FARM
 683 BARINGHUP ROAD
 CARISBROOK

FARM 9 - LOCALITY PLAN

SCALE 1: 10,000 @ A1
 SHEET 1 OF 7
 REVISION H
 FILE No. 12046



HURSES LANE PAVEMENT TO BE UPGRADED FROM FARM ENTRANCE TO BARINGHUP ROAD APPROX. 2460m REFER TO SHEET 4 FOR TYPICAL CROSS SECTION

FARM ACCESS ROAD
 MANAGERS RESIDENCE
 RETARDATION DAM
 4 NO 3000 PIPE CULVERTS TO BE PLACED APPROX. 200m SPACING ALONG ACCESS ROAD
 6 NO SHEDS 156 x 25.5m SPACING 16m
 CUT-OFF DRAIN

WATER SUPPLY FROM BORE, DESAL PLANT AND CREEK
 TULLAROOP CREEK WATER PIPELINE

G	NOTES	NM	11-02-2022	
H	LOT BOUNDARIES	NM	15-02-2022	
I	HURSES LANE PAVEMENT UPGRADE	NM	16-03-2022	
J	TULLAROOP CREEK PIPELINE	NM	21-06-2022	
REV	REVISION	BY	DATE	SHEET No.

NOTES

DESIGNED DATE	NM	8-01-2021
DRAWN DATE	NM	8-01-2021
CHECKED DATE		

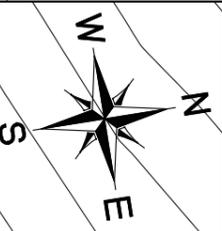
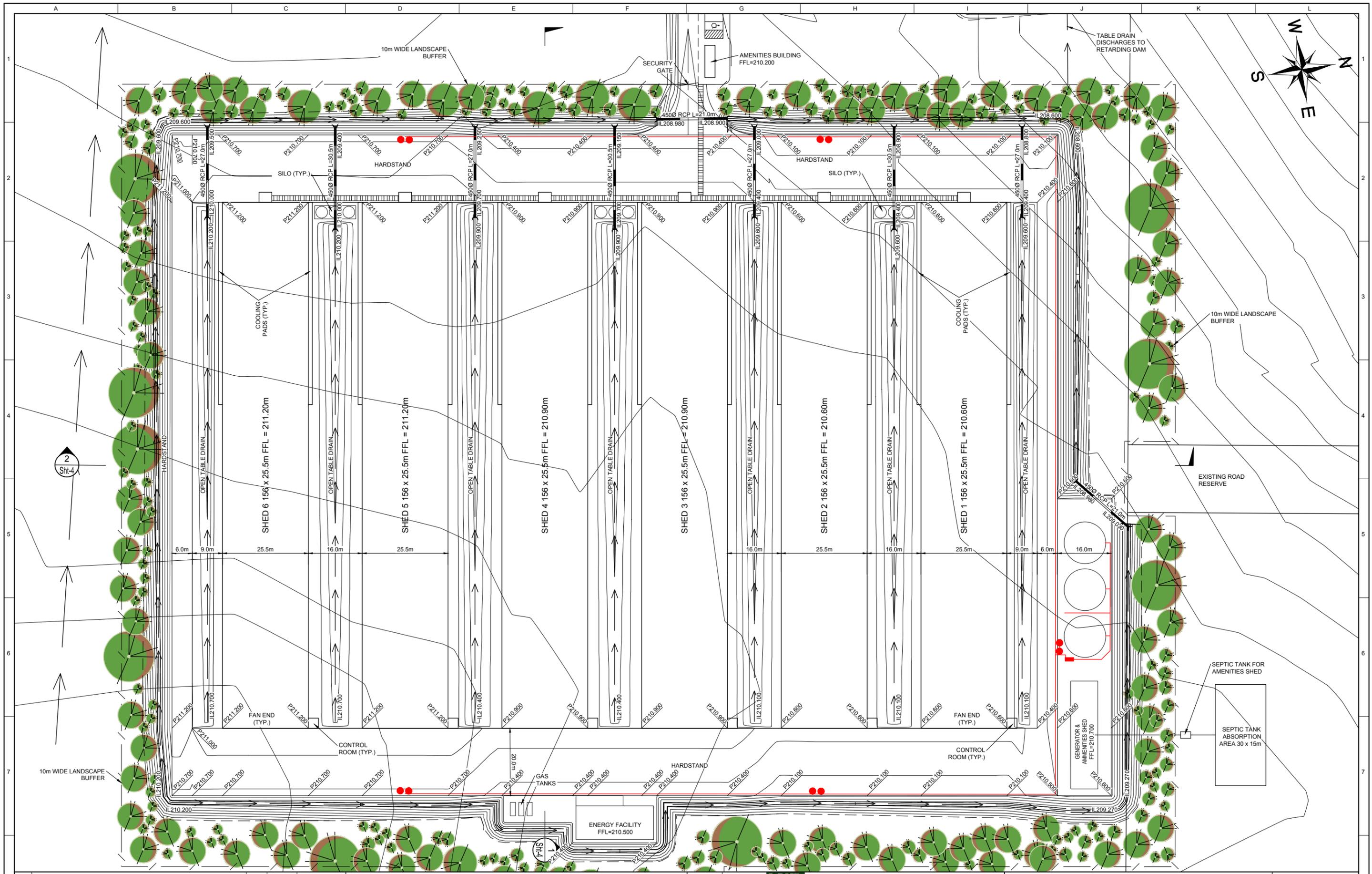
LAND MANAGEMENT SURVEYS (MELBOURNE)
 SURVEYORS ENGINEERS PLANNERS
 ABN 22 057 933 516
 34 BALCOMBE ROAD MENTONE 3194
 Ph. (03) 9583 0888 Fax. (03) 9583 5888

DRG FILE No. I:\12046\ACAD\DRAWINGS\C3D\12046_Engineering_Farm_9_05.dwg

POULTRY FARM
 683 BARINGHUP ROAD
 CARISBROOK

FARM 9 - LAYOUT PLAN

SCALE 1:5,000 @ A1
 SHEET 2 OF 7
 REVISION J
 FILE No. 12046



REV	REVISION	BY	DATE	SHEET No.
A	PRELIMINARY ISSUE	NM	8-01-2021	
B	UPDATED LAYOUT	NM	8-04-2021	
C	RELOCATION OF FARM	NM	14-09-2021	
D	RELOCATION OF FARM	NM	15-11-2021	

NOTES

- AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN FROM GOOGLE MAPS
- CULTURAL HERITAGE SENSITIVITY DATA HAS BEEN GENERATED FROM THE STATE OF VICTORIA DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES.

DESIGNED DATE: NM 8-01-2021
 DRAWN DATE: NM 8-01-2021
 CHECKED DATE:

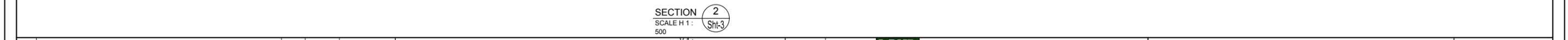
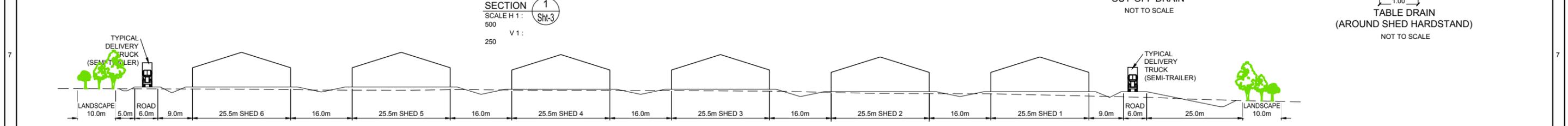
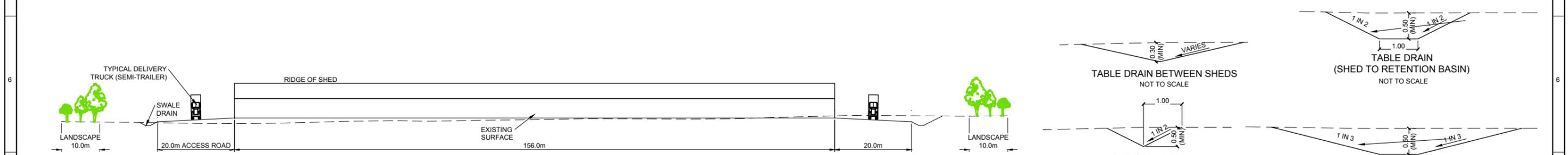
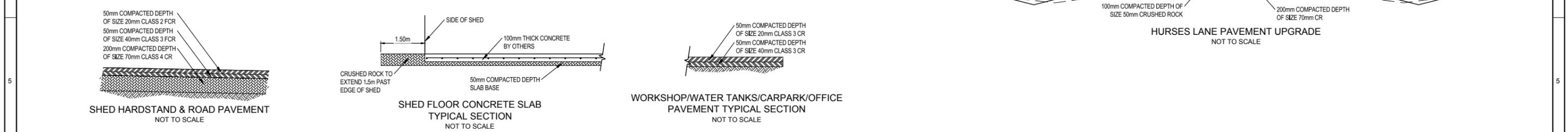
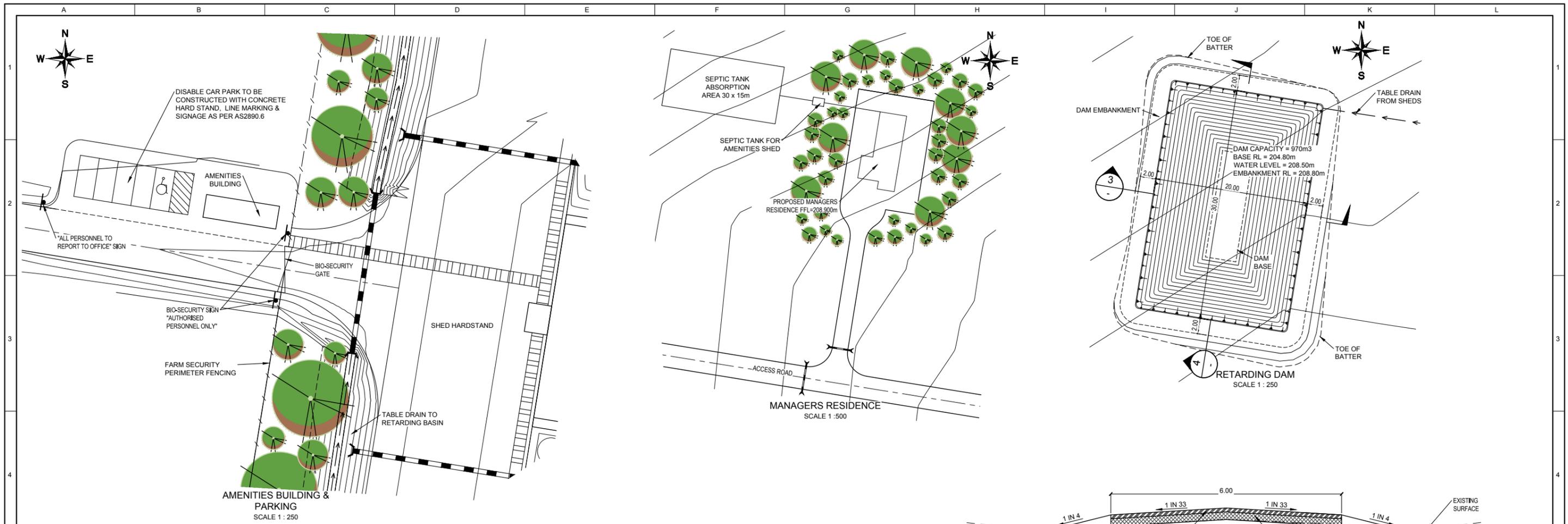
LAND MANAGEMENT SURVEYS (MELBOURNE)
 SURVEYORS ENGINEERS PLANNERS
 ABN 22 057 933 516
 34 BALCOMBE ROAD MENTONE 3194
 Ph. (03) 9583 0888 Fax. (03) 9583 5888

ANZSIS ISO 9001 Certified
 DRG FILE No. I:\12046\ACAD\DRAWINGS\C3D\12046_Engineering_Farm_9_05.dwg

POULTRY FARM
 683 BARINGHUP ROAD
 CARISBROOK

FARM 9 - DETAIL PLAN

SCALE 1:500 @ A1
 SHEET 3 OF 7
 REVISION D
 FILE No. 12046



REV	REVISION	BY	DATE	SHEET No.
D	RELOCATION OF FARM	NM	15-11-2021	
E	PAVEMENT DETAILS	NM	11-02-2021	
F	HURSES LANE TYPICAL PAVEMENT SECTION	NM	16-03-2022	

NOTES

- AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN FROM GOOGLE MAPS
- CULTURAL HERITAGE SENSITIVITY DATA HAS BEEN GENERATED FROM THE STATE OF VICTORIA DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES.

DESIGNED DATE: NM 8-01-2021
 DRAWN DATE: NM 8-01-2021
 CHECKED DATE:

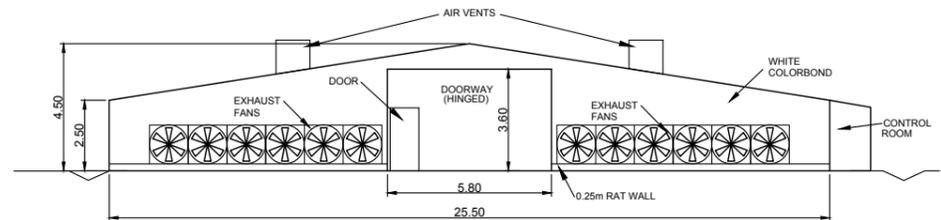
LAND MANAGEMENT SURVEYS (MELBOURNE)
 SURVEYORS ENGINEERS PLANNERS
 ABN 22 057 933 516
 34 BALCOMBE ROAD MENTONE 3194
 Ph. (03) 9583 0888 Fax. (03) 9583 5888

AS/NZS ISO 9001 Certified
 DRG FILE No. I:\12046\ACAD\DRAWINGS\IC3D\12046_Engineering_Farm_9_05.dwg

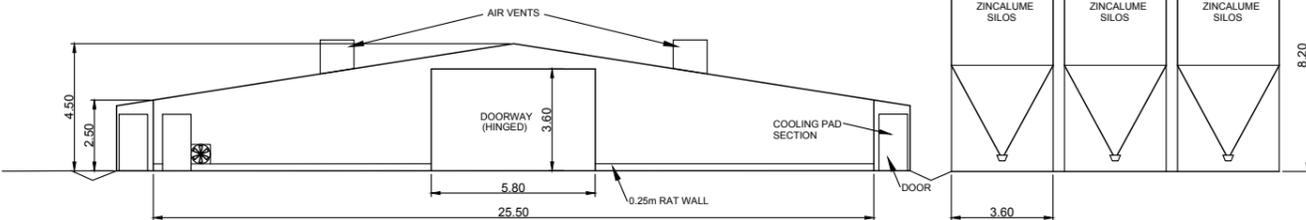
POULTRY FARM
 683 BARINGHUP ROAD
 CARISBROOK

FARM 9 - SECTIONS, ENTRANCE, DAM & BUILDINGS

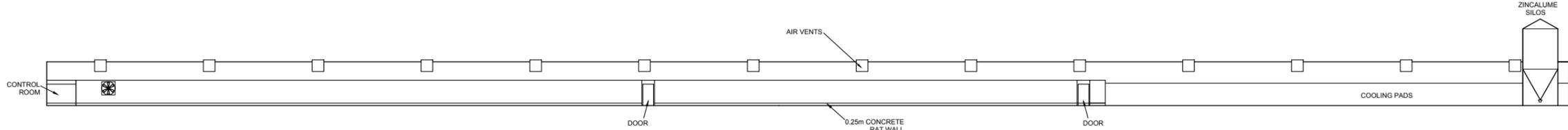
SCALE AS SHOWN @ A1
 SHEET 4 OF 7
 REVISION F
 FILE No. 12046



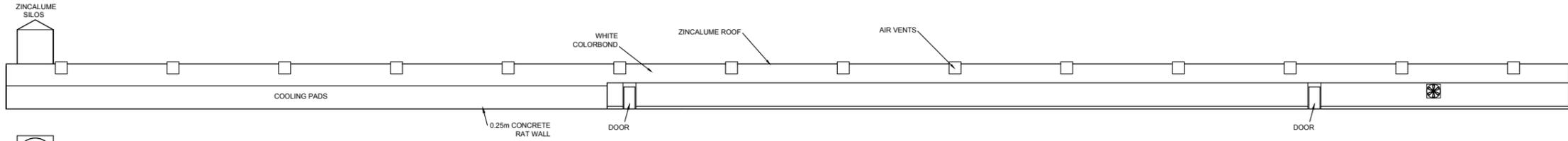
FAN END
SCALE 1:125



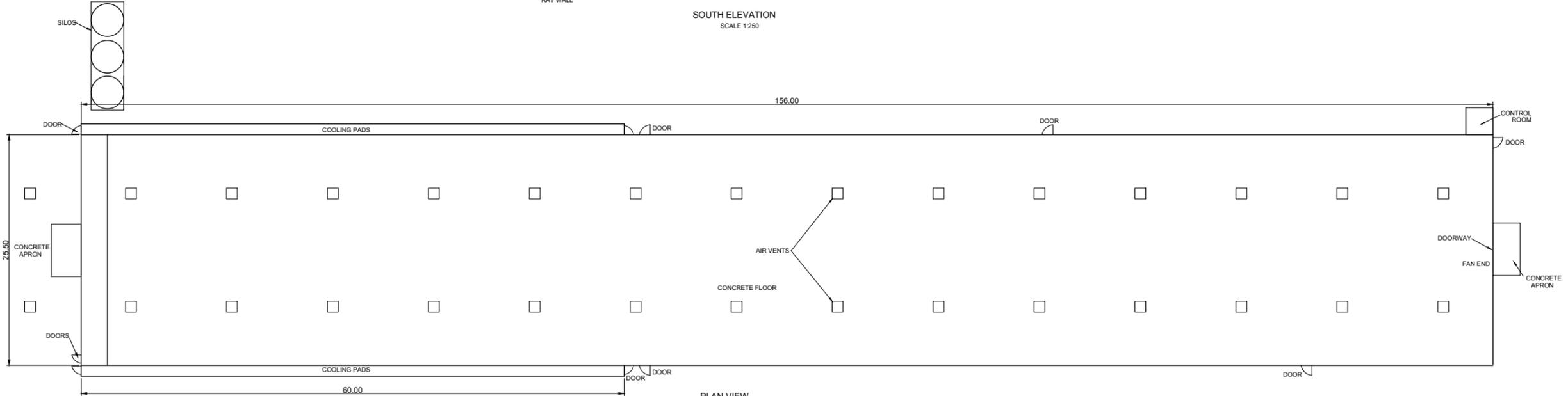
COOLING PAD END
SCALE 1:125



NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE 1:250



SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE 1:250



PLAN VIEW
SCALE 1:250

A	PRELIMINARY ISSUE	NM	5-04-2021	
B	UPDATE DOOR SIZE	NM	15-09-2021	
REV	REVISION	BY	DATE	SHEET No.

NOTES

DESIGNED DATE NM 19-07-2021
 DRAWN DATE NM 19-07-2021
 CHECKED DATE

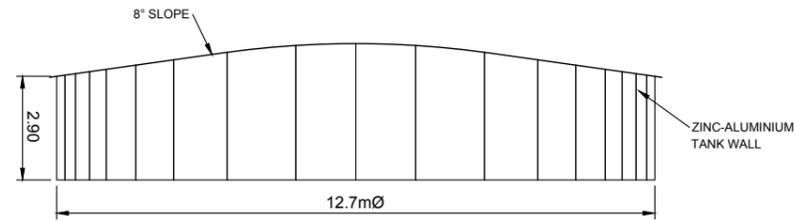
LAND MANAGEMENT SURVEYS (MELBOURNE)
 SURVEYORS ENGINEERS PLANNERS
 ABN 22 057 933 516
 34 BALCOMBE ROAD MENTONE 3194
 Ph. (03) 9583 0888 Fax. (03) 9583 5888

DRG FILE No. I:\12046\ACAD\DRAWINGS\IC3D\12046_Engineering_Farm_9_01-(Farm-Buildings).dwg

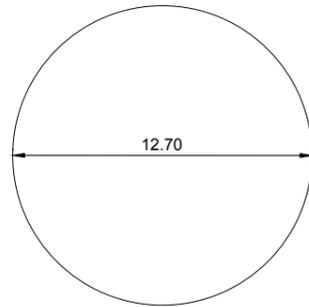
POULTRY FARM
 34B CARISBROOK - BARINGHUP ROAD
 CARISBROOK

FARM 9 - SHED DETAILS

SCALE AS SHOWN @ A1
SHEET 5 OF 7
REVISION B
FILE No. 10559B



ELEVATION (2x SCALE)
SCALE 1 : 75

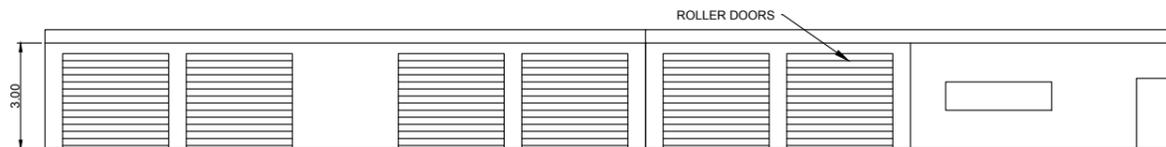


PLAN
SCALE 1 : 150
WATER TANK
250,000 LITRES

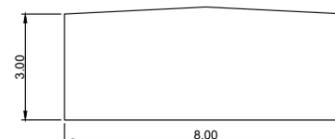
HOME WIDTH	HOME DEPTH	TOTAL HOME SIZE	FITS ON LAND WIDTH	FITS ON LAND DEPTH
14.60m	18.42m	202.51m ²	16.00m	28.00m



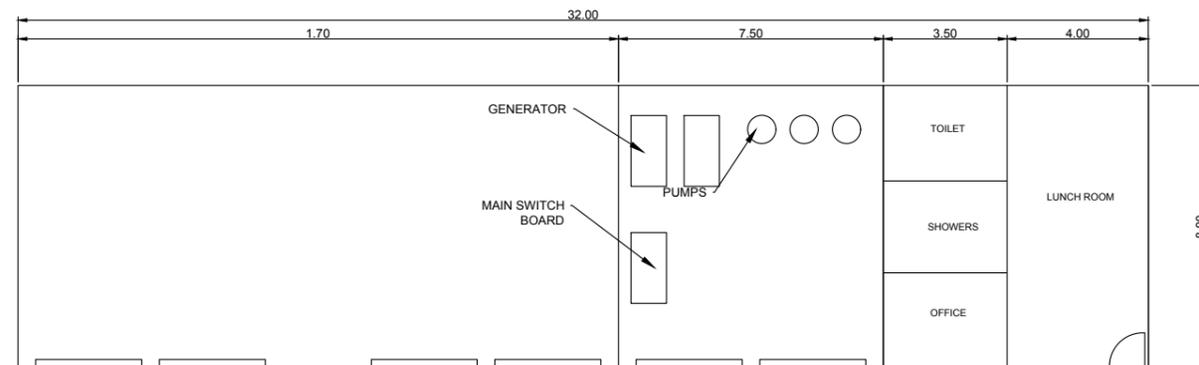
MANAGERS RESIDENCE
NOT TO SCALE



FRONT ELEVATION
SCALE 1:100



SIDE ELEVATION
SCALE 1:100



PLAN
SCALE 1:100
GENERATOR / AMENITIES ROOM

REV	REVISION	BY	DATE	SHEET No.
A	PRELIMINARY ISSUE	NM	15-09-2021	
B	UPDATED GENERATOR / AMENITIES ROOM		15-09-2021	

NOTES

DESIGNED DATE	NM	19-07-2021
DRAWN DATE	NM	19-07-2021
CHECKED DATE		



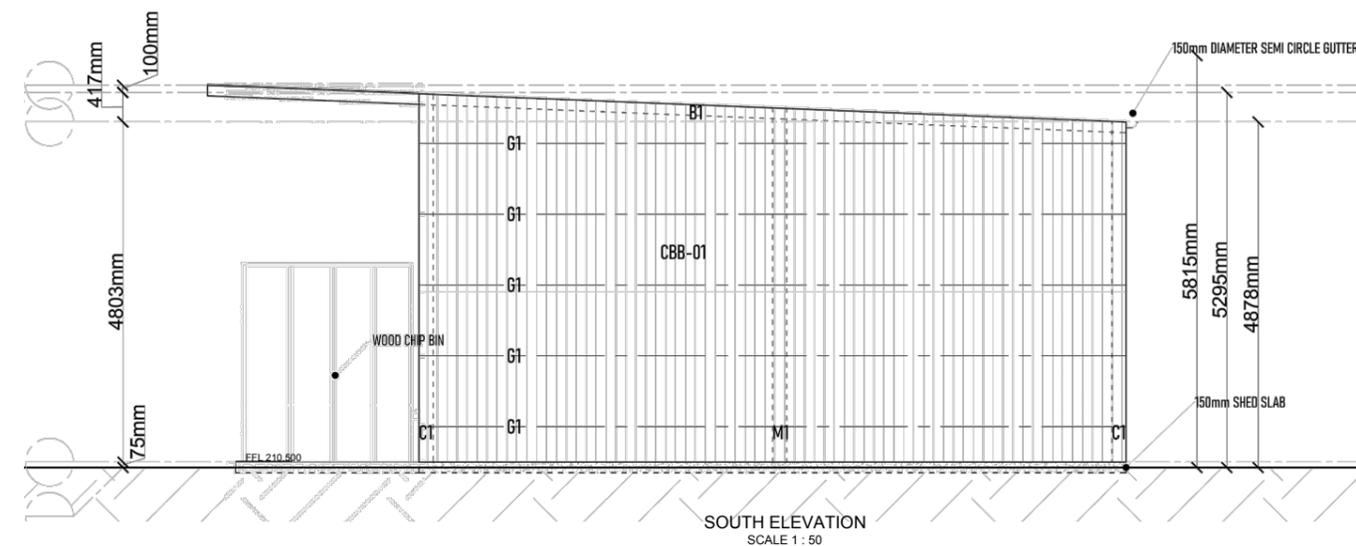
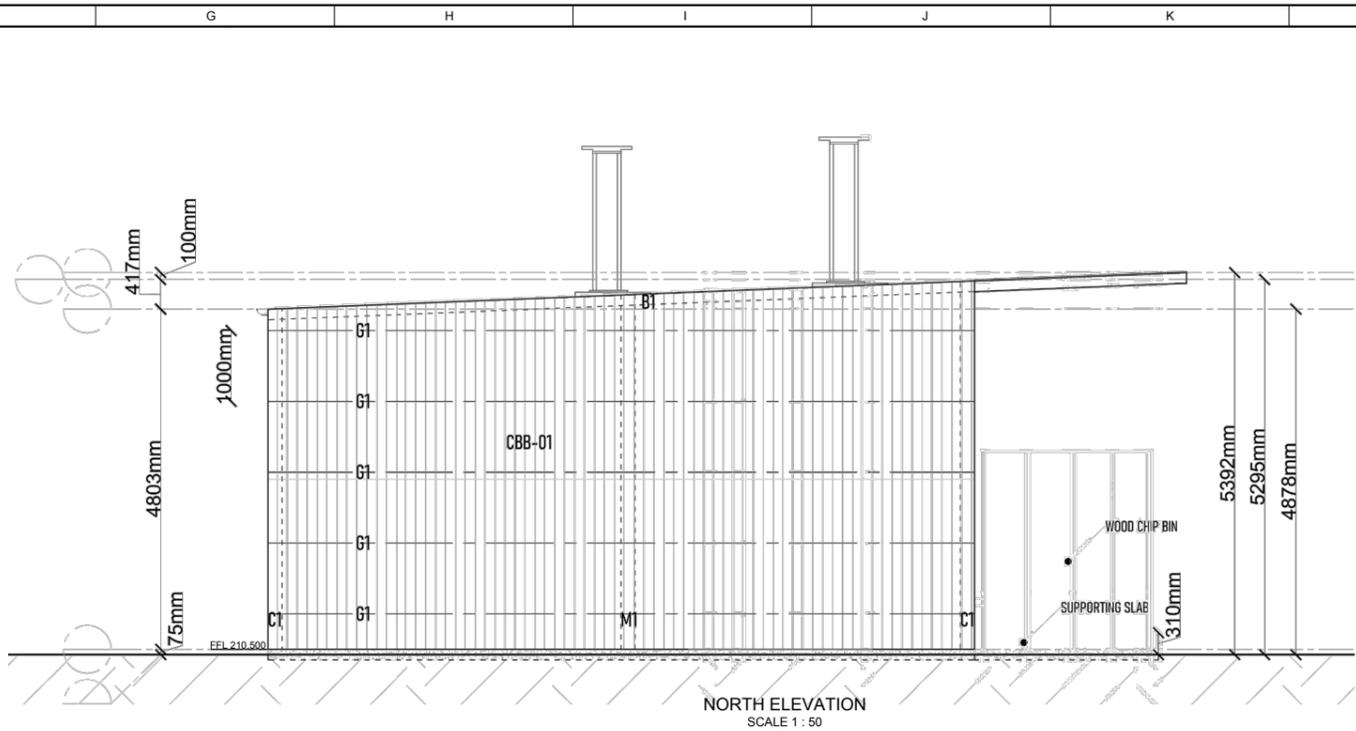
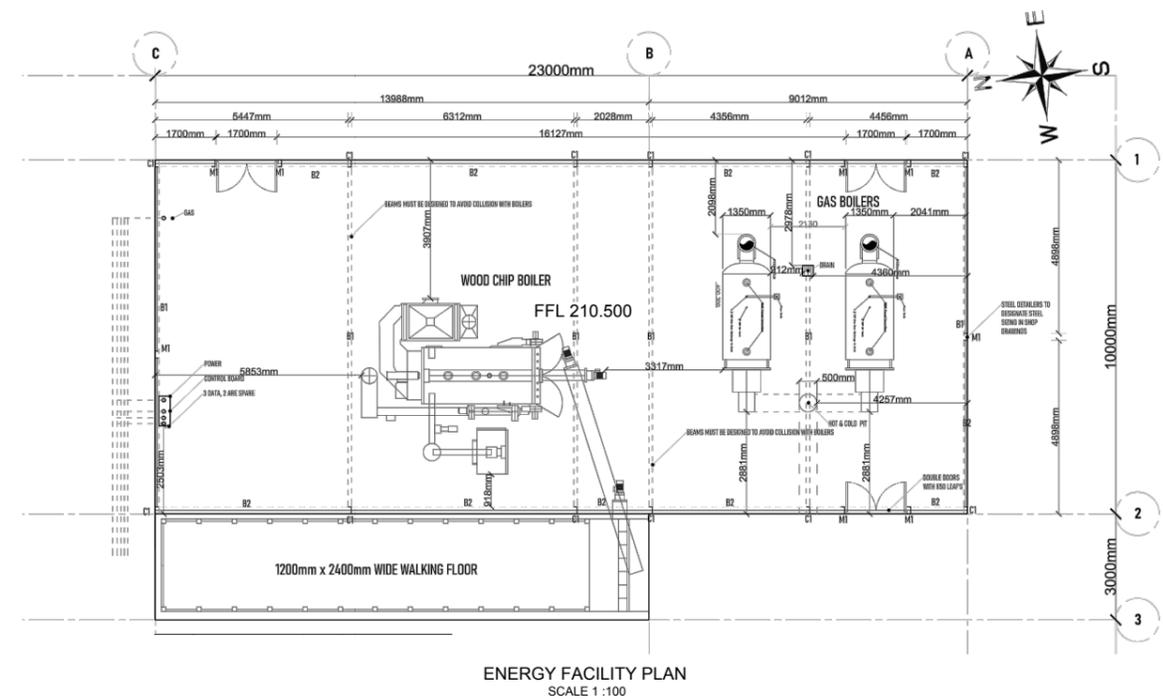
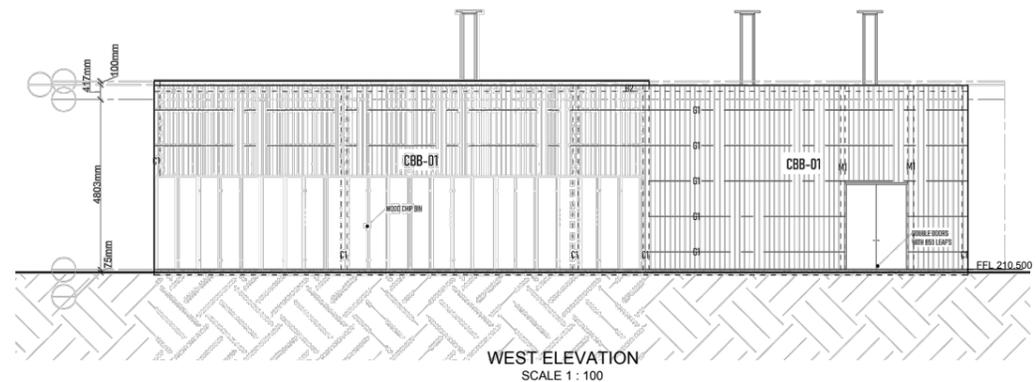
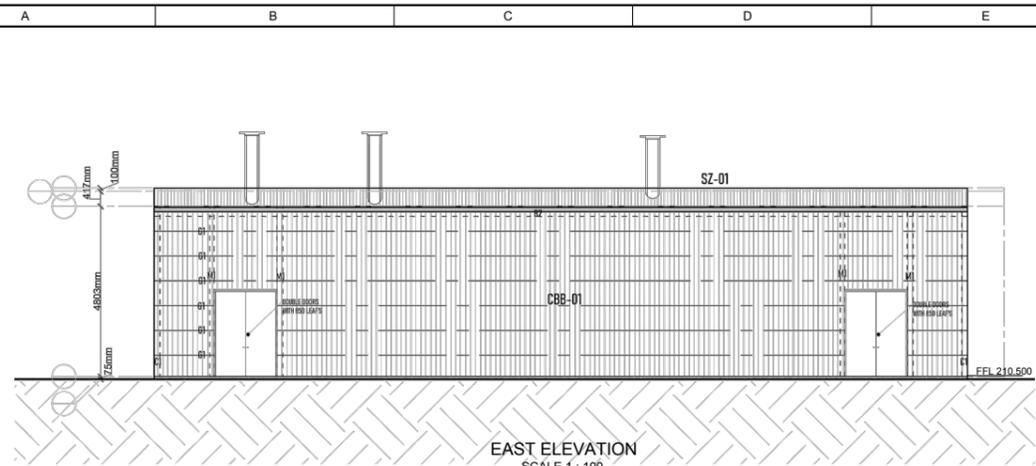
LAND MANAGEMENT SURVEYS (MELBOURNE)
SURVEYORS ENGINEERS PLANNERS
ABN 22 057 933 516
34 BALCOMBE ROAD MENTONE 3194
Ph. (03) 9583 0888 Fax. (03) 9583 5888

DRG FILE No. I:\12046\ACAD\DRAWINGS\C3D\12046_Engineering_Farm_9_01-(Farm-Buildings).dwg

POULTRY FARM
34B CARISBROOK - BARINGHUP ROAD
CARISBROOK

FARM 9 - BUILDING DETAILS

SCALE AS SHOWN @ A1
SHEET 6 OF 7
REVISION A
FILE No. 12046B



A	PRELIMINARY ISSUE	NM	15-09-2021	
B	FINISHED FLOOR LEVELS	NM	15-11-2021	
REV	REVISION	BY	DATE	SHEET No.

NOTES

DESIGNED DATE: NM 19-07-2021
 DRAWN DATE: NM 19-07-2021
 CHECKED DATE:

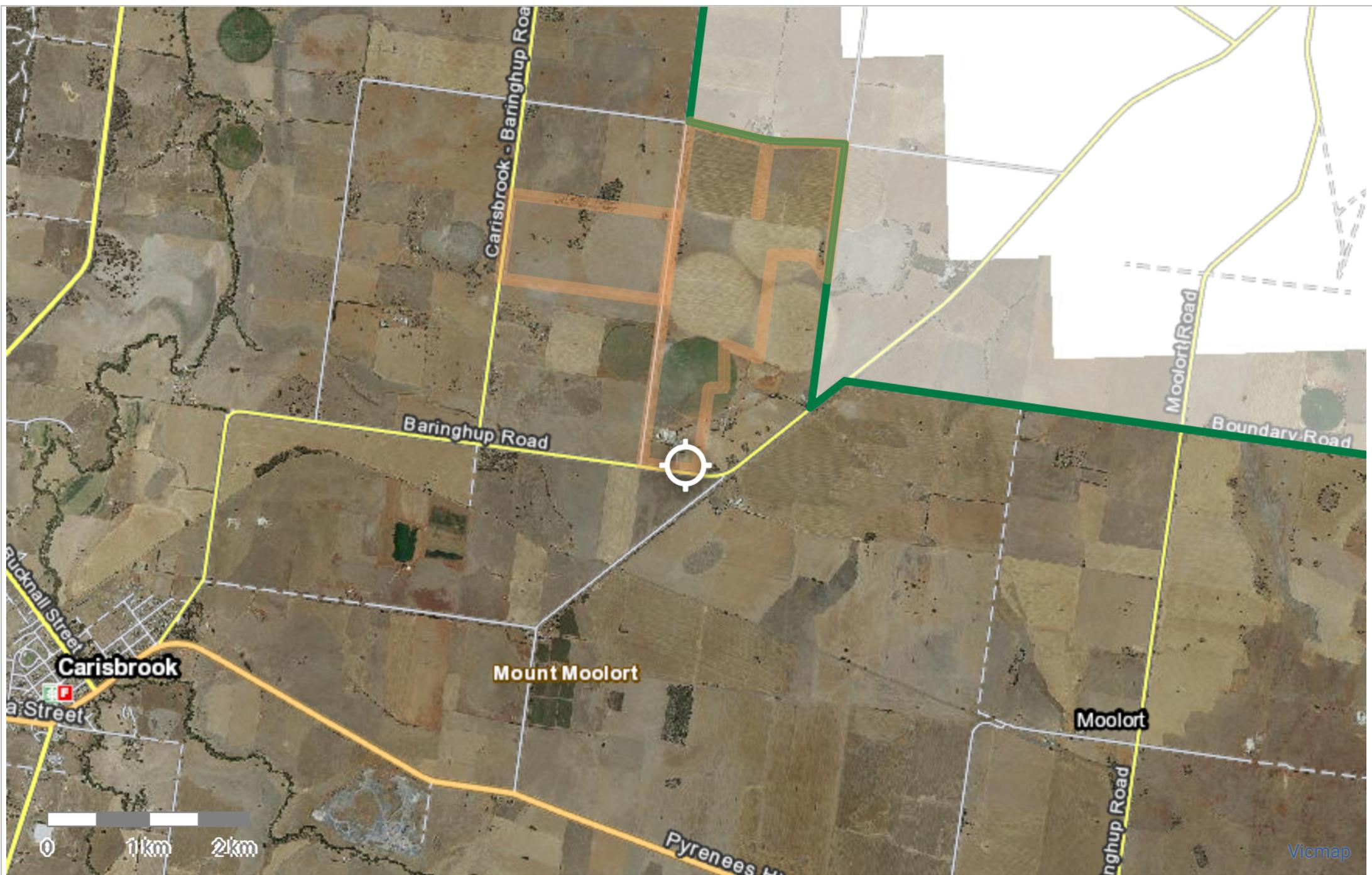
LAND MANAGEMENT SURVEYS (MELBOURNE)
 SURVEYORS ENGINEERS PLANNERS
 ABN 22 057 933 516
 34 BALCOMBE ROAD MENTONE 3194
 Ph. (03) 9583 0888 Fax. (03) 9583 5888

DRG FILE No. I:\12046\ACAD\DRAWINGS\C3D\12046_Engineering_Farm_9_01-(Farm-Buildings).dwg

POULTRY FARM
 34B CARISBROOK - BARINGHUP ROAD
 CARISBROOK

FARM 9 - ENERGY FACILITY DETAILS

SCALE AS SHOWN @ A1
 SHEET 7 OF 7
 REVISION B
 FILE No. 12046B



8.9 INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENTS

Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

The Officer Presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff reports that there are disclosable interests that need to be raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider endorsement of the updated Integrated Water Management Strategic Direction Statements from Coliban Water and Central Highlands Water.

The Integrated Water Management (IWM) Framework for Victoria (September 2017) was designed to help regional stakeholders to work together, ensuring the water cycle contributes to the liveability of towns and cities in Victoria. The Integrated Water Management Forums run by Coliban and Central Highlands Water are two of 10 regional IWM Forums enabling the collaborative local implementation of the Framework.

Central Goldfields Shire has participated in the update of two Integrated Water Management Strategic Directions Statements. The CEO is a board member of Coliban Water and therefore has a disclosable interest. To manage any potential conflicts of interest, the CEO participates in the Central Highlands Water forum and the General Manager Infrastructure Assets and Planning participates in the Coliban Water forum.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the

- 1) *Central Highlands Strategic Directions Statement 2022; and*
- 2) *Coliban Strategic Directions Statement 2022.*

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025 – Our Spaces and Places

The Community's vision 3. A commitment to climate action and less waste

Initiative: Care for the natural environment and take action on climate change.

Action 30 in Council's recently adopted Climate Action Plan is to Work closely with water corporations, catchment management authorities and Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners to achieve integrated and holistic water management.

The Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria aims to help government, the water sector and the community work together to better plan, manage and deliver water in Victoria's towns and cities.

The State Government 2016 Water for Victoria strategy promotes the development of Integrated Water Management Plans for better manage the water resource

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Integrated Water Management forums bring together leaders of the local water sector to explore, prioritise and oversee the development of local IWM opportunities. Prioritised opportunities are managed and implemented by dedicated working groups and are captured within individual IWM plans.

Central Goldfields Shire is part of two IWM Forums:

- *Central Highlands Forum which includes Bet Bet, Timor, Carisbrook, Maryborough and Talbot to the south of the shire; and*
- *Coliban Forum which includes Dunolly and Bealiba to the north of the shire.*

The Strategic Directions Statements were developed through regional collaboration by a diverse Forum membership with interests in land, water, waterways, the urban built form, and community health and wellbeing. The Statements identified opportunities, backed by the Forums, that can substantially transform and enhance the role that water plays as an essential part of our region's way of life.

Council endorsed both Integrated Water Management Strategic Directions Statements in November 2018, and has continued to work with both water authorities to implement the plans.

The 2018 Strategic Directions Statements were presented to Councillors at the 1 March 2022 Briefing for feedback. DELWP is now seeking endorsement on the updated SDS.

REPORT

Both forums experience since establishment has highlighted the need to focus its vision to address three key areas of greatest need:

- *We need water for landscapes, for people and for the environment, and for healing Country.*
- *With a growing regional population in both large and small settlements, the Coliban region needs to do more with the water it has, and manage and plan accordingly.*
- *Hotter, drier conditions and strong community expectations for greater climate action means we need to act now to adapt to a rapidly changing climate.*

The priorities and projects of the forum have been developed to meet these emerging challenges.

Specific projects developed under the previous plans included the development of a Maryborough Integrated Water Management Plan and a Blue Green Infrastructure document

aimed at providing introductory level information on the concepts and techniques for green-blue infrastructure in small towns..

The updated Central Highlands plan highlights implementation opportunities in the Maryborough Integrated Water Management Plan including enhancing water resources, supporting urban greening and liveability, and improving the health of local waterways and water bodies.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

Consultation has involved forum meetings and working group meetings with a number of stakeholders from the respective water corporations, local governments, catchment management authorities, aboriginal corporations and DELWP. Staff from Council have been involved in the Forum meetings and working groups of each Forum to varying degrees.

The consultants for each Forum have been funded by the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning and coordinated through the respective water authorities Central Highlands Water and Coliban Water. The Forums and working groups have taken up staff time.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk Government policy changes - change in government policy and/or funding resulting in significant impact on the delivery of critical services by participating in the forums.

CONCLUSION

Integrated Water Management forums in the Central Highlands and Coliban catchments have updated the Integrated Water Management Strategic Directions Statements which are being presented to Council for endorsement.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) *Central Highlands Strategic Directions Statement 2022; and*
- 2) *Coliban Strategic Directions Statement 2022.*



Coliban

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS STATEMENT

2022



Integrated Water
Management Forums



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Coliban Integrated Water Management Forum covers Dja Dja Wurrung, Yorta Yorta, Taungurung and Barapa Barapa Country, whose ancestors and their descendants are the Traditional Owners of this Country.

The Coliban Integrated Water Management Forum proudly acknowledges Victoria's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture, and pays its respects to their Elders past and present. The forum also recognises the intrinsic connection of Traditional Owners to Country and acknowledges their contribution to the management of land, water and resources. We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water on which we rely. We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal people and communities to Victorian life and how this enriches us. We embrace the spirit of reconciliation, working towards the equality of outcomes and ensuring an equal voice.

The 2022 Coliban Integrated Water Management Forum Strategic Directions Statement has been developed thanks to the contribution of forum members and practitioners. Their input has progressed through group meetings and workshops, and individual meetings with project sponsors and between collaborators. This process has allowed ideas to develop into mature project themes and initiatives.

Collaboration and cross-pollination have been key outcomes of the forum, with ideas being shared and improved by input from project partners.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	1	Implementing the Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan	24
Executive summary	2	Wanyarram Dhelk – Starting the Healing	25
Vision.....	2	Castlemaine Stormwater Outfall Retrofit Scheme and Pilot Program	26
Purpose	2	Forest Creek Revitalisation Project	26
Key themes and challenges	2	Echuca Aquatic Reserve	27
IWM opportunities.....	3	Making more of water resources in a changing climate.....	28
Better together: integrating water management across Victoria	6	Improved Drought Resilience for Bendigo with Managed Aquifer Recharge	28
What is integrated water management?.....	7	Diversifying Water Supply for the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens	29
How are we delivering IWM state-wide?	8	Diversifying Water Supplies for Parks and Gardens.....	29
Strategic outcomes	9	Increased Flows in Coliban River for Cultural and Ecological Benefits.....	30
Strategic Directions Statement – how IWM is happening in the region.....	10	Managing Trentham Stormwater Quality and Quantity for Healthy Waterways	31
Water in the Coliban region.....	11	Recycled Water for a Greener Echuca.....	32
A changing region	12	Integrated planning for a sustainable future	33
Water for people, environment and healing Country.....	12	Water Sensitive Urban Design for New or Upgraded Developments (Land and Buildings)	33
Making more of water resources in a changing climate.....	13	Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct	34
Integrated planning for a sustainable future.....	13	Macedon Ranges North IWM Plan	35
Progress so far	15	Servicing Small Townships	35
Reimagining Bendigo Creek	18		
Managed aquifer Recharge potential in the Coliban region.....	20		
IWM opportunities.....	22		
Water for people, environment and healing Country.....	24		

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2022.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria as author. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victorian Coat of Arms, the Victorian Government logo and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0.

Printed by Finsbury Green, Melbourne

ISBN XXX-X-XXXX-XXX-X (print)

ISBN XXX-X-XXXX-XXX-X (pdf/online/MS Word)

Disclaimer:

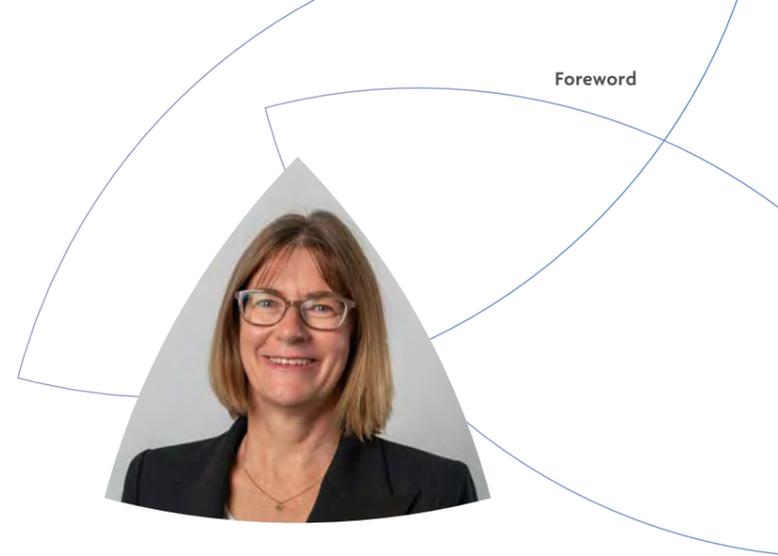
This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please telephone the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136186, email customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au, or via the National Relay Service on 133 677 www.relayservice.com.au. This document is also available on the internet at www.delwp.vic.gov.au.

Cover photo: Bendigo Creek. Credit: Felicity Johnson



Early morning mist on Lauriston Reservoir (2011). Courtesy: Coliban Water



FOREWORD

Water is fundamental to the people and natural environment of our beautiful region, which depend on water to grow and thrive. Ensuring that our large cities and small regional towns have the resilience needed to be healthy, active and engaged communities is part of the mission of the Coliban Integrated Water Management Forum.

For me, the defining feature of our work in the forum is the manner in which it formalises the informal mechanisms currently operating across our region. We are working together towards shared goals and responsibilities to provide sustainable and healthy water for our environment and our people, in spite of the challenges of a changing climate. The forum acknowledges these working relationships and prompts us to seek more collaborators in our community.

We remember the adversity faced during the Millennium Drought and how that period galvanised action for building infrastructure to underpin our water security. Many members of the forum have been involved with the emergency responses to flooding and storm events, such as those of early 2011 and June 2021, and the localised flash-flooding that occurs in built-up environments. Our group has first-hand knowledge of environmental degradation of our waterways and the projected impacts of a changing climate on our water resources. And, importantly, there is a deep understanding of the positive benefits that communities receive from green spaces and the presence of water in the environment.

We are blessed to have First Nations communities who have a strong knowledge of and connection to Country, and many leaders who deeply understand the challenges presented by our water variability. They are strategic thinkers who are committed both to short-term pragmatic solutions and longer-

term strategic requirements to move our region to one where water is sustainably sourced, used, managed and valued. Our region benefits enormously from the leadership connections and existing working relationships between organisations, that include local government, water authorities, catchment management authorities, Traditional Owner groups and the Victoria State Government's central policy and an enabling unit in the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning. All these participants play a specific role and have a deep understanding of each element of our water cycle.

I acknowledge all the work our forum member agencies do, thank them for their involvement in preparing this Strategic Directions Statement, and wish them well in their ongoing efforts.

We are better together. My ongoing desire is that the formalised relationships and focus made possible by the forum provides greater understanding, support and inspiration that will help us all as we work together towards a sustainable water future.

Jenny Dawson

Chair, Coliban Integrated Water Management Forum

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria* (2017) is designed to help regional stakeholders work together, ensuring the water cycle contributes to the liveability of towns and cities in Victoria, with communities at the centre of decision making.

The Coliban Integrated Water Management Forum is one of 10 regional integrated water management (IWM) forums across Victoria that are realising the local implementation of the framework.

Vision

Resilient and liveable communities.

Purpose

Working together to create water cycle outcomes that support the future health and resilience of our environment and communities.

The 2018 Strategic Directions Statement (SDS) articulated the collaborative intent and shared agreement of all stakeholders involved in the Coliban IWM Forum. This 2022 SDS update provides a progress report on the forum's activity, its changing priorities, and future opportunities. It describes the water security challenges and opportunities of the region, sets the

strategic direction for the next few years, and outlines the 'best endeavours' or ways in which IWM is and will be applied through projects proposed, in progress and completed for the region.

Key themes and challenges

The forum's experience since establishment has highlighted the need to focus its vision to address three key areas of greatest need:

- We need water for landscapes, for people and for the environment, and for healing Country.
- With a growing regional population in both large and small settlements, the Coliban region needs to do more with the water it has, and manage and plan accordingly.
- Hotter, drier conditions and strong community expectations for greater climate action means we need to act now to adapt to a rapidly changing climate.

The priorities and projects of the forum have been developed to meet these emerging challenges.

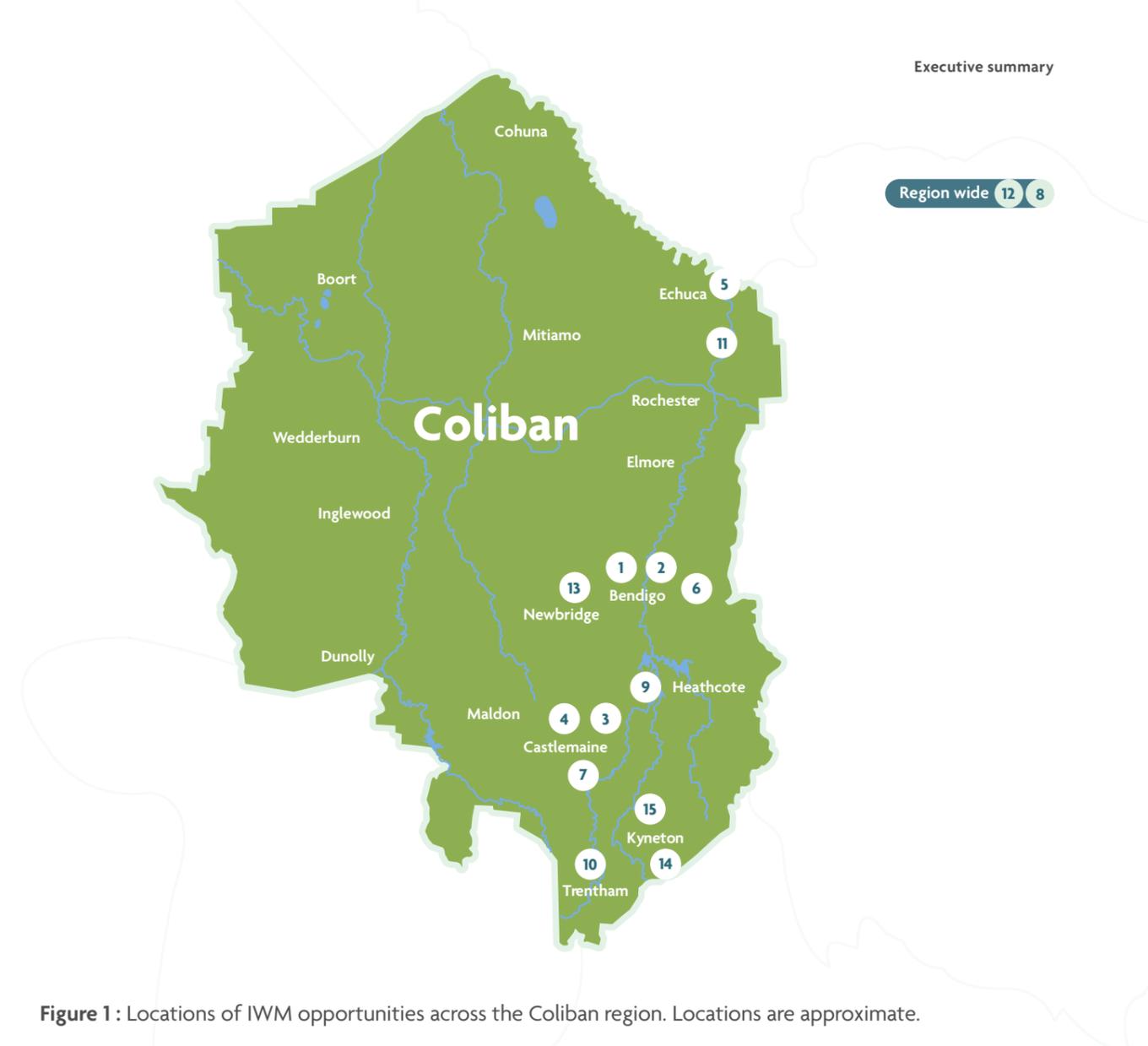


Figure 1 : Locations of IWM opportunities across the Coliban region. Locations are approximate.

IWM opportunities

Fifteen opportunities have been identified in the region and these have been grouped into three themes that respond to the above challenges:

Water for people, environment, and healing Country

1. Implementing the Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan
2. Wanyarram Dhelk – Starting the Healing
3. Castlemaine Stormwater Outfall Retrofit Scheme and Pilot Program
4. Forest Creek Revitalisation Project
5. Echuca Aquatic Reserve

Making more of water resources in a changing climate

6. Improved Drought Resilience for Bendigo with Managed Aquifer Recharge

7. Diversifying Water Supply for the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens
8. Diversifying Water Supplies for Parks and Gardens
9. Increased Flows in the Coliban River for Cultural and Ecological Benefits
10. Managing Trentham Stormwater Quality and Quantity for Healthy Waterways
11. Recycled Water for a Greener Echuca

Integrated planning for a sustainable future

12. Water Sensitive Urban Design for New or Upgraded Developments (Land and Buildings)
13. Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct
14. Macedon Ranges North IWM Plan
15. Servicing Small Townships

Section of Bendigo Creek. Credit: Bryley Savage

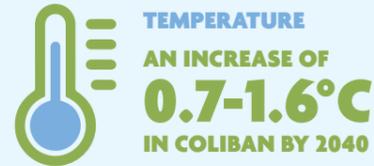
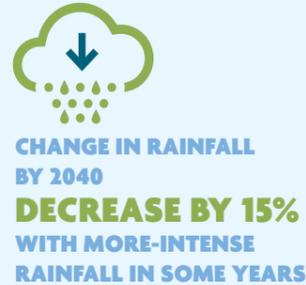
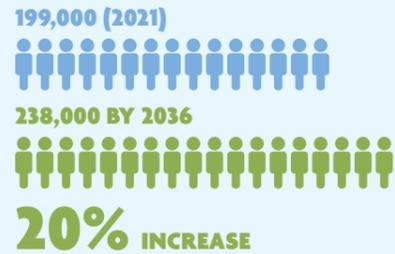


Coliban Integrated Water Management Forum Strategic Directions Statement 2022 summary

We work collaboratively with partners across the water cycle to find new ways to share resources and conserve water for multiple community and environmental benefits.

We work to meet the water needs of a changing region.

POPULATION GROWTH



* Population data: Victoria In Future 2019
* Temperature and rainfall range are highest and lowest predictions for Campaspe and Loddon catchments. Predictions represent the annual average relative to the year 1995. Source: Guidelines for Assessing the Impact of Climate Change on Water Availability in Victoria, November 2020.

1. Implementing the Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan

Further work on the revitalisation of Bendigo Creek, to heal the catchment, enhance cultural values and build connections to the creek.

2. Wanyarram Dhelk - Starting the Healing

Restoring the environmental and Dja Dja Wurrung cultural values of an urban drain and peri-urban waterway guided by the Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan.

3. Castlemaine Stormwater Outfall Retrofit Scheme and Pilot Program

Retrofitting stormwater outfalls around Castlemaine to prevent pollution.

4. Forest Creek Revitalisation Project

Rehabilitation of a channelised section of urban Forest Creek.

5. Echuca Aquatic Reserve

Program to improve the environmental and social values at the Echuca Aquatic reserve.

6. Improved Drought Resilience for Bendigo with Managed Aquifer Recharge

Taking excess water from reservoirs in the Campaspe system and storing it underground for later reuse.

7. Diversifying Water Supply for the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens

Exploring options to use recycled water for irrigation and other uses at the gardens.

8. Diversifying Water Supplies for Parks and Gardens

Providing a wider range of water supply options – such as stormwater, recycled water and groundwater – to maintain the health of valued green spaces during dry periods.

9. Increased Flows in the Coliban River for Cultural and Ecological Benefits

Increase flows in the Coliban River for cultural and ecological benefits while increasing the operational flexibility by reinstating the hydroelectric plant at Lake Eppalock.

10. Managing Trentham Stormwater Quality and Quantity for Healthy Waterways

Managing threats to the catchment from urban and peri-urban development.

11. Recycled Water for a Greener Echuca

Investigating the feasibility of supplying recycled water to existing and new public open spaces, to reduce the demand on potable water supplies.

12. Water Sensitive Urban Design for New or Upgraded Developments (Land and Buildings)

Helping councils incorporate water sensitive urban design into new developments or upgrade projects such as roads or council-owned buildings.

13. Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct

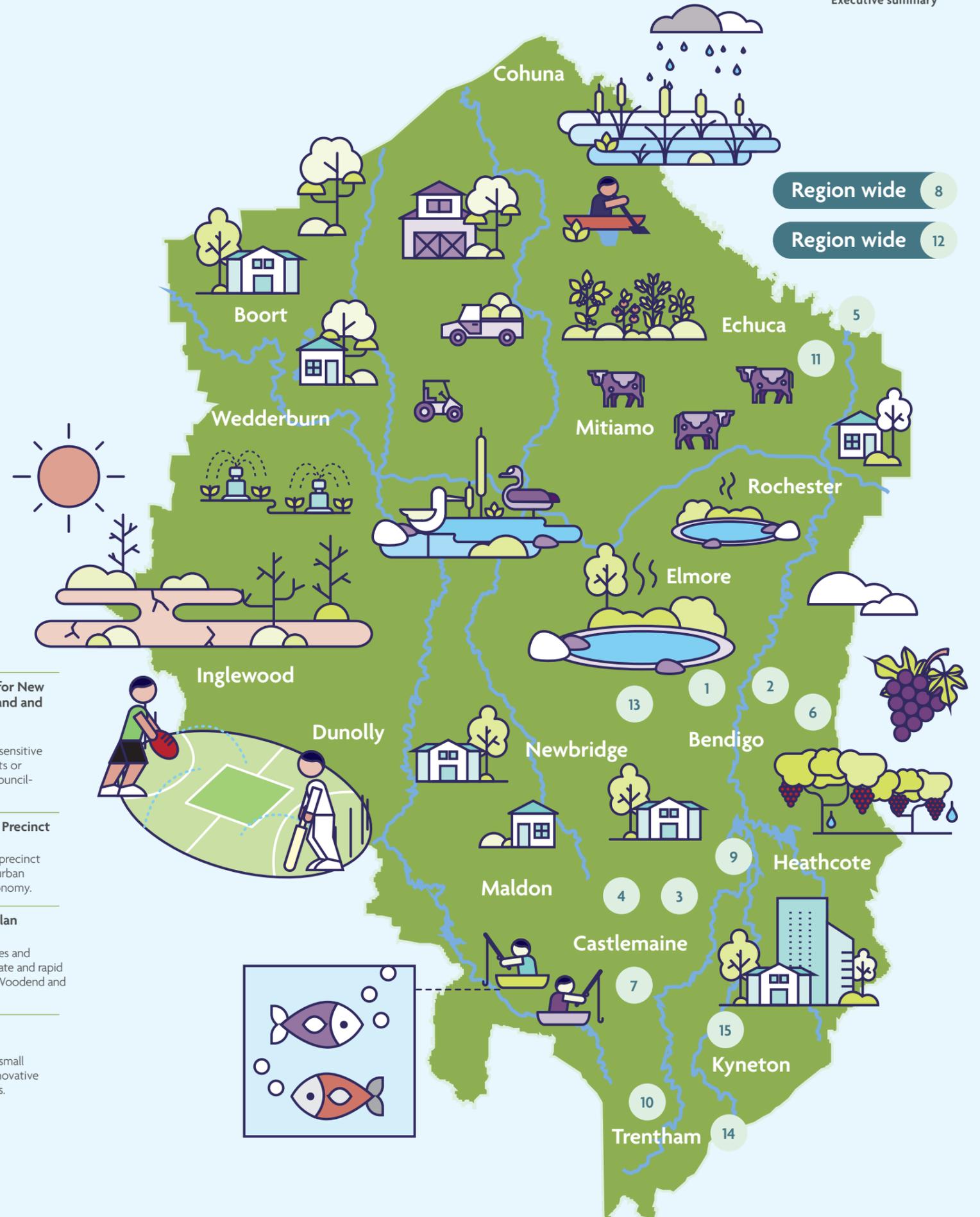
Designing a best-practice industrial precinct that demonstrates water-sensitive urban design, zero carbon and circular economy.

14. Macedon Ranges North IWM Plan

An IWM plan to explore opportunities and solutions in the face of a drying climate and rapid urban growth around the towns of Woodend and Kyneton.

15. Servicing Small Townships

Facilitating the potential growth of small towns in the region by providing innovative reticulated water and sewer systems.



Region wide 8

Region wide 12

BETTER TOGETHER: INTEGRATING WATER MANAGEMENT ACROSS VICTORIA

The first water custodians

First Nations clans have been living in balance with the natural environment in Victoria, practising culture, caring for Country and waterways, and maintaining sophisticated water management systems for tens of thousands of years.

More than 6,000 years ago, the Gunditjmarra worked with the waterways along the Budj Bim lava flow in south-western Victoria, engineering an extensive and sophisticated aquaculture system to trap, store and harvest kooyang – short-finned eel. That system still lives and operates, the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape is now an UNESCO World Heritage List site.

Within north central Victoria, the Dja Dja Wurrung (Yes Yes speaking) Jaara (people of this Country) believe that all of Country has Murrup (spirit), all things from creation are made of the same source of life. Water has spirit. For the Taungurung, the First People of the rivers and mountains, 'Our waterways are the lifeblood of Country; they are the blood and tears of our ancestors.' Yorta Yorta people conserved the landscape and waterways for thousands of generations. 'We are freshwater people that maintained and occupied a landscape containing floodplains and grasslands that continue to provide an abundance of natural resources that are easily accessible throughout the seasons.' These lands and waters are also part of the history, life and continuing and culture of the Barapa Barapa, Wamba Wemba, Wadi Wadi people and clans represented by Barengi Gadjin Land Council (Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk).

Pressures emerge and evolve

European settlement and the gold rush of the 1850s saw thousands of people flock to Victoria to seek their fortunes. This created many towns, yet also had large and long-lasting impacts on the creeks and gullies, and displaced Traditional Owners from their Country.

Victoria's regional towns and cities have thrived with the provision of urban drinking water and sanitation services. Irrigated agriculture and dryland farming have both played important roles in Victoria's history and growth. Today, Victoria is the nation's largest food and fibre exporter.¹ Much of the water flowing into the Murray-Darling Basin System comes from the Victorian High Country and underpins irrigated agriculture in several states.

The complex challenges of water management continue throughout the state: we have lived through the Millennium Drought and experienced flooding, bushfires and extreme weather. We have seen the consequences of the overuse and overallocation of water in one area affecting the availability and/or quality of water in another. Significant investment and interventions have been required to start the return of water to our rivers and floodplains, yet more remains to be done.

Water managers are now operating in an increasingly complex and uncertain environment. The drivers of change are both social and environmental. They include climate change, population growth, shifting migration patterns associated with the coronavirus pandemic, economic challenges, and policy changes. But our beautiful state remains a wonderful place to live, and we continue to see the population increase. Regional Victoria is expected to grow from 1.5 million people in 2015 to 2.2 million over the next 30 years to 2051.²

The liveability of our regional towns and cities, and the health of our environment and economy, depend on the availability of water. Access to water is also important for social wellbeing and holds intrinsic cultural value for Traditional Owners. Therefore, we need an integrated and collaborative approach to adapt to change and maximise value across the whole water cycle.

What is IWM? How can it help address challenges?

The current water supplies and liveability of towns and cities owe much to the collaborative work done to date by water corporations, local and state government, planning and development authorities, communities and, in recent decades, catchment management authorities. While we face the challenges of population growth, climate change and natural disasters, we can also build on the benefits of past experiences and established relationships. Together, we can make decisions today that we will celebrate in the future.

● ● Integrated water management considers all parts of the water cycle as an integrated system to optimise the environmental, cultural, social and economic outcomes for our communities.



While everyone has a responsibility to conserve and protect water, there are a number of key groups charged with making decisions about water within each region. These include:

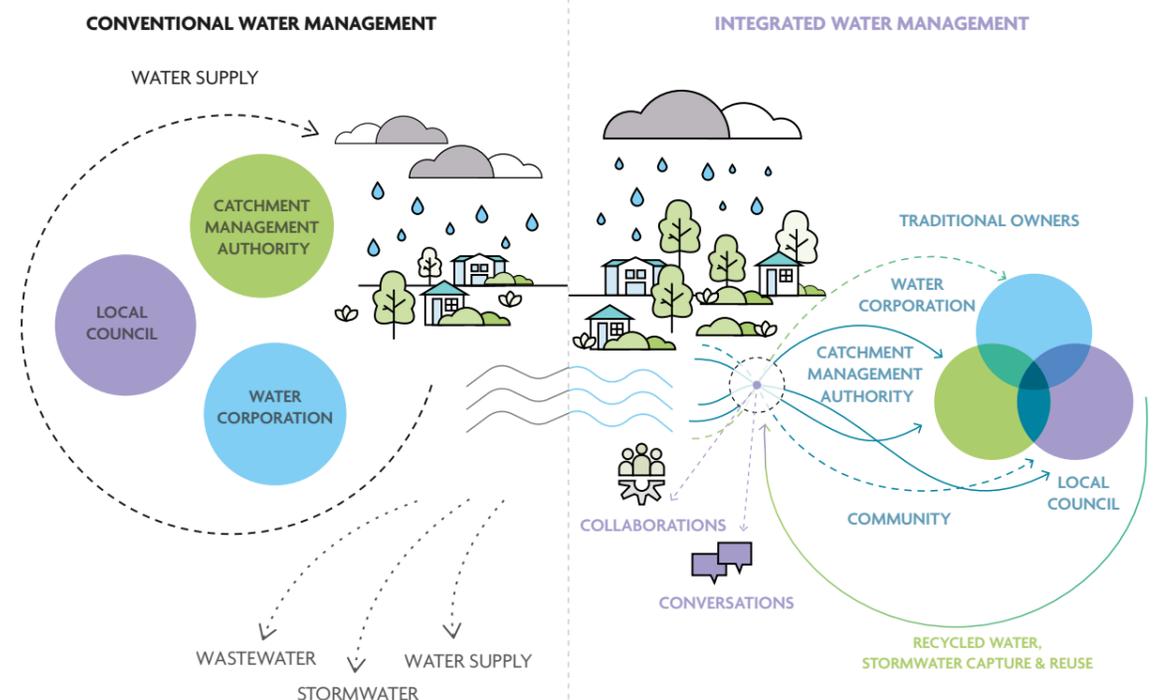
- Traditional Owner groups, who have a deep knowledge of and connection to the region's waterways, other water resources and Country;
- water corporations, which manage the water storage, water supply, and wastewater services
- local governments, which manage surface water drainage, protect local waters from degradation and pollution, oversee on-site domestic wastewater planning, regulate local development, and undertake strategic planning for future growth

- catchment management authorities, which plan for flood management and work with landholders to consider the interactions of land, water, and biodiversity.

The decisions these groups make individually, can have significant impacts on the quality and availability of the water for others in the catchment and further downstream. So, it makes sense they collaborate towards common goals to maximise water saving and reuse and share the benefits (Figure 2).

IWM is an approach that can be applied at multiple scales from water planning at the local park, right up to the whole-of-catchment. IWM can connect climate-change adaptation, planning and open space, water security and other strategies, so that collaborators can add value to each other's projects.

What is integrated water management?



Better together: IWM formalises collaborations to use all water sources for multiple community & environmental benefits:

Urban greening, cultural benefits, healthy waterways, flood prevention, efficient investment, improved water security, liveable and resilient communities

Figure 1: How does IWM work? Conventional water management saw a more siloed approach to water management, with a single supply source and two discharge systems to move stormwater and wastewater away as quickly as possible, resulting in missed opportunities to use all sources of water. The IWM approach brings water managers together to plan and deliver new opportunities to provide broader benefits to the community. Listening to and consulting with Victorian communities about how they want water managed is critical to informing IWM decision making. Communities are directly consulted on IWM plans and through existing catchment management authority, water corporation and local government strategies.

¹ Victorian Food and Fibre Export Performance Report 2019-20
² Victoria in Future 2019

How are we delivering IWM state-wide?

To facilitate IWM across Victoria, the Victorian Government's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) supported the establishment of IWM forums across 10 regions of Victoria (Figure 3). These forums bring together leaders of the local water sector to explore, prioritise and oversee the development of local IWM opportunities. Prioritised opportunities are managed and implemented by dedicated working groups and are captured within individual IWM plans. Where appropriate, the forums involve other organisations and groups that are not part of the water sector but have direct or indirect interests in water management and land use planning, such as community and Indigenous groups, planning authorities, Department of Transport, developers, educational institutions, or large landholders.

Being collaborative, IWM builds on existing partnerships and planning processes, and aims to break down silos between independently operating water decision-makers – encouraging forum members to consider the water cycle of their own service delivery, and the interdependencies or overlaps with other members (Figure 2). Forum members consider waters in rivers, streams and bays, wastewater, drinking water, stormwater, and water treatment processes.

While collaboration can take more time and effort, working together achieves better outcomes for the environment, society, and the economy by finding mutually beneficial ways to share water, assets, and costs.

Dja Dja Wurrung cremeony on Bendigo Creek. Credit: City of Greater Bendigo



Figure 3 : IWM forum regions of Victoria, which are based around water corporation boundaries

Strategic outcomes

The *Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria* (2017) proposed several strategic water-related outcomes that will deliver on the vision in the State water plan, *Water for Victoria* (2016), to 'build resilient and liveable cities and towns'. These strategic outcomes provide a way to identify the multiple economic, social and environmental benefits that can come from a single initiative. The original framework included five such strategic outcomes that have since been expanded to seven. The identification of strategic outcomes will continue to evolve as the water management context changes and the sector innovates.

Proposed project opportunities are assessed and prioritised against how well and how many of these strategic outcomes they meet.

The strategic outcomes are:



safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future – indicated by the amount of water conserved or diverse water volume supplied to meet an identified demand.



effective and affordable wastewater systems – ensuring environmental and public health standards are met, while maximising resource recovery.



manage flood risks – resilience to existing and future flood risk.



healthy and valued waterways and waterbodies – indicated by the ecological health of riparian areas, hydrology and water quality.



healthy and valued landscapes – maximising the connectivity, accessibility, greening and vegetation, cooling, aesthetic and/or recreational values of landscapes.



Traditional Owner and community values reflected in place-based planning – ensuring that different communities are considered and included in planning and design, and provided with water-systems literacy to enable involvement.



jobs, economic opportunity and innovation – recognising that water management is an integral part of economic growth.

Find out more about how Victoria is applying IWM through the *Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria* (2017). Visit: www.water.vic.gov.au

Strategic Directions Statement – how IWM is happening in the region

This SDS articulates the collaborative intent and shared agreement of all stakeholders involved in the forum. It describes the water security challenges and opportunities in the region, sets the strategic direction for the next few years, and outlines the 'best endeavours' or ways in which IWM is and will be applied through opportunities that are proposed, in-progress or completed in the region.

This is the first update to the Coliban region's SDS produced in 2018, and includes:

- an update on progress to date
- case studies illustrating IWM in the region
- details of planned and potential opportunities designed to meet the strategic outcomes and key challenges over the next three to five years.

This SDS has been developed to complement the other plans and strategies that apply to the region for water, climate change, First Nations' rights and catchment management (Figure 4).

Figure 4 : The SDS and related water policies, strategies and plans of the region.



WATER IN THE COLIBAN REGION

The Coliban region is home to nearly 200,000 people, a diversity of plant and animal life, and the waters from the spring and spa region in the south to the Murray River and its floodplains on the border with New South Wales in the north.³ The area encompasses the lands and waters of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Yorta Yorta, Taungurung and Barapa Barapa Country, whose ancestors and their descendants are the Traditional Owners of this Country.

It supports irrigated agriculture including dairy, orchards and intensive animal farming, as well as dryland cropping. Tourists and day-trippers come year-round to visit the resorts and fine-dining attractions of picturesque towns, the wonder and wildlife of the Wombat State Forest and other beauty spots, Indigenous cultural heritage sites, historical goldrush towns, popular fishing and kayaking locations, and Bendigo's many attractions.

Waterbirds of state and national significance flock to the region's wetlands, including cormorants, great egrets, herons, royal and yellow spoonbills, and brolgas. The Northern Plains Grasslands, a critically endangered ecosystem, is home to the plains wanderer. Other local wildlife includes kangaroos, squirrel gliders, growling grass frogs, Bogong moths, and other keystone and iconic species.

The health and liveability of our thriving region is underpinned by water, from the provision of safe drinking water and the management of stormwater and wastewater in urban areas to the rivers, rainfall and other environmental flows that support ecosystems, landscapes and wildlife. Important river systems include the Loddon, Campaspe, Avoca, and Murray River systems, which support the Goulburn-Murray Irrigation District.

Rainfall in the region can range from an average of more than 1000 mm annually in Trentham to less than 400 mm per year in Boort; and a drier future is predicted⁴. Consequently, water management is key to the region's long-term future.

³ Victoria in Future 2019
⁴ Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology

Campaspe River, Doaks Reserve. Credit: DELWP



A CHANGING REGION

The Coliban IWM Forum has been operating for four years, providing experience to draw on and projects to build upon. In addition, major disruptions, such as natural disasters and the coronavirus pandemic, have highlighted the need for the forum to sharpen its focus, rescope projects and prioritise activities to address three key challenges or themes.

Water for people, environment and healing Country

We need water for landscapes, for people and for the environment, and for healing Country.

Victoria in Future (2019) predicted an average regional population growth of one and a half per cent annually from 2018 to 2036. The first two years of this period saw growth exceed expectations. More recently, the global coronavirus pandemic led to a substantial increase in the number of people migrating from Melbourne to Victoria's regional areas, and closed international borders have resulted in a domestic tourism boom.

Visitors and permanent residents alike need drinking water supplies and wastewater management. Providing cost-effective water services in small towns and rural hamlets is a particularly challenging necessity. People also value healthy parks, waterways and landscapes for recreation and to improve local beauty and liveability.

⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2010, 1301.0 - Year Book Australia, 2009-10

Green spaces with shade and cooling vegetation are becoming vitally important as the Coliban region experiences a greater number of days of extreme heat. More Victorians died from heat-related illnesses in the fortnight leading up to the Black Saturday bushfires than the number who perished in the fires themselves.⁵ This makes 'green infrastructure', such as parks, wetlands and nature reserves, potentially life-saving community assets.

More broadly, some past and current land-use practices and extreme weather events have degraded important ecosystems. IWM offers opportunities to heal Country, rehabilitate and revitalise landscapes, change flows and keep water in nature for longer. The IWM forums were formed specifically to 'build resilient and liveable cities and towns' under the *Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria* (2017). As such, the projects focus on urban and urban-serving areas. However, the forum works in the context of recognising agricultural water needs, which are a significant contributor to the Coliban region's economy, and environmental water needs across the whole

Bendigo Creek earth works. Credit: Djandak



catchment. Growth impacts catchments, making the need to consider and manage its repercussions for the water cycle urgent.

Traditional Owners are taking an increasingly active and leading role in water management. There is growing recognition of the right of Traditional Owners and First Nations to self-determination and their inherent obligations to continually speak for and look after the Country of their ancestors for current and future generations. Traditional Owners in the Coliban region are taking more of a leadership role.

Victoria is the first state to progress Treaty discussions, the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria has formed, and there is increasing understanding among Victorians of Indigenous rights, connection to Country, and the need for inclusion, consultation, and reconciliation. IWM is increasingly being considered in this context.

The following projects fall under the theme of 'water for people, environment, and healing Country':

- Implementing the Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan
- Wanyarram Dhelk – Starting the Healing
- Castlemaine Stormwater Outfall Retrofit Scheme and Pilot Program
- Forest Creek Revitalisation Project
- Echuca Aquatic Reserve

Making more of water resources in a changing climate

A growing population and a hotter, drier future under climate change mean the Coliban region needs more water, and to do more with the water it has.

The Coliban region is already experiencing the consequences of climate change, with a 53% reduction in long-term stream flow into the upper region's storages since 1996. Further reductions are projected. Some of Coliban Water's urban-water supply systems are forecast to have a shortfall in the next 50 years. A 'business as usual' approach to water management will not allow the region's reduced supply to meet existing or growing demand.

It is also likely the effects of heatwaves, fire, flood and drought in the region will worsen and become more frequent due to climatic change. This will significantly impact ecosystems and communities in the region. Future fires will require water for firefighting. Fires and other natural disasters will demand increased capacity to manage water quality in the catchment to deal with dirty-water events. Changing weather patterns will also influence the growing seasons for agriculture and the timing of periods of high water demand.

These challenges, and approaches to addressing them, are detailed further in the North Central Regional Catchment Management Strategy, online at northcentral.rcs.vic.gov.au.

IWM will assist in monitoring and adapting to climate change as a shared responsibility.

There is also an opportunity to make better use of water resources, considering both water quality and quantity, and directing water that's fit-for-purpose to where it's needed. This involves exploring opportunities to substitute captured stormwater or treated recycled water for potable water where drinking quality is not required. It also involves seeing discharges and wastewater as opportunities to increase water in the environment, rather than just problems to solve.

The following projects fall under the theme of 'making more of water resources in a changing climate':

- Improved Drought Resilience for Bendigo with Managed Aquifer Recharge
- Diversifying Water Supply for the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens
- Diversifying Water Supplies for Parks and Gardens
- Increased Flows in the Coliban River for Cultural and Ecological Benefits
- Managing Trentham Stormwater Quality and Quantity for Healthy Waterways
- Recycled Water for a Greener Echuca

Integrated planning for a sustainable future

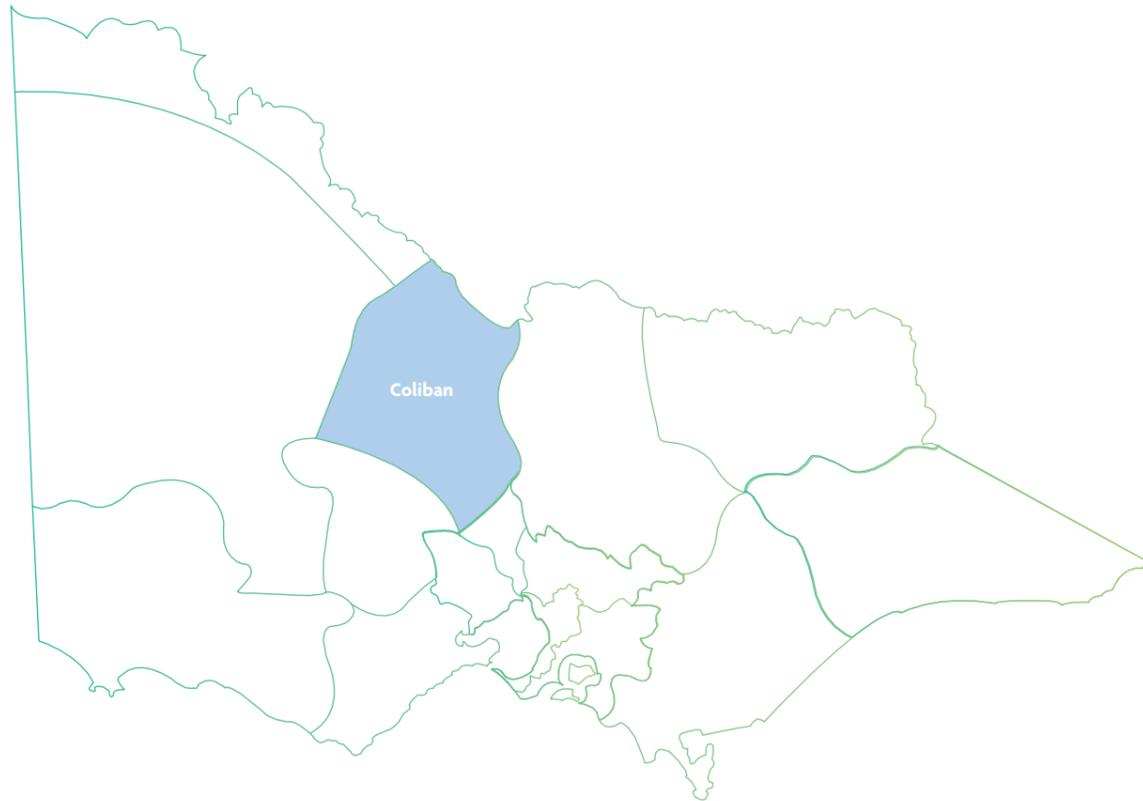
We are experiencing significant growth in both large and small settlements. We need to manage and plan accordingly

The Coliban region is experiencing industrial growth, as well as residential growth. Bendigo is expected to grow to the size of Geelong. Land is opening for residential development around Bendigo and the larger towns. The smaller towns are growing, too. Many new residents are arriving from Melbourne with expectations of urban-style water services. There is a pressing need to ensure the long-term sustainability of accommodating this growth.

The following projects fall under the theme of 'integrated planning for a sustainable future':

- Water Sensitive Urban Design for New or Upgraded Developments (Land and Buildings)
- Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct
- Macedon Ranges North IWM Plan
- Servicing Small Townships

One implication of growth is the increasing use of farm dams. The region already has a large and unsustainable number of farm dams. It's anticipated this policy challenge will be addressed through other organisations and regulations. The forum, however, will continue to have an interest in this type of water use.



POPULATION GROWTH

199,000 (2021)
238,000 BY 2036⁵



20% INCREASE

CONDITION OF WATERWAYS

	CAMPASPE	LODDON
GOOD:	7%	0%
MODERATE:	39%	41%
POOR:	33%	26%
VERY POOR:	21%	29%



CHANGE IN RAINFALL BY 2040

DECREASE BY 15% WITH MORE-INTENSE RAINFALL IN SOME YEARS⁶

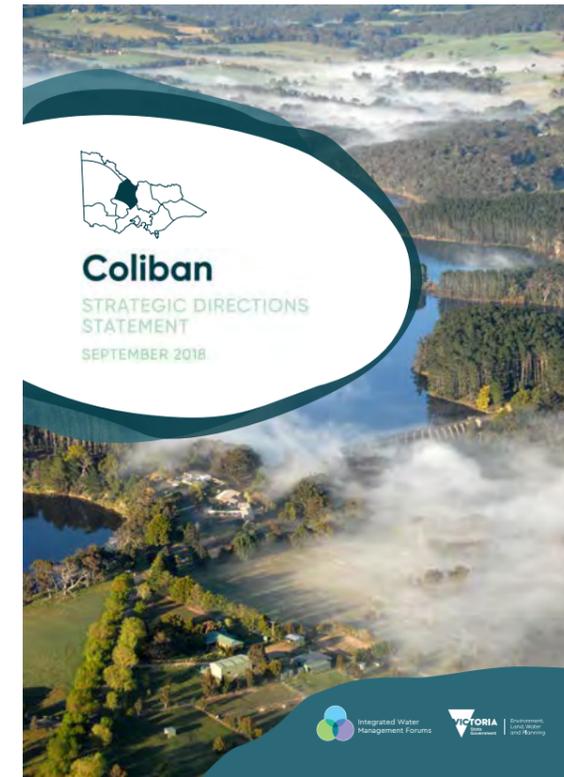


TEMPERATURE AN INCREASE OF 0.7-1.6C IN COLIBAN BY 2040⁷

⁵ Victoria in Future 2019
⁶ Third Index of Stream Condition report – ISC North Central
⁷ Temperature and rainfall predictions represent the highest and lowest predictions for Campaspe and Loddon catchments. They represent the annual average relative to the year 1995. Source: Guidelines for assessing the impact of climate change on water availability in Victoria, November 2020.

PROGRESS SO FAR

The first Coliban IWM Forum SDS was published in September 2018. It articulated the regional context, the shared vision and the strategic water-related objectives for the region. It also listed IWM opportunities as ready-to-advance projects developed in collaboration by the forum partners. It can be viewed online at www.water.vic.gov.au



All of the councils and many other forum members have IWM at the forefront of their thinking and several are implementing IWM projects independently. The projects – past, current and future – listed in this document and endorsed by the forum members are those that benefit from a collaborative, multi-party approach.

Our first SDS identified 15 opportunities that reflect the Coliban IWM Forum's initial priorities. Progress made on the 2018 SDS IWM opportunities is summarised in Table 1 on page 17.

Most of these opportunities are underway or completed. Six opportunities, including the Reimagining Bendigo Creek project, have been completed. You can read more about that project on page 18. An extension of that project is also proposed in this SDS. Five more projects are well underway, including the Managed Aquifer Recharge Potential in the Coliban Region project, which serves as an important early demonstration project for other regions with highly-developed aquifers. Read about this project on page 20.

The Coliban IWM Forum is flexible and responsive to the changing needs and priorities of local governments and other members. Some projects were delayed as forum members dealt with greater than expected population growth and the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. Two projects have been rescope and are included in this SDS, and a final two have been set aside in order to direct resources to higher priority projects.

Lake Weeroona render – Reimagining Bendigo Creek. Courtesy: City of Greater Bendigo





Koomba Street planting, Bendigo Creek. Credit: Djandak.

Table 1: Summary of the status of 2018 SDS IWM opportunities

IWM opportunity	Status	Notes
Reimagining Bendigo Creek	Completed	Strategic plan developed to retrofit the catchment, keeping water in the landscape longer. Received funding. See case study on page 18. Next stage proposed. See page 24
Wanyarram Dhelk	Underway	Wanyarram Dhelk means to Heal Water, and is a priority for Djaara (as defined in Delkunya Dja – Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan). This project provided the first step in the restoration of the Bendigo Creek, removing historical silt and starting to return the creek to a more natural form. Next stage is now proposed. See page 24
Growing Newbridge Sustainably	Completed	A business case and report was prepared, outlining the feasibility of supplying the township of Newbridge with a secure water supply and associated water and sewerage infrastructure.
Water for Now and into the Future in Castlemaine	Completed	An integrated water study was completed which helped to identify opportunities for further detailed investigation as part of SDS2. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castlemaine Stormwater Outfall Retrofit Scheme and Pilot Program • Forest Creek Revitalisation Project • Developing an Alternative Water Supply for the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens See page 26 and page 29.
Aboriginal Water Assessment – Campaspe River	Underway	Measures and prioritises river and wetland health so that Traditional Owners can more effectively participate in water planning and management.
Upper Coliban Integrated Catchment Plan	Underway	Funded. Incorporated into Campaspe IWM Framework
Implementation of the Transition Strategy for a Water Sensitive Bendigo	Underway	Funded, and progressed investigation and concept into priority water sensitive urban design sites.
Campaspe: Planning for Future Water Management	Underway	Funded and underway, with community education elements ongoing.
Managed Aquifer Recharge Potential in the Coliban region	Underway	This project has produced a decision support tool. See case study on page 20. It has led to a new project: Improved Drought Resilience with Managed Aquifer Recharge for Bendigo. See page 28.
Planning for Sustainable Water Management	Underway	Working towards planning mechanisms for councils for residential and commercial/industrial developments.
Lake Eppalock Hydro-electricity Project: For Country and Environment	Underway	Assessment of cultural and environmental values and business case complete. It has led to a new project: Increased flows in Coliban River for Cultural and Ecological Benefits. See page 30
Macedon Ranges Northern Region IWM Plan	Not started	Project is included in refreshed SDS. See page 35
Greening Trentham for Water Security and Healthy Waterways	Not started	Project has been re-scoped and included in refreshed SDS See page 31
Lake Eppalock Water Quality Assessment	Not started	Superseded to direct resources to more urgent priorities
Hanging Rock Reserve Alternative Water Supply	Not started	Superseded to direct resources to more urgent priorities

Case study

Reimagining Bendigo Creek

Dja Dja Wurrung's vision

There is a rippling along the Bendigo Creek, there is now undulation. Sounds, when there was none. There is a familiar sense of reawakening as we walk along the banks. There is open, clean water, verged by grasses and reeds that are strong and healthy like us. The Creek is healing and so are we.

Activity and conversation, voices of the community, people and children, looking for and anticipating life and movement within the Creek, hoping for new interactions. We now have a place to gather, to listen and to share.

The familiar sense and smell of smoke is around us, but not heat, a sweetened cleansing smell that is recognisable to us all, not feared, but welcoming and healing. You are amongst Cultural practice.

The ground is clean, and thick with Kangaroo Grass that gently brush against our hands and feet, there are now sensations underfoot, crinkling and crunching in the new life and healing, colours are yellow and as bright as the sun, they are unavoidable in their numbers. What was lost, has now returned.

Cultural practices and ceremony supports healing, and encourages cultural interaction, facilitating reconciliation and greater returns to the community.

Collaboration to heal Country

The *Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan* (2020) marks a turning point in the creek's history by articulating a long-term vision to revitalise the urban creek. The immediate mission is to 'change people's hearts and minds to take united action, so that in a

generation's time Bendigo Creek will be a healthy, connected and nurturing place'. To guide this, the Plan focuses on the three goals of Catchment, Connections and Culture. These goals aim to restore an urban catchment to slow and heal water, create human connections to the creek, and celebrate Aboriginal and migrant cultures along the creek.

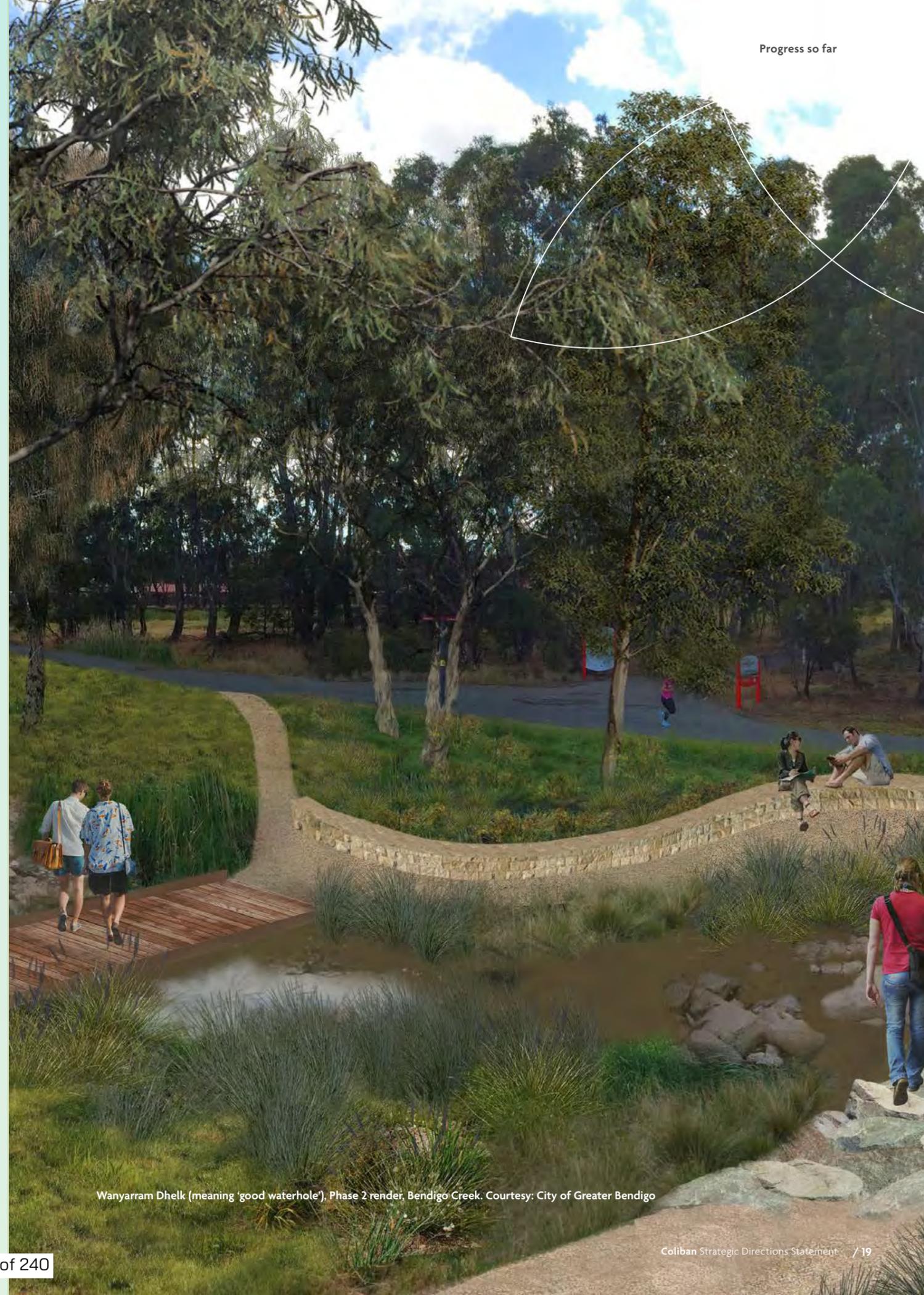
An 18-month co-design process with the Traditional Owners – Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation) – relevant agencies and the community developed the *Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan*. The process enabled the Djaara to articulate their vision for Bendigo Creek, facilitated the community to identify their values and aspirations for the creek, and built collective commitment amongst key stakeholders to implement the plan.

Key lessons from the co-design process include to:

- listen with an open heart and mind
- be flexible and allow plenty of time
- develop a comprehensive engagement process and trust each other to see it through
- enable culturally safe environments that allow Elders the time and space to discuss the project and their aspirations for Country deeply
- have a core team of mixed skills and backgrounds to implement the co-design process.

The project was funded via the IWM forum and supported by partner contributions. The *Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan* (2020) is available to view online at www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

Bendigo Botanic Gardens. Credit: City of Greater Bendigo



Wanyarram Dhehk (meaning 'good waterhole'), Phase 2 render, Bendigo Creek. Courtesy: City of Greater Bendigo

Case study

Managed aquifer Recharge potential in the Coliban region

A demonstration of the technical feasibility of an approach with state-wide importance

A new assessment tool has been developed to help water corporations considering managed aquifer recharge (MAR) as an option for saving water in times of plenty - to reduce water use from rivers, dams, and lakes in times of drought. MAR is where water is purposefully put in a groundwater aquifer, with the intention of extracting and using that water later. To be successful, all MAR projects must find a source of water, an aquifer that can store the water and a use for the water when it is extracted.

Goulburn-Murray Water worked with Implementation partners Coliban Water, the North Central Catchment Management Authority, and consultants RMCG and Aquade, to develop and test the 'Managed Aquifer Recharge Decision Support Tool' for use across Victoria. The project also tested the technical feasibility of the tool, using the Lower Campaspe Valley Water Supply Protection Area as a case study.

The tool provides much-needed information and guidance to water corporations and other organisations considering MAR projects, including:

- identifying the capacity and nature of aquifers
- identifying and quantifying potential sources of recharge water
- aquifer charging strategies
- policy issues, including re-injection of treated water or water with different characteristics
- addressing the need to integrate stored water management with existing groundwater management plans.

●● The Lower Campaspe Valley case study aimed to find a way to safeguard Bendigo's water security in future droughts. It identified 16 possible options and shortlisted plausible approaches for more detailed assessment. The case study found that MAR is a viable means of improving Bendigo's water security during drought.



The case study recommended that a business case be developed.

The next stage of this initiative is outlined on page 28.

Ultimately, by further integrating groundwater and surface water management, this tool aims to support water corporations and other organisations to boost the reliability of urban water supplies across the state.



The Campaspe River near Goornong, overlying deeper water-transmitting sediments.
Credit: Scott Ridges, Goulburn-Murray Water.

IWM OPPORTUNITIES

IWM opportunities that link to and address challenges for the region were identified and developed by the nominated practitioners of the forum's participating organisations.

A summary of the priority IWM opportunities is shown in Table 2, with more detail in the following section. This list is dynamic and will continue to be updated to reflect the forum's priorities and opportunities as they arise.

Partners are committing their 'best endeavours' to ensure priority projects and strategies are moved forward, in line with the shared vision and strategic outcomes of the forum.

Table 2: IWM opportunities 'ready-to-advance' in the Coliban region

IWM opportunity	Strategic outcomes							Location	Scale
1. Implementing the Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan								Bendigo	City
2. Wanyarram Dhehk - Starting the Healing								Bendigo	Waterway
3. Castlemaine Stormwater Outfall Retrofit Scheme and Pilot Program								Castlemaine	Town
4. Forest Creek Revitalisation Project								Castlemaine	Waterway
5. Echuca Aquatic Reserve								Echuca	Precinct
6. Improving Drought Resilience for Bendigo with Managed Aquifer Recharge								Bendigo and surrounds	Region
7. Diversifying Water Supply for the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens								Castlemaine	Precinct

Shade scale



- safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future
- effective and affordable wastewater systems
- manage flood risks

IWM opportunity	Strategic outcomes							Location	Scale
8. Diversifying Water Supplies for Parks and Gardens								Coliban region	Service area
9. Increased Flows in Coliban River for Cultural and Ecological Benefits								Coliban River	Waterway
10. Managing Trentham Stormwater Quality and Quantity for Healthy Waterways								Trentham	Town
11. Recycled Water for a Greener Echuca								Echuca	Town
12. Water Sensitive Urban Design for New or Upgraded Developments (Land and Buildings)								Coliban region	Forum area
13. Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct								Marong (Bendigo)	Precinct
14. Macedon Ranges North IWM Plan								Northern Macedon Ranges	Region
15. Servicing Small Townships								Taradale and Elphinstone	Town

- healthy and valued waterways and waterbodies
- healthy and valued landscape
- traditional owner and community values reflected in place-based planning
- jobs, economic opportunity and innovation

WATER FOR PEOPLE, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALING COUNTRY

Implementing the Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan

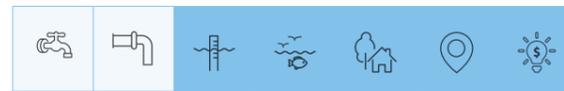
In 2019-2020, the City of Greater Bendigo, Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation), key regional agencies and the local community co-designed the Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan. The plan provides a long-term vision for the revitalisation of Bendigo Creek by setting goals with respect to healing the catchment, enhancing cultural values along the creek and building connections to the creek.

A key strategy of the plan is to retrofit the catchment so that it acts more like a sponge, so that water is kept in the landscape longer and is cleaned via ecosystem services. To put this strategy into action, partner organisations will install water-sensitive urban-design infrastructure and reinstate riparian habitats. This will be guided by traditional ecological knowledge and underpinned with community engagement.

Priority projects include:

- detailed design and construction of instream works for Bendigo Creek
- building of the Long Gully constructed wetlands
- installation of an 'Internet-of-Things' sensor network to improve monitoring of catchment health – a prototype has been produced, a monitoring plan developed, and sensor locations will be identified
- design and investigation of the feasibility of renaturalising Back Creek
- development of the scope and masterplan for a cultural trail along Bendigo Creek, including connecting with Wanyarram Dhelk and designing the 'low-line' cycling route.

The next steps will be to develop a project brief, enable a Djaara advisory committee to lead the design process, and procure a consultant.



Status	Implementation
Lead agency	City of Greater Bendigo and Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation)
Implementation partners	North Central Catchment Management Authority, DELWP, Coliban Water, Parks Victoria, La Trobe University
Location	Bendigo
Scale	City



Wanyarram Dhelk – Starting the Healing

This phase of Wanyarram Dhelk will focus on sediment capture and management, to enable Bendigo Creek to start being turned from an urban drain into a valued vibrant waterway.

This project will:

- establish a chain of instream sediment ponds that will be used to capture and manage sediment entering Bendigo Creek
- design and reinstate riparian areas
- investigate, identify and reduce current sediment hotspots in the Bendigo catchment
- work with partners to develop a stormwater management plan for the surrounding areas.

This project will build on the recent work completed by Water Tech, including concept designs and site surveys. It will be an important step in the restoration of Bendigo Creek and a key first step in implementing the Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan. It is guided by the Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan 2014-2034.

The preliminary stage will be revisiting the existing concept plans and working with key stakeholders to develop and progress to detailed design. This will include scoping the stormwater management plan, planning and approvals for the proposed works, and implementation following that. The majority of the survey, flood modelling and approvals process is well progressed as part of the preparation work already completed.



Status	Implementation
Lead agency	Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation) and Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises (Djandak)
Implementation partners	City of Greater Bendigo, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Coliban Water, Environment Protection Authority Victoria
Location	Bendigo
Scale	Waterway

Castlemaine Stormwater Outfall Retrofit Scheme and Pilot Program

Retrofitting stormwater outfalls around Castlemaine was identified as a key outcome of the Castlemaine Urban Waterways Management Plan which was completed as part of the 2018 Water for Now and into the Future in Castlemaine project.

Multiple stakeholders who attended the Opportunities Identification Workshop identified litter in the creeks, as well as erosion and sediment as key issues in Castlemaine. To mitigate this, gross pollutant traps (GPTs) and erosion remediation works are proposed in the form of rockwork and vegetation to help stabilise soil and prevent erosion.

As a pilot program, based on catchment analysis and site inspections, five sites have been identified in Castlemaine as having potential opportunities for rectifying outfalls and installing GPTs to minimise associated litter and sediment in the creek.

This could be a pilot program across the region, or specific to Castlemaine. The next steps involve securing funding for detailed design work, construction and monitoring.



Status	Identified
Lead agency	Mount Alexander Shire Council
Implementation partners	North Central Catchment Management Authority, Coliban Water
Location	Castlemaine
Scale	Town

Forest Creek Revitalisation Project

This revitalisation project is focused on the rehabilitation of a channelised section of urban Forest Creek, Castlemaine, and will:

- create a more natural stream channel while managing stormwater, flood and fire risk
- facilitate community engagement by linking key trails, interpretative signage and citizen science projects
- increase community awareness of the cultural significance of Forest Creek
- manage sediment and ongoing weed issues
- create an enhanced aquatic habitat
- improve natural habitat and create a wildlife corridor.

The project evolved from an investigation by Professor Ian Rutherford entitled *Options for the Management of Forest Creek in Urban Castlemaine* (2018). It provides Traditional Owner and community benefit by improving the ecology and accessibility of Forest Creek, including a link to a significant site for the Djaara people, Booladj Kiarp Bolealon.

The preliminary stage of the project is well established with the development of an options paper and convening of an Implementation Strategy Group with representatives of Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation), Mount Alexander Shire Council, DELWP, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Castlemaine Landcare and Friends of Campbells Creek.

The next stage involves concept and detailed designs, Traditional Owner and community consultations, gaining required approvals and refining costings. The following implementation phase will include preparatory works such as reed and weed removal, creation of a natural stream morphology, installation of litter controls, revegetation, interpretive signage and associated works. There will be on-going monitoring of completed works.



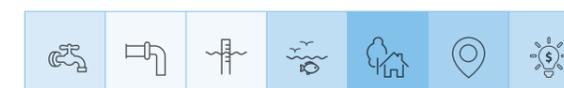
Status	Committed
Lead agency	Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation)
Implementation partners	Mount Alexander Shire Council, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Friends of Campbells Creek, Castlemaine Landcare Group
Location	Castlemaine
Scale	Waterway

Echuca Aquatic Reserve

The redevelopment of the Echuca Aquatic Reserve is a three-year program to improve its environmental and social values. The reserve offers nature and parklands with a wetland overlooking the Murray River and supports regional tourism with event opportunities (such as the Riverboats Music Festival), ecology education excursions, passive recreation and small functions (such as wedding ceremonies).

The redevelopment includes rehabilitation of the wetlands to treat urban stormwater, construction of shared pathway compliant with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*, native vegetation planting, protection of existing large River Red Gum trees, the addition of further public use facilities such as seating and BBQs, and a proposed Indigenous trail.

The design phase is underway and will be followed by the construction of pathways, redevelopment of parkland area and rehabilitation of wetlands. The final phase is the development and construction of the proposed Indigenous trail. Given that the Murray River is part of NSW, the project will continue to work with WaterNSW, which operates NSW's river systems.



Status	Implementation
Lead agency	Campaspe Shire Council
Implementation partners	Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Coliban Water
Location	Echuca
Scale	Precinct



Forest Creek, Castlemaine. Credit: DELWP

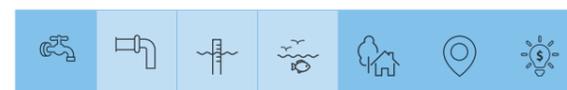
MAKING MORE OF WATER RESOURCES IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Improved Drought Resilience for Bendigo with Managed Aquifer Recharge

This project will develop a business case for a managed aquifer recharge (MAR) project, which aims to improve Bendigo's water security during drought. The proposed MAR project aims to take excess water from reservoirs (available under Coliban Water's bulk entitlement) in the Campaspe water supply system and store up to 15 gigalitres of it underground for later reuse. The benefits of the proposed project include:

- providing water for critical green spaces in Bendigo, Huntly, Axedale, Marong, Heathcote and surrounds, to support regional liveability during dry periods
- supporting the health of the Campaspe River by reducing the potential for leakage to the groundwater and potentially providing a source of supply to the Campaspe River in addition to existing environmental flows
- supporting groundwater users in the Lower Campaspe Valley by maintaining groundwater levels and reducing the potential for saline groundwater intrusion
- providing a more reliable water supply for Bendigo, Huntly, Axedale, Marong, Heathcote and surrounds during drought.

This initiative builds on previous work that developed a Managed Aquifer Recharge Decision Support Tool, which was tested on a Lower Campaspe Valley case study (see page 20). The case study found that managed aquifer recharge is a viable means of improving Bendigo's water security during drought and recommended that a business case be developed.



Status	Identified
Lead agency	Coliban Water
Implementation partners	Goulburn-Murray Water, City of Greater Bendigo, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Environment Protection Authority Victoria
Location	Bendigo and surrounds
Scale	Region

Aquifer recharge, Campaspe River near Goornong. Credit: Scott Ridges, Goulburn-Murray Water



Diversifying Water Supply for the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens

Diversifying water supply for the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens is identified as a key outcome of the 2018 *Castlemaine Urban Waterways Management Plan* which was completed as part of the 2018 Water for Now and into the Future in Castlemaine project.

The industrial district of Castlemaine is a concentrated area of industrial and open space, making it ideal for recycled water. Class A or B recycled water can substitute for a potable water supply for the irrigation demands of the Botanical Gardens and non-potable uses in commercial buildings such as toilet flushing.

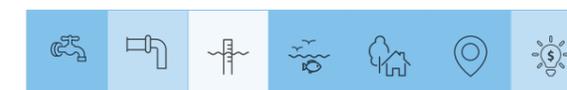
The proposed assets investigated for this district were a:

- pipeline of at least 3.5 km for recycled water for non-potable uses
- supply of recycled water for non-potable uses.

The alignment from the Castlemaine Waste Water Treatment Plant to the industrial district provides opportunity for other areas of Castlemaine to be connected to the recycled water network.

Further investigation is needed to determine the viability of the recycled water scheme, exploring the availability and timing of likely recycled water, potential users, treatment requirements, the location of a storage tank and alignment of the recycled water main, and the pumping requirements needed. Finally, the financial feasibility of this option would depend on the outcome of a cost-benefit analysis of the proposed recycled water scheme compared to the stormwater harvesting opportunities.

The next steps involve scoping of the project with collaborative partners and confirmation of commitment, followed by securing funding and commitment to implement the feasibility study.



Status	Identified
Lead agency	Mount Alexander Shire Council, Coliban Water
Implementation partners	To be determined
Location	Castlemaine
Scale	Precinct

Diversifying Water Supplies for Parks and Gardens

This project aims to identify and aid in securing a variety of water supplies for priority community assets, allowing water security during dry periods.

A diverse range of water supply sources (e.g. stormwater, recycled water, groundwater) can provide greater water security for highly valued green spaces (such as ovals, public open spaces, gardens, recreational water bodies) during drought, and reduce the pressure on potable water supplies.

The objectives are to engage with local governments to identify priority community assets that use potable water during periods of water shortage, assess water use requirements, consider and compare diverse water sources and demand saving initiatives, and provide support to community groups to secure funding and implement works.



Status	Identified
Lead agency	Coliban Water
Implementation partners	Local government
Location	Coliban region
Scale	Service area



Castlemaine Botanical Gardens. Credit: DELWP

Increased Flows in Coliban River for Cultural and Ecological Benefits

This project aims to increase flows in the Coliban River for cultural and ecological benefits while increasing the operational flexibility of managing water resources by reinstating the hydroelectric plant at Lake Eppalock.

The Coliban River flows are limited to passing flows and spills from Malmesbury Reservoir. *North Central CMA Region Environmental Water Management Plan for the Coliban River* (2016) notes that the river is flow stressed and does not have sufficient water for the environment to maintain and improve its ecological values.

There is an opportunity for Coliban Water to release water from Malmesbury Reservoir to increase flows to Lake Eppalock, and then pump water from Lake Eppalock to Bendigo via the Goldfields Superpipe. To off-set pumping costs and avoid carbon emissions it is proposed to reinstate the hydroelectric plant at Lake Eppalock.

This initiative builds on previous work undertaken through the Coliban IWM Forum, which developed a business case for the project Lake Eppalock Hydroelectricity Project: For Country and Environment. This work also found that an agreement between Coliban Water, the North Central Catchment Management Authority and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder would need to be established and that the project would be a significant cost for Coliban Water.

However, if capital funding could be secured for the project on the basis of environmental, cultural and renewable energy benefits then it would be more favourable.

The next stage is to establish the required agreement, then secure funding, followed by the construction of the hydroelectric plant.

Status	Identified					
Lead agency	Coliban Water					
Implementation partners	North Central Catchment Management Authority, Victorian Environmental Water Holder, Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation), Goulburn-Murray Water					
Location	Coliban River					
Scale	Waterway					

Managing Trentham Stormwater Quality and Quantity for Healthy Waterways

The township of Trentham, in the peri-urban boundary of Melbourne, is facing high population growth in the coming years. The upper Coliban catchment supplies drinking water for Trentham and is the subject of significant investment for Coliban Water, North Central Catchment Management Authority, DELWP and local government.

The Trentham Stormwater Quality and Quantity for Healthy Waterways project aims to make informed decisions about managing threats to the catchment resulting from urban and peri-urban development now and into the future. The approach is based on assessing the likelihood of drivers of change, for example, urban development influencing streamflow, and the consequence of these changes, such as degraded waterway health and water quality.

The outcome will be the development of a stormwater management plan for the residential and urban areas of the Trentham township. It is expected that the plan will inform water planning for urban growth for similar townships across the region.

The steps for this project include:

1. narrow down the extent of assessment (i.e. township boundaries) based on the *Upper Coliban Land Use Risk Assessment Scoping Study* (2020)
2. engage with the Trentham Sustainability Group to identify community aspirations
3. confirm funding requirements for proposed project phases and any in-kind contribution opportunities
4. commit to the project and start briefings.

Status	Identified					
Lead agency	Coliban Water, North Central Catchment Management Authority					
Implementation partners	Hepburn Shire Council, Goulburn-Murray Water					
Location	Trentham					
Scale	Town					



Quarry Street Reserve Lake, Trentham. Credit: DELWP

Recycled Water for a Greener Echuca

With a changing climate the long-term security of potable water supply is becoming a major issue. Coliban Water projections for Echuca show that under high climate change supply scenario, there is a potential for a shortfall in potable water supply as soon as 2028.

The aim of this project is to investigate the feasibility of supplying recycled water to existing and new public open space to reduce the demand on potable water supplies. It recognises the value of diverse water to reduce the reliance on drinking water and continue to irrigate key public open spaces for a greener, healthier Echuca.

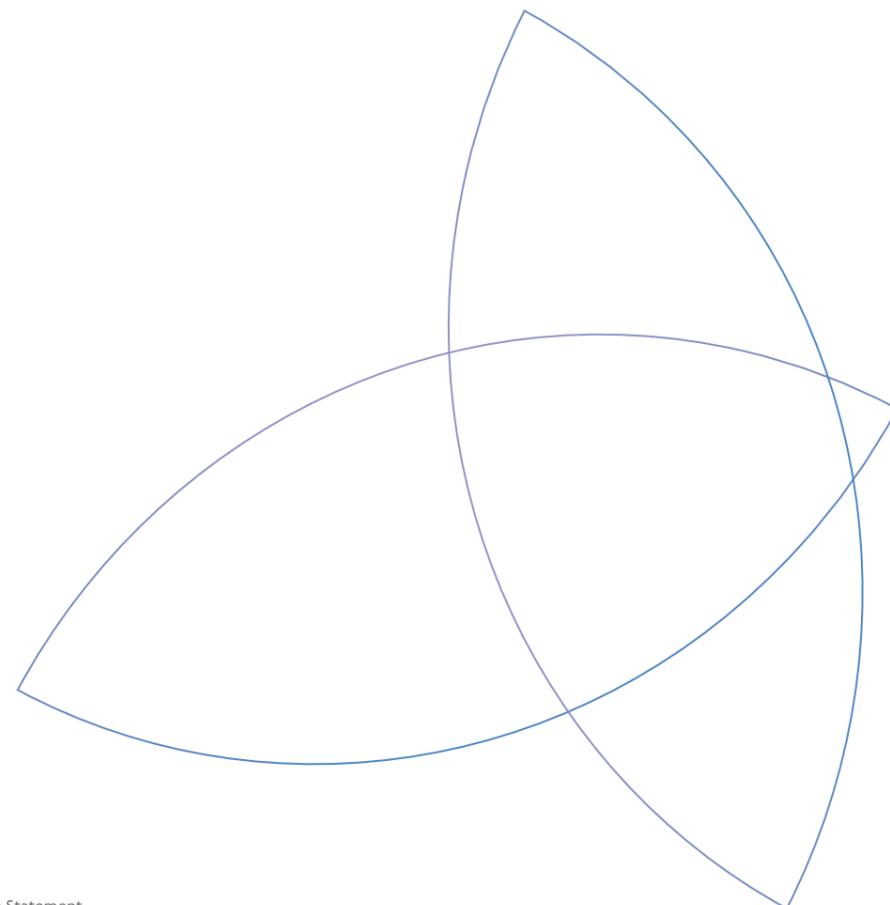
The developing Echuca West precinct has been selected as a feasibility test site. It is close to the Echuca West Water Reclamation Plant and the potential reduction in demand for potable water could allow the area to accommodate up to 5,000 new homes.

The feasibility study will:

- develop a concept design plan for a staged recycled water scheme based on priorities, resources and demand nodes
- modify existing Coliban Water agreements to allow for an allocation of recycled water to be available for use by Council
- investigate upgrades to the Echuca West Water Reclamation Plant, to enable the supply of fit-for-purpose recycled water.



Status	Implementation
Lead agency	Campaspe Shire Council
Implementation partners	Coliban Water, Yorta Yorta Nations Aboriginal Corporation
Location	Echuca
Scale	Town



INTEGRATED PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Water Sensitive Urban Design for New or Upgraded Developments (Land and Buildings)

Population growth in the region has occurred more rapidly than projected, particularly during the coronavirus pandemic. This more-urgent demand for new housing places pressure on councils. This project aims to provide support and assistance for councils to incorporate water sensitive urban design (WSUD) into new developments or upgrade projects (such as roads or council-owned buildings).

Examples include:

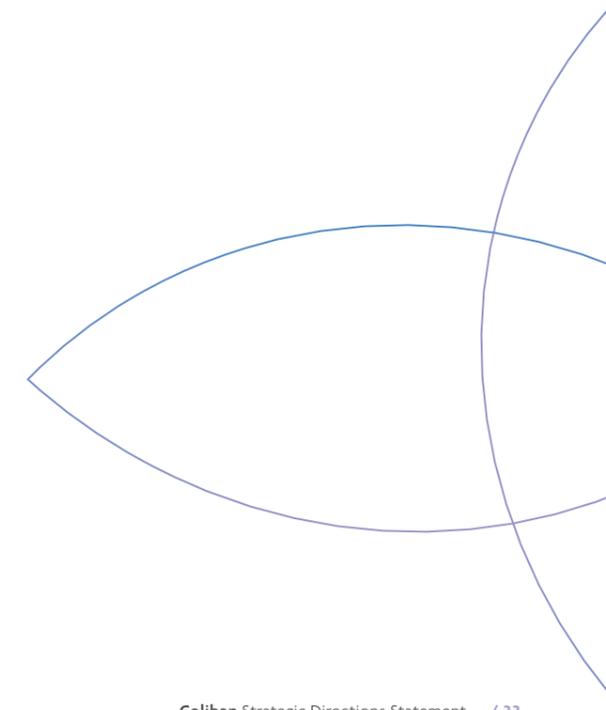
- passive irrigation of street trees - saves other water for irrigation and supports long-term health of the trees to provide better urban heat reduction and amenity, while also reducing stormwater runoff
- porous pavements - allows water to seep into the ground, reducing surface runoff and helping prevent flooding. It also keeps moisture in the soil profile for longer, reducing the need for supplementary watering and helping with urban cooling
- capturing rainfall at the lot level - using tank or grey water for flushing toilets reduces demand on the potable system
- planning and developing wetlands and other WSUD assets utilise developer contributions.

It is anticipated that a consultant would be procured to help councils identify and implement the required steps to increase uptake of WSUD. The scope of works will be dependent on participating councils and their level of experience in implementing WSUD. One potential output is the preparation of a business case for councils to submit to their own organisations to increase WSUD into their operations.

This project is included as a statement of the Coliban IWM Forum's recognition of the importance of WSUD and supporting councils as they embed this approach into their planning and operations.



Status	Identified
Lead agency	To be determined
Implementation partners	To be determined
Location	Coliban region
Scale	Forum area



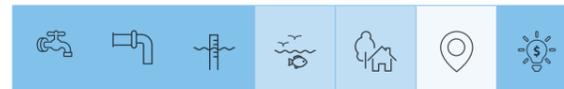
Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct

The City of Greater Bendigo is proposing to create the Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct. The project aims to create a large industrial precinct (280 hectare), attract new industries and create regional jobs. The initiative will see the City of Greater Bendigo partner with the private sector and government agencies to drive an innovative model of finance and delivery.

The city will utilise an environmentally sustainable approach to design a best-practice industrial precinct that demonstrates water-sensitive urban design, zero carbon and circular economy. To support this, a detailed investigation and plan is required to identify and develop innovative IWM options. This will include identifying and evaluating options for:

- diverse water supply, including stormwater harvesting and/or wastewater reuse
- retaining, treating and reusing wastewater and biosolids onsite
- flood management and reducing water quality impacts on the local waterway
- reducing urban heat generated from the industrial precinct.

The preferred options will then be progressed into planning policy, precinct design controls, infrastructure funding models, concept design and preliminary costings.



Status	Committed
Lead agency	City of Greater Bendigo
Implementation partners	Victorian Planning Authority, Coliban Water, North Central Catchment Management Authority
Location	Marong (Bendigo)
Scale	Precinct

Macedon Ranges North IWM Plan

This project is the development of an IWM plan for the northern part of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council area. The IWM plan will explore opportunities and solutions to meet IWM objectives in this region in the face of a drying climate and rapid urban growth around the towns of Woodend and Kyneton.

The region covers a significant portion of the upper Campaspe River catchment. A key focus will be the protection and enhancement of waterway and catchment health whilst servicing the water and sewerage needs of the local communities.

The region overlaps the jurisdictions of two water authorities, Coliban Water and Greater Western Water. This joint IWM plan will allow for collaboration to determine and progress the best outcomes for the region and the community regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.

A working group will be formed to confirm the scope and structure of the plan and funding will be identified.



Status	Identified
Lead agency	Macedon Ranges Shire Council
Implementation partners	Greater Western Water, Coliban Water, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation), Taungurung Land and Waters Council
Location	Northern Macedon Ranges
Scale	Region

Servicing Small Townships

Small towns need modern domestic water supplies and wastewater and sanitation services to ensure protection of environmental and public health, by reducing the risks that come with unsafe drinking water and poorly managed sewage. Limitations in these services is an issue for local governments.

Smaller townships are also potential growth areas, that can accommodate new housing both for residents and 'tree changers' moving away from cities. However, these small towns need reticulated water supplies and wastewater and sanitation services provided to facilitate growth. There is an opportunity to do this in an innovative manner through IWM.

Taradale and Elphinstone, with populations of about 450 and 550 people respectively, are two such towns and are the subjects of an initial scoping project to explore cost-effective provision of water to townships of this size.

The forum recognises this need, and that the Taradale and Elphinstone project will need to be broadened to other towns too. Fortunately, there are examples of such projects in the Goulburn Broken and North East IWM regions that the Coliban IWM Forum can draw on.

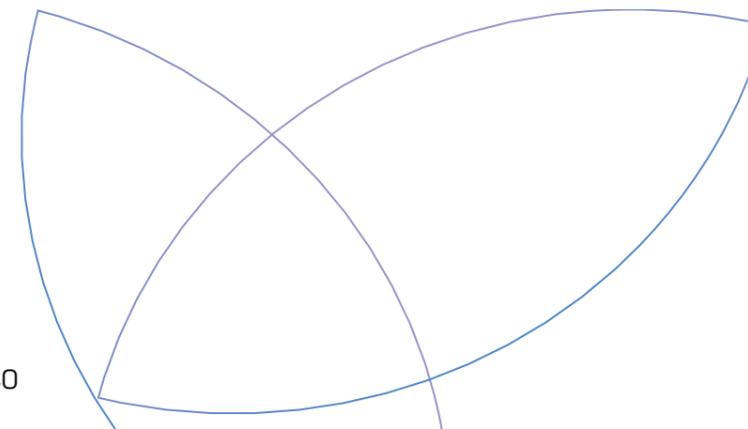
This project is included here as the forum's statement of intent to address this challenge collaboratively as opportunities become available. It is anticipated this project will be driven by local governments, with the support of an IWM Officer, currently being recruited.



Status	Identified
Lead agency	Local governments
Implementation partners	To be determined
Location	Taradale and Elphinstone
Scale	Town



Golden Square render. Courtesy City of Greater Bendigo





Integrated Water
Management Forums



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning



Central Highlands

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS STATEMENT

2022



Integrated Water Management Forums



Environment, Land, Water and Planning

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Central Highlands Integrated Water Management Forum area includes Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung Country, whose ancestors and their descendants are the Traditional Owners of this Country. The forum proudly acknowledges Victoria's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture and pays its respects to their Elders past and present. The government also recognises the intrinsic connection of Traditional Owners to Country and acknowledges their contribution to the management of land, water and resources. We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water on which we rely. We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal people and communities to Victorian life and how this enriches us. We embrace the spirit of reconciliation, working towards the equality of outcomes and ensuring an equal voice.

This Strategic Directions Statement has been developed by the Central Highlands Integrated Water Management Forum, which includes the following organisations:

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2022.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria as author. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victorian Coat of Arms, the Victorian Government logo and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0.

Printed by Finsbury Green, Melbourne

ISBN (print)

ISBN (pdf/online/MS Word)

Disclaimer:

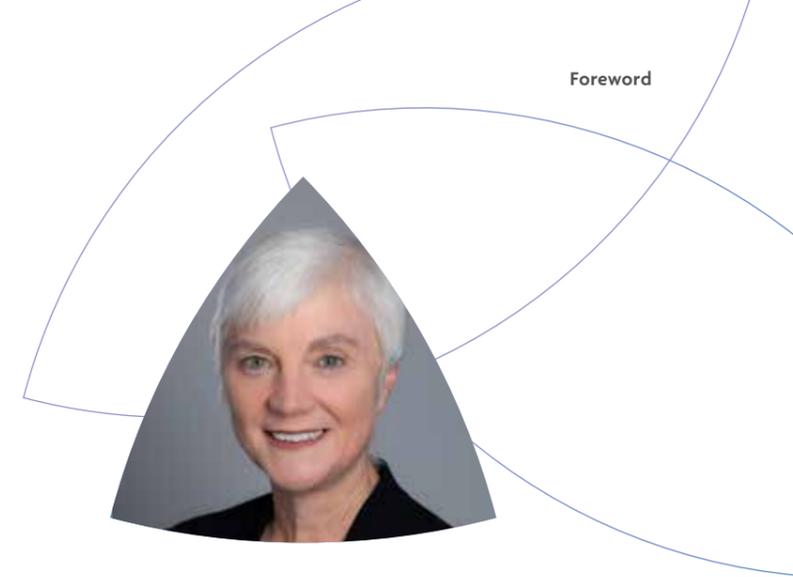
This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please telephone the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136186, email customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au, or via the National Relay Service on 133 677 www.relayservice.com.au. This document is also available on the internet at www.delwp.vic.gov.au.

Cover photo: Moorabool Falls. Photographer: Central Highlands Water (Andrew Thomas)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	1	Prioritising action in major urban centres	24
Executive summary	2	Maryborough IWM Plan Implementation	24
Our vision.....	2	Daylesford and Hepburn Springs, Creswick and Clunes IWM Plan Implementation.....	25
Key themes.....	2	Ballan IWM Plan	26
Opportunities.....	3	Delivering benefits in key regional locations	27
Better together: integrating water management across Victoria	6	Revitalising Lake Burrumbeet	27
What is integrated water management?.....	7	Beaufort Closed-Loop Recycled Water Scheme	28
How are we delivering IWM state-wide?	8	Beaufort Linear: Green-Blue Infrastructure for a Small Town	29
Strategic outcomes.....	9	Integrated Management of the Tullaroop Catchment (Stage 2 – Implementation)	30
Strategic Directions Statement – how IWM is happening in the region.....	10	Building on momentum in Ballarat.....	31
Water in the Central Highlands	11	Breathing Life into the Yarrowee River: Implementing Priority Actions.....	31
A changing region.....	13	Expanding Ballarat's Diverse Water Network...	32
Progress so far	14	Ballarat West Stormwater Harvesting Hubs	33
Central Highlands Small Towns Green-Blue Infrastructure Guide	16	Recycled Water for a Green Victoria Park	33
Integrated Management of the Tullaroop Catchment (Stage 1 – Planning)	18	Mullawallah Wetland Management Plan.....	34
IWM opportunities.....	20	Miners Rest Flood Mitigation	34
Regional enablers	22		
Support for Wadawurrung and Djaara Care-for-Country Opportunities	22		
Enhancing flows to the Moorabool and Leigh Rivers	23		



FOREWORD

The Central Highlands region is undoubtedly a region in change. More people are living in and visiting the region, and the effects of climate change are already being felt. Together with urbanisation and changing land use, this is highlighting the need to protect, preserve and rehabilitate the natural environment.

All of this change underscores the important work of the Central Highlands Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forum. In its first three years, the forum has focused on identifying the key challenges in the region and identifying and advancing collaborative IWM opportunities that improve the sustainability, liveability and prosperity in the region's cities and towns.

Forum members have brought their diverse perspectives, talents and commitment to leverage opportunities right across the water cycle. Representing Traditional Owners, local governments, statutory authorities and government agencies, members have collaborated to good effect. We are particularly appreciative of the contribution from representatives of the Dja Dja Wurrung and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, as they take on an increasingly active and leading role in water management.

This update to our Strategic Directions Statement (SDS) provides a snapshot of our progress to date and describes projects that illustrate our success. While we are pleased with our progress, we know there is much still to be done; this updated SDS also outlines our planned and potential projects for the next three to five years.

We recognise that our region faces considerable challenges. Climate change and population growth continue to put pressure on water security, while the pandemic has impacted our people and economy in untold ways. Yet we are also resilient and resourceful, and we know that by working collaboratively and seeking innovative and integrated solutions we can – and will – take positive steps towards addressing these challenges.

I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our region. I thank all members of the Central Highlands IWM Forum for their contribution to this SDS and, most importantly, for everything they are doing to ensure a sustainable, prosperous and liveable future for our region.

Jessie Harman

Chair, Central Highlands IWM Forum

Moorabool Reservoir. Credit: Central Highlands Water (Andrew Thomas)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria* (2017) is designed to help water managers and stakeholders work together to improve how the water cycle contributes to the liveability of towns and cities in Victoria, with communities at the centre of decision making.

The Central Highlands Integrated Water Management Forum is one of 10 regional integrated water management (IWM) forums across Victoria that are realising the local implementation of the framework.

Our vision

Working together to leverage opportunities across the water cycle to deliver a healthy, resilient and prosperous future for the region and its communities.

The 2018 SDS articulated the collaborative intent and shared agreement of all stakeholders involved in the Central Highlands IWM Forum. This 2022 update provides a progress report on the forum's activity, its changing priorities, and future opportunities. It describes the water security challenges and opportunities of the region, sets a strategic direction for the next few years, and outlines the 'best endeavours' or ways in which IWM is and will be applied through projects proposed, in progress or completed for the region.

Key themes

The forum's experience since establishment has highlighted the need to focus the vision to five key areas:

- population growth: more people are visiting and living in the Central Highlands
- the Central Highlands as a region is already experiencing the impact of climate change.
- water security is needed for the region's changing agricultural sector and economic future
- the natural environment needs protection, preservation, and rehabilitation
- Traditional Owners are taking an increasingly active and leading role in water management.

The priorities and projects of the forum have been developed to meet these emerging challenges.

Dean Reservoir. Credit: Central Highlands Water (Andrew Thomas)

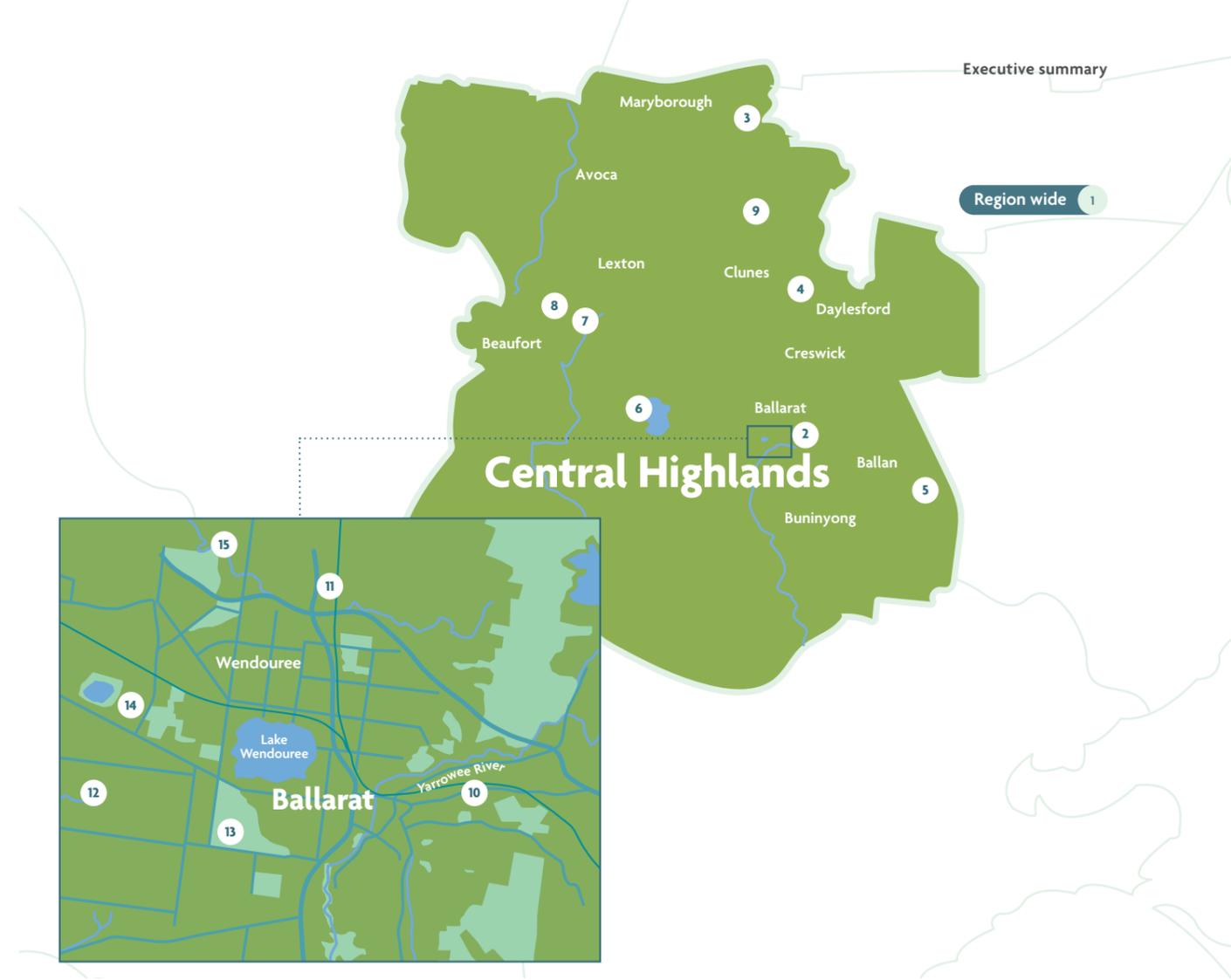
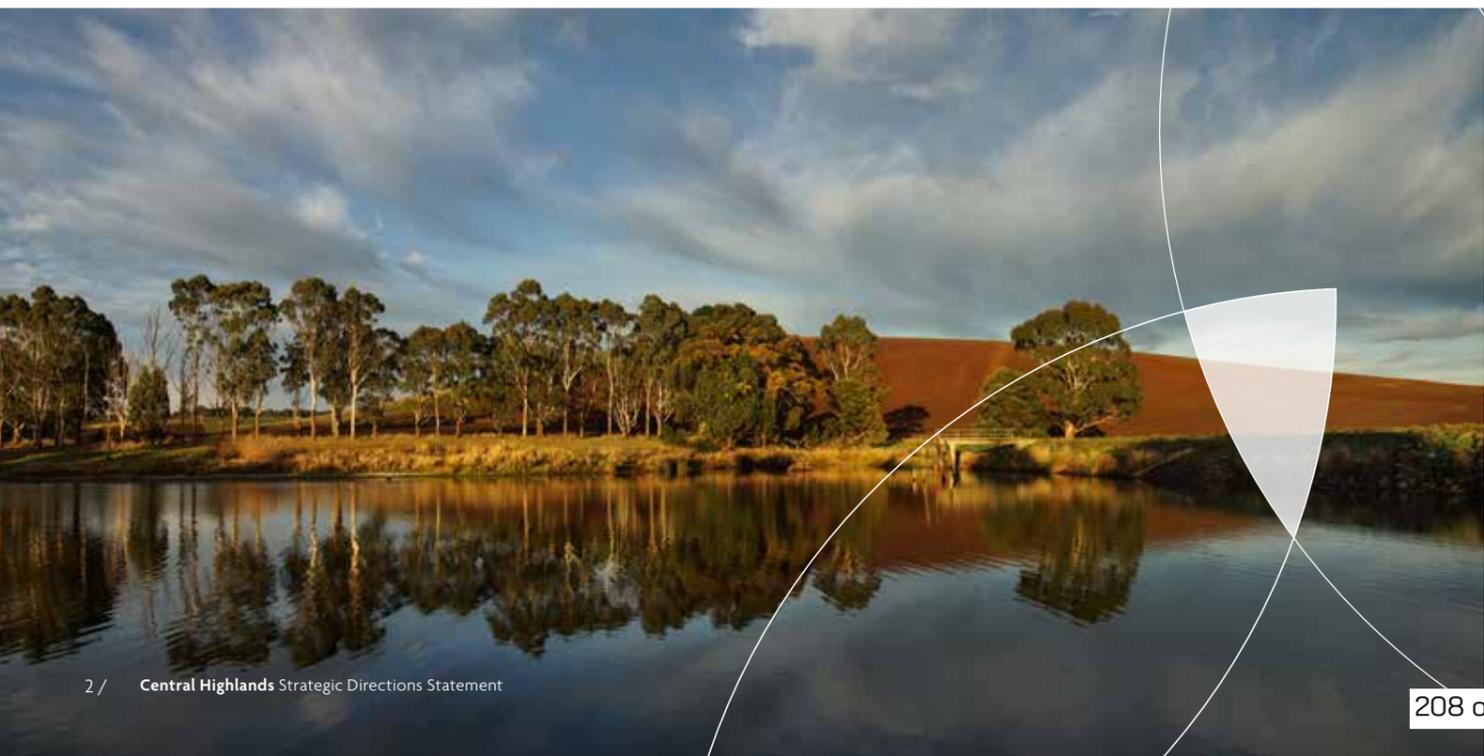


Figure 1 : Locations of IWM opportunities across the Central Highlands region. Locations are approximate or representative.

IWM opportunities

Fifteen opportunities have been identified in the region and these have been grouped into four geographic groups:

Regional enablers

1. Support for Wadawurrung and Djaara Care-for-Country Opportunities
2. Enhancing Flows to the Moorabool and Leigh Rivers

Prioritising action in major urban centres

3. Maryborough IWM Plan Implementation
4. Daylesford and Hepburn Springs, Creswick and Clunes IWM Plan Implementation
5. Ballan IWM Plan

Delivering benefits in key regional locations

6. Revitalising Lake Burrumbeet
7. Beaufort Closed-Loop Recycled Water Scheme
8. Beaufort Linear: Green-Blue Infrastructure for a Small Town
9. Integrated Management of the Tullaroop Catchment (Stage 2 – Implementation)

Building on momentum in Ballarat

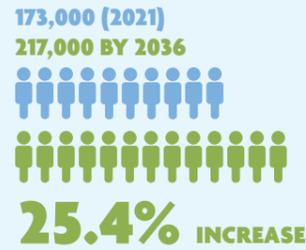
10. Breathing Life into the Yarrowee River: Implementing Priority Actions
11. Expanding Ballarat's Diverse Water Network
12. Ballarat West Stormwater Harvesting Hubs
13. Recycled Water for a Green Victoria Park
14. Mullawallah Wetland Management Plan
15. Miners Rest Flood Mitigation

Central Highlands Integrated Water Management Forum Strategic Directions Statement 2022 summary

We work collaboratively with partners across the water cycle to find new ways to share resources and conserve water for multiple community and environmental benefits.

We work to meet the water needs of a changing region.

POPULATION GROWTH

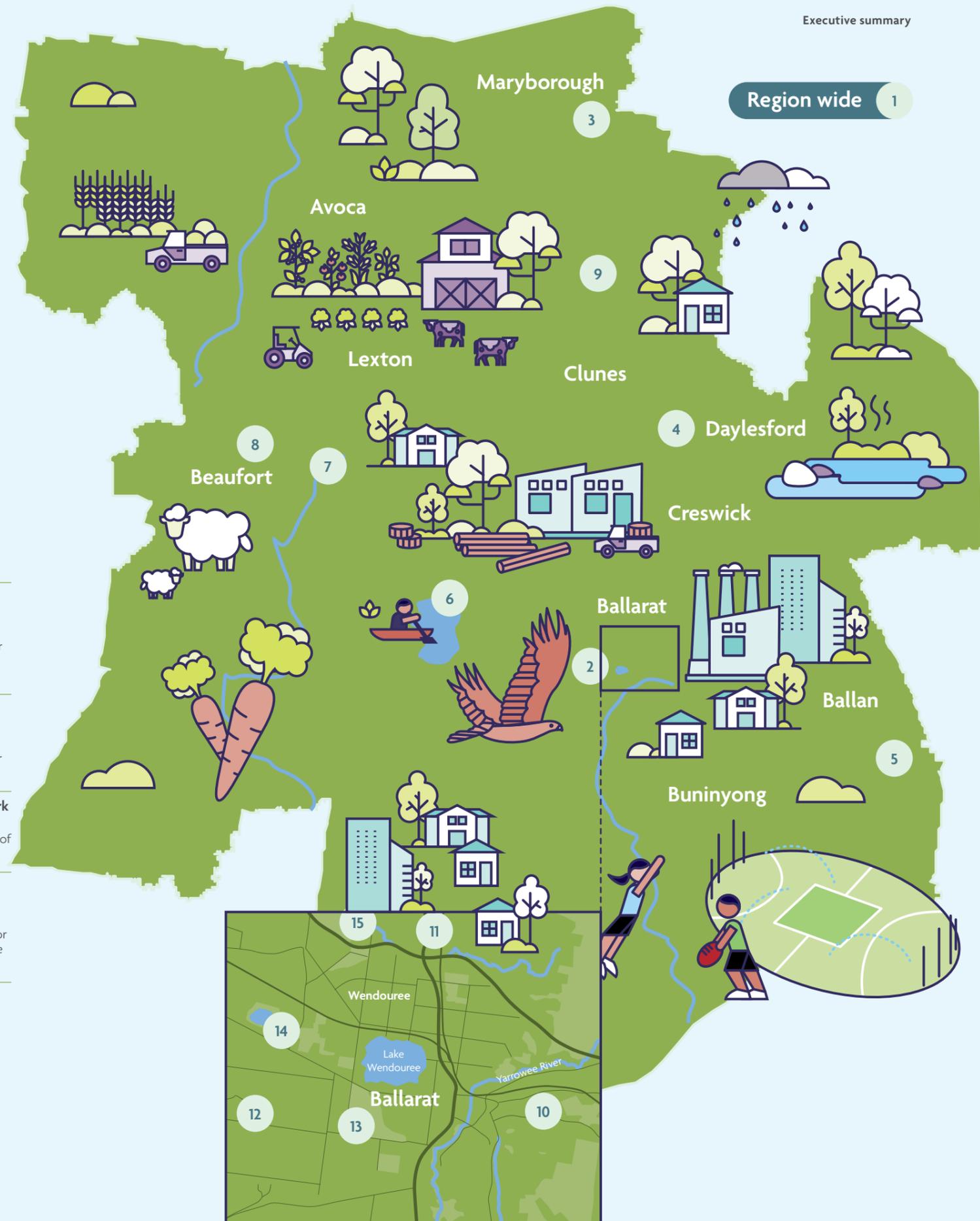


CHANGE IN RAINFALL BY 2040
DECREASE BY 16.2%
WITH MORE-INTENSE RAINFALL IN SOME YEARS



TEMPERATURE
AN INCREASE OF 0.7-1.6°C
IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS BY 2040*

* Population data: Victoria In Future 2019
* Temperature and rainfall are the highest and lowest predictions across the Avoca and Moorabool catchments. Predictions represent the annual average at 2040 relative to the year 1995. Source: Guidelines for Assessing the Impact of Climate Change on Water Availability in Victoria, November 2020.



- 1. Support for Wadawurrung and Djaara Care-for-Country Opportunities**
Commitment to support Traditional Owner self-determination and led IWM projects as these opportunities arise.
- 2. Enhancing Flows in the Moorabool and Leigh Rivers**
Improving the volume and timing of flows into these rivers to protect biodiversity and cultural values.
- 3. Maryborough IWM Plan Implementation**
Implement opportunities from the Plan, to enhancing water resources, supporting urban greening and liveability, improve the health of local waterways and water bodies, and driving economic and social benefits.
- 4. Daylesford and Hepburn Springs, Creswick and Clunes IWM Plan Implementation**
Implement a range of priority IWM opportunities identified within these towns and across the Hepburn Shire.
- 5. Ballan IWM Plan**
Articulating a community vision and identifying IWM opportunities for Ballan.

- 6. Revitalising Lake Burrumbeet**
Identifying and prioritising opportunities to benefit communities, the environment and enhance cultural values at Lake Burrumbeet and connected waterways.
- 7. Beaufort Closed-Loop Recycled Water Scheme**
Greening local community assets using recycled water from the Beaufort's wastewater treatment plant.
- 8. Beaufort Linear: Green-Blue Infrastructure for a Small Town**
Creating a blue-green corridor that connects highly valued recreational assets for the Beaufort community.
- 9. Integrated Management of the Tullaroop Catchment (Stage 2 – Implementation)**
Implementing opportunities to improve catchment health and secure water supplies, while enhancing cultural values.
- 10. Breathing Life into the Yarrowee River: Implementing Priority Actions**
Implementing priority actions from the Yarrowee River and Tributaries: River Corridor Masterplan.

- 11. Expanding Ballarat's Diverse Water Network**
Increasing the use of rainwater, recycled water and stormwater in Ballarat to meet a range of demands and save precious drinking water.
- 12. Ballarat West Stormwater Harvesting Hubs**
Making the most of treated urban stormwater in future growth areas by planning early.
- 13. Recycled Water for a Green Victoria Park**
Developing detailed designs for the irrigation of Victoria Park with recycled water.
- 14. Mullawallah Wetland Management Plan**
A Wadawurrung project managing water on Country, by developing a management plan for the Mullawallah Wetland that considers future changes in climate and catchment hydrology.
- 15. Miners Rest Flood Mitigation**
Exploring flood prevention and management options that enhance waterways and improve water quality.

BETTER TOGETHER: INTEGRATING WATER MANAGEMENT ACROSS VICTORIA

The first water custodians

First Nations clans have been living in balance with the natural environment in Victoria, practising culture, caring for Country and waterways, and maintaining sophisticated water management systems for tens of thousands of years.

In the words of the Wadawurrung, 'Our waterways connect us to our stories; it was our cultural way of travel and connection to other tribes. The diverse water on Country, rivers, creeks, waterholes and ocean all provide us with food sources and nourish the wellbeing of all life. Without access to Country and water, we are limited in our role and ability to care for Country.'¹

The Dja Dja Wurrung (Yes Yes speaking) Jaara (people of this Country) believe that all of Country has Murrup (spirit), all things from creation are made of the same source of life. Water has spirit.

More than 6,000 years ago, in south-western Victoria, the Gunditjmarra worked with the waterways along the Budj Bim lava flow, engineering an extensive and sophisticated aquaculture system to trap, store and harvest kooyang – short-finned eel. That system still lives and operates, the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape is now an UNESCO World Heritage List site.

Pressures emerge and evolve

European settlement and the gold rush of the 1850s saw thousands of people flock to Victoria to seek their fortunes. This created many towns, yet also had large and long-lasting impacts on the creeks and gullies and displaced Traditional Owners from their Country.

Victoria's regional towns and cities have thrived with the provision of urban drinking water and sanitation services. Irrigated agriculture and dryland farming have both played important roles in Victoria's history and growth. Today, Victoria is the nation's largest food and fibre exporter.² Much of the water flowing into the Murray-Darling Basin System comes from the Victorian High Country and underpins irrigated agriculture in several states.

The complex challenges of water management continue throughout the state: we have lived through the Millennium Drought and experienced flooding, bushfires and extreme weather. We have seen the consequences of the overuse and overallocation of water in one area affecting the availability and/or quality of water in another. Significant investment and interventions have been required to start returning water to our rivers and floodplains, yet more remains to be done.

Water managers are now operating in an increasingly complex and uncertain environment. The drivers of change are both social and environmental, including climate change, population growth, shifting migration patterns associated with the coronavirus pandemic, economic challenges, and policy changes. But our beautiful state remains a wonderful place to live, and we continue to see the population increase. Regional Victoria is expected to grow from 1.5 million people in 2015 to 2.2 million over the next 30 years to 2051.³

The liveability of our regional towns and cities and the health of our environment and economy depend on the availability of water. Access to water is also important for social wellbeing and holds intrinsic cultural value for Traditional Owners. Therefore, we need an integrated and collaborative approach to adapt to change and maximise value across the whole water cycle.

What is IWM? How can it help address challenges?

The current water supplies and liveability of towns and cities owe much to the collaborative work done to date by water corporations, local and state government, planning and development authorities, communities and, in recent decades, catchment management authorities. While we face the challenges of population growth, climate change and natural disasters, we can also build on the benefits of past experiences and established relationships. Together, we can make decisions today that we will celebrate in the future.

● ● Integrated water management considers all parts of the water cycle as an integrated system to optimise the environmental, cultural, social and economic outcomes for our communities.

● ● ●

While everyone has a responsibility to conserve and protect water, there are a number of key groups charged with making decisions about water within each region. These include:

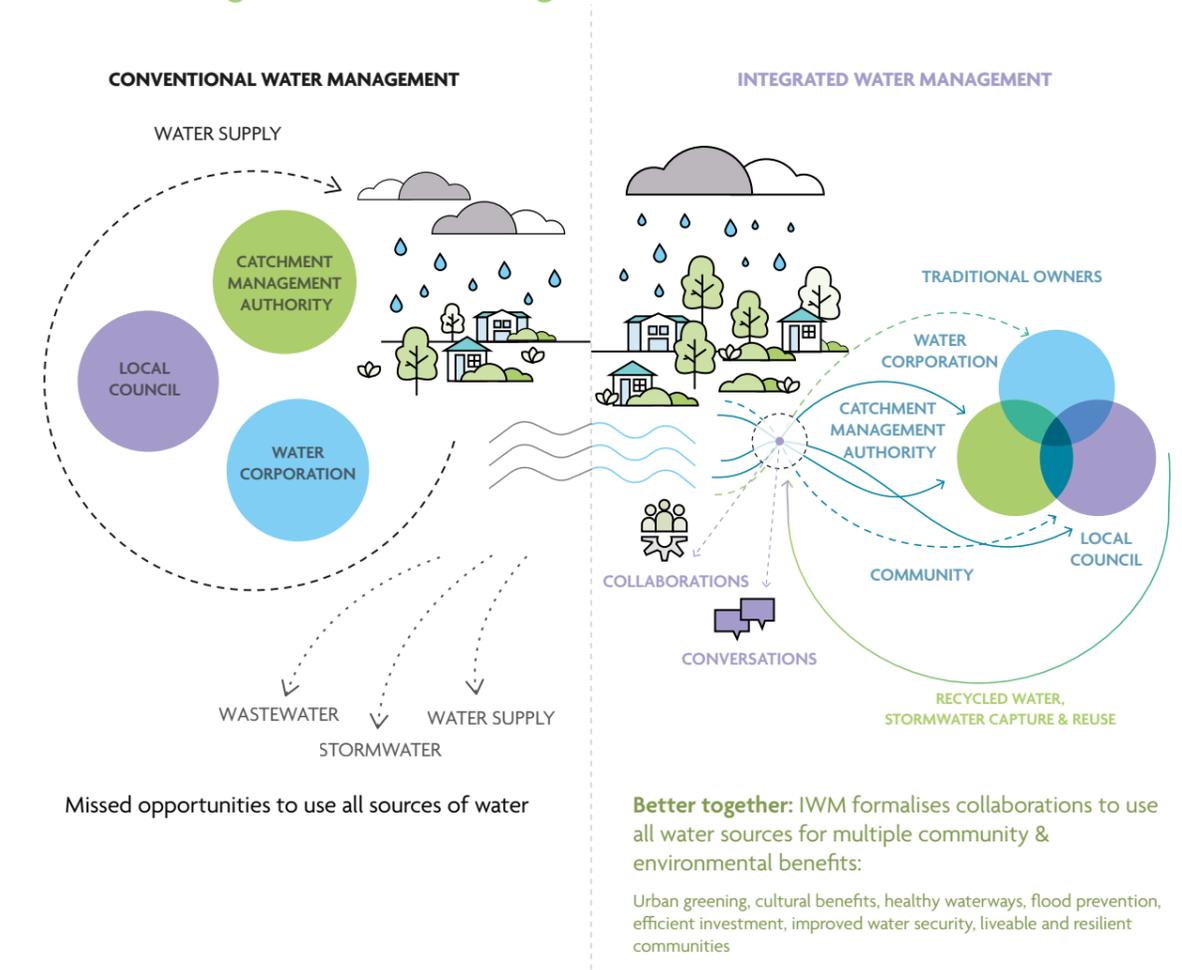
- Traditional Owner groups, who have a deep knowledge of and connection to the region's waterways, other water resources and Country
- water corporations, which manage the water storage, water supply, and wastewater services
- local governments, which manage surface water drainage, protect local waters from degradation and pollution, oversee on-site domestic wastewater planning, regulate local development, and undertake strategic planning for future growth

- catchment management authorities, which plan for flood management and work with landholders to consider the interactions of land, water and biodiversity.

The decisions these groups make individually, can have significant impacts on the quality and availability of the water for others in the catchment and further downstream. So, it makes sense they collaborate towards common goals to maximise water saving and reuse and share the benefits (Figure 2).

IWM is an approach that can be applied at multiple scales from water planning at the local park, right up to the whole of catchment. IWM can connect climate-change adaptation, planning and open space, water security and other strategies, so that collaborators can add value to each other's projects.

What is integrated water management?



Better together: IWM formalises collaborations to use all water sources for multiple community & environmental benefits:

Urban greening, cultural benefits, healthy waterways, flood prevention, efficient investment, improved water security, liveable and resilient communities

Figure 2: How does IWM work? Conventional water management saw a more siloed approach to water management, with a single supply source and two discharge systems to move stormwater and wastewater away as quickly as possible, resulting in missed opportunities to use all sources of water. The IWM approach brings water managers together to plan and deliver new opportunities to provide broader benefits to the community. Listening to and consulting with Victorian communities about how they want water managed is critical to informing IWM decision making. Communities are directly consulted on IWM plans and through existing catchment management authority, water corporation and local government strategies.

1 Paleert Tjaara Dja – let's make Country good together 2020-2030, Wadawurrung Country Plan.
 2 Victorian Food and Fibre Export Performance Report 2019-20
 3 Victoria in Future 2019

How are we delivering IWM state-wide?

To facilitate IWM across Victoria, the Victorian Government's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) supported the establishment of IWM forums across 10 regions of Victoria (Figure 3). These forums bring together leaders of the local water sector to explore, prioritise and oversee the development of local IWM opportunities. Prioritised opportunities are managed and implemented by dedicated working groups and are captured within individual IWM plans. Where appropriate, the forums involve other organisations and groups that are not part of the water sector but have direct or indirect interests in water management and land use planning, such as community and Indigenous groups, planning authorities, Department of Transport, developers, educational institutions, or large landholders.

Being collaborative, IWM builds on existing partnerships and planning processes, and aims to break down silos between independently operating water decision-makers – encouraging forum members to consider the water cycle of their own service delivery, and the interdependencies or overlaps with other members (Figure 2). Forum members consider waters in rivers, streams and bays, wastewater, drinking water, stormwater, and water treatment processes.

While collaboration can take more time and effort, working together achieves better outcomes for the environment, society, and the economy by finding mutually beneficial ways to share water, assets, and costs.

Wetlands near Tullaroop Reservoir. Credit: Central Highlands Water (Andrew Thomas)

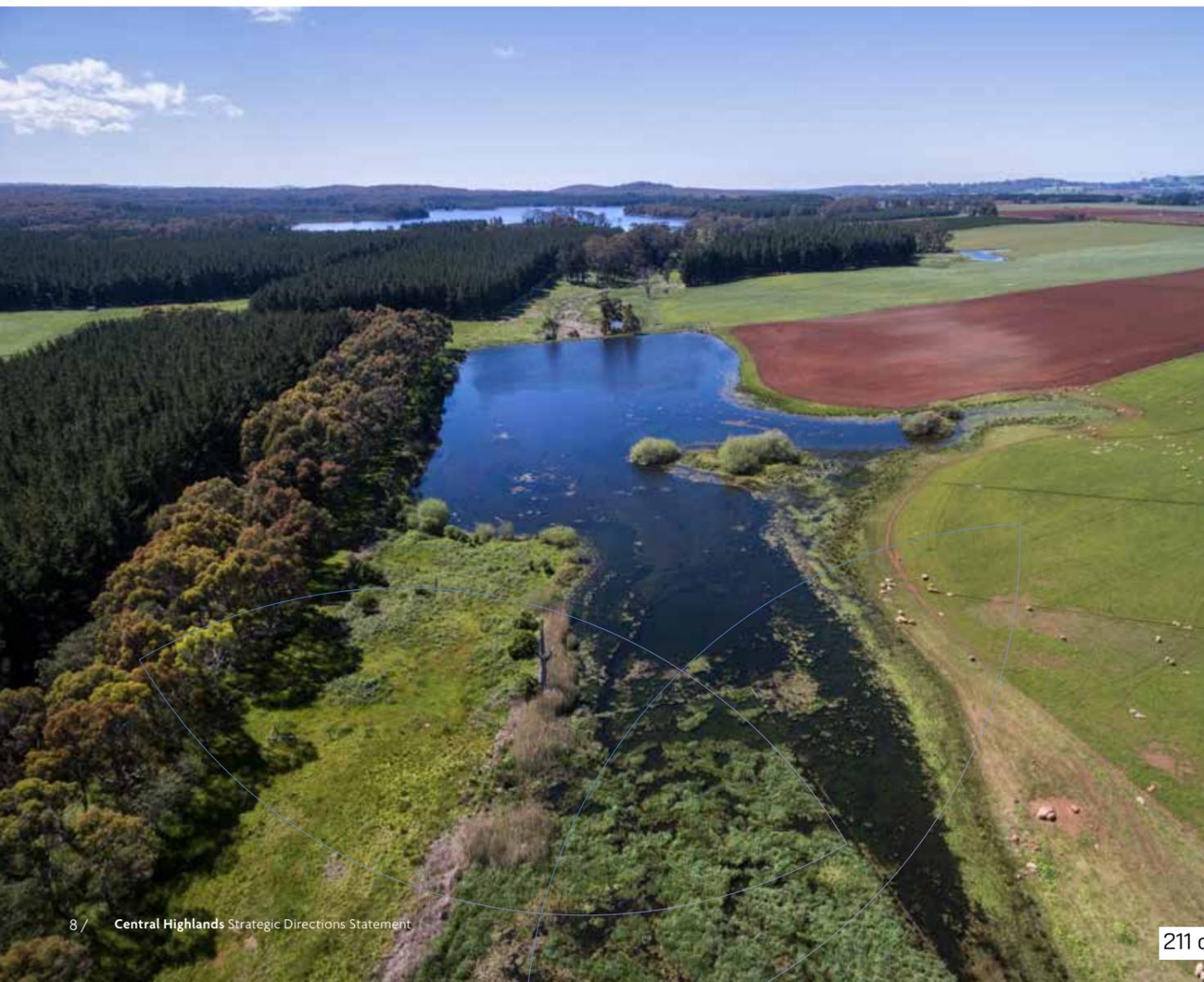


Figure 3 : IWM forum regions of Victoria, which are based around water corporation boundaries

Strategic outcomes

The *Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria* (2017) proposed several strategic water-related outcomes that will deliver on the vision in the State water plan, *Water for Victoria* (2016), to 'build resilient and liveable cities and towns'. These strategic outcomes provide a way to identify the multiple economic, social and environmental benefits that can come from a single initiative. The original framework included five such strategic outcomes that have since been expanded to seven. The identification of strategic outcomes will continue to evolve as the water management context changes and the sector innovates.

Proposed project opportunities are assessed and prioritised against how well and how many of these strategic outcomes they meet.

The strategic outcomes are:



safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future – indicated by the amount of water conserved or alternative water volume supplied to meet an identified demand..



effective and affordable wastewater systems – ensuring environmental and public health standards are met, while maximising resource recovery.



manage flood risks – resilience to existing and future flood risk.



healthy and valued waterways and waterbodies – indicated by the ecological health of riparian areas, hydrology and water quality.



healthy and valued landscapes – maximising the connectivity, accessibility, greening and vegetation, cooling, aesthetic and/or recreational values of landscapes



Traditional Owner and community values reflected in place-based planning – ensuring that different communities are considered and included in planning and design, and provided with water-systems literacy to enable involvement.



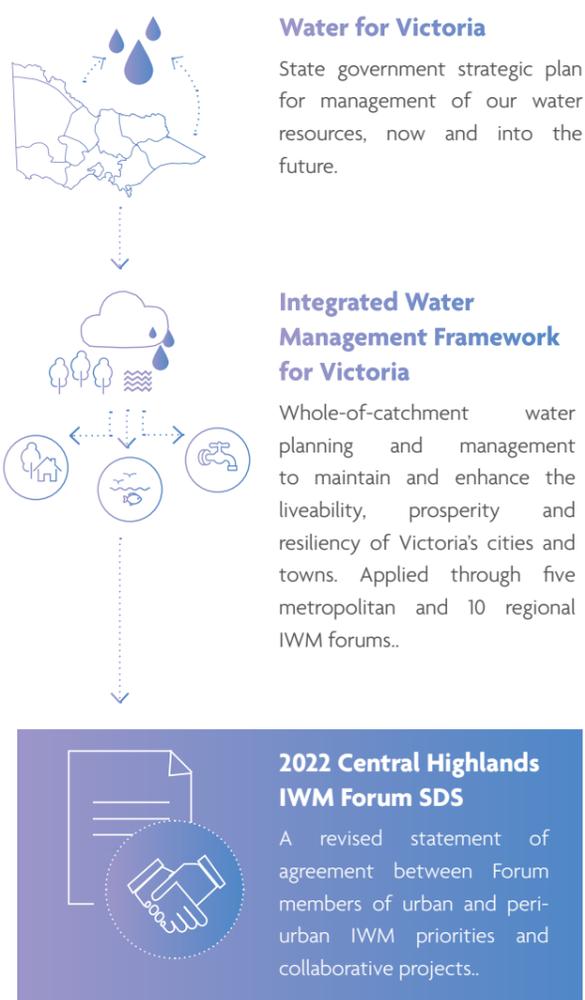
jobs, economic opportunity and innovation – recognising that water management is an integral part of economic growth.

To find out more about how Victoria is applying IWM in *Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria* (2017), visit www.water.vic.gov.au

Strategic Directions Statement – how IWM is happening in the region

This SDS articulates the collaborative intent and shared agreement of all stakeholders involved in the forum. It describes the water security challenges and opportunities in the region, sets the strategic direction for the next few years, and outlines the 'best endeavours' or ways in which IWM is and will be applied through opportunities that are proposed, in-progress or completed in the region.

Figure 4 : The SDS and related water policies, strategies and plans of the region.



This is the first update to the Central Highlands region's SDS produced in 2018, and includes:

- an update on progress to date
- case studies illustrating IWM in the region
- details of planned and potential opportunities designed to meet the strategic outcomes and key challenges over the next three to five years.

This SDS has been developed to complement the other plans and strategies that apply to the region for water, climate change, First Nations' rights and catchment management (Figure 4).

Relevant plans and strategies in place in the region

- Central Highlands Urban Water Strategy**
A detailed, 50-year forecast of water demands for local communities, along with supply options to meet these demands. Renewed every five years.
- Caring for Country Plans: Wadawurrung Country Plan, Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan**
Guiding and promoting awareness, investment and the rights of Aboriginal people and culture, working together now and for future benefits.
- Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy**
Long-term plans and statutory processes for state-wide water resource planning to secure the water future of Victoria's regions.
- Corangamite, Glenelg Hopkins, North Central and Wimmera Regional Catchment Strategies**
A framework of action for all community, agencies and organisations to utilise in natural resource management decisions in the North Central, Corangamite and Glenelg Hopkins catchments. Incorporating climate change, it is a partnership approach to catchment resilience.
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategies**
Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Strategy: Community-led vision capturing actions and strategic goals to ensure the Wimmera, Southern Mallee, and Central Highlands is climate-ready for the present and future. Unites individual, community and agency approaches.
Corangamite Natural Resource Management Plan for Climate Change: Corangamite Catchment Management Authority's plan to incorporate climate change mitigation and adaption into natural resource management.
- Local government plans and strategies**
Various strategies, plans, guidelines and other documents that have connections to the water cycle. Examples include open-space plans, local climate change adaptation strategies, and natural disaster management plans.

WATER IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

The Central Highlands region is home to more than 173,000 people, a diversity of plant and animal life, and is the birthplace of nine major Victorian river systems.⁴ The region crosses the Country of the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung, whose ancestors and their descendants are the Traditional Owners of this land and its waters.

Many food products enjoyed around the nation come from this part of Victoria including dairy, beef, lamb, poultry, eggs, grains, wine grapes and market garden vegetables. It hosts major food processors, including Mars Chocolate Australia and McCains. Wool and timber are also major exports. The breathtaking native forests, mineral spring spas and popular tourist destinations, such as Daylesford and Sovereign Hill, attract thousands of visitors each year. Local wildlife includes Victoria's animal emblem leadbeater's possum, the short-finned eel, the culturally significant wedge-tail eagle, the smoky mouse, the powerful owl, and other keystone and iconic species. Average annual rainfall varies across the region, from nearly 800 mm east of Ballarat to 526 mm in Maryborough.

The forum covers an area of approximately 9,275 square kilometres, extending from Rokewood in the south to Redbank in the north, reaching as far as Ballan and Daylesford to the east and Navarre in the west. Ballarat is the largest city in the region and is one of Victoria's most populous regional cities.

⁴ Victoria in Future

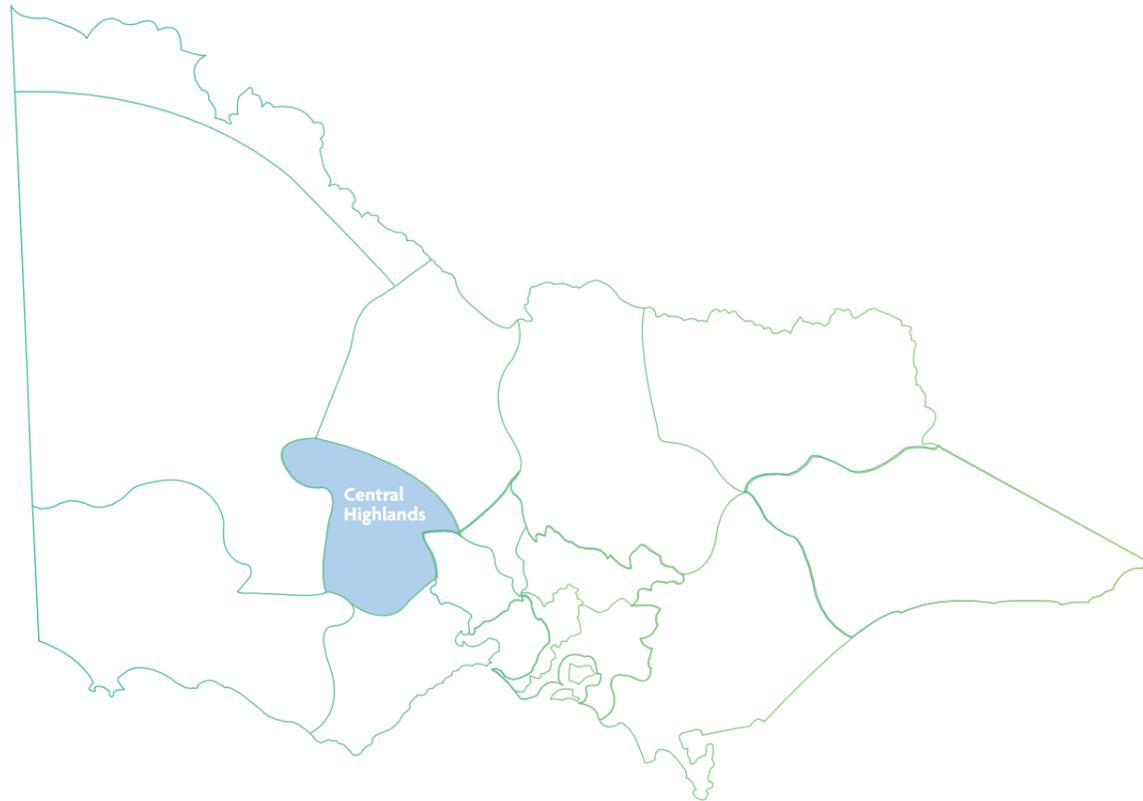
The region also includes large towns – including Maryborough, Daylesford and Ballan – and more than 60 smaller towns, making the region and its water opportunities very diverse.

As the name indicates, the region includes the highlands of a number of catchments and incorporates areas managed by four catchment management authorities – North Central, Glenelg Hopkins, Corangamite and Wimmera. Major waterways include the Yarrowee-Leigh, Moorabool, Avoca and Loddon Rivers, as well as a number of important smaller waterways such as Tullaroop Creek and Burrumbeet Creek. The Leigh and Moorabool Rivers are also key sources of water for the Ramsar listed wetlands in the Barwon region. There are important waterbodies and wetlands throughout the region that provide ecological, amenity, recreational benefits and local character, including Lake Burrumbeet, Lake Wendouree, Lake Victoria and Daylesford Lake. These waters also contain a rich and diverse range of important cultural heritage sites and form a culturally important and significant part of Country for Traditional Owners in the region.

Pincotts Reservoir. Credit: Central Highlands Water (Andrew Thomas)



A CHANGING REGION



More people are visiting and living in the Central Highlands

Victoria in Future (2019) predicted an average regional population growth of one and a half per cent annually from 2018 to 2036. The first two years of this period saw growth exceed expectations, making water sensitive urban design in new residential areas and water services in small towns an urgent need. Four major urban areas are prioritised for action: Ballarat, Maryborough, Daylesford, and Ballan.

More recently, the global coronavirus pandemic saw a substantial increase in the number of people migrating from Melbourne to Victoria's regional areas and closed international borders have resulted in a domestic tourism boom.

These population trends influence the use of water resources. Drinking water and sewage treatment services are an obvious public health need, but water is also important for liveability – it enhances the landscape and the community's use of it.

The Central Highlands are already experiencing the impact of climate change

The climate is changing, and the Central Highlands region is preparing for a warmer, drier future. The La Niña event of late 2021 has seen full dams and waterlogged soil in regions, but this is a temporary reprieve. It is likely the effects of heat extremes, fire, and drought will worsen and become more frequent, significantly impacting ecosystems and the community. Recent years have seen an increase in heat-related illness and deaths across Victoria, particularly in more built-up urban areas with less vegetation. Decreasing rainfall is also predicted, particularly during the cooler months.

The Millennium drought caused Lake Wendouree in Ballarat to dry up. In the summer of 2008–2009, there were several fires in the grass that had grown out of the dry lake bed. The region is experiencing more days of extreme fire risk. The Black Summer fires of 2019–2020 provide a stark warning to be prepared.

Future fires will require water for firefighting. Fires and other natural disasters will need increased capacity to manage water quality in the catchment and deal with dirty water events. Changing weather patterns will also influence the growing seasons for agriculture and timing of periods of high water demand. More sporadic and intense rainfall will see more sediment and pollutants in urban stormwater, increasing the risk of harming the health of urban waterways, if not managed properly.

These challenges and approaches to addressing them are detailed further in the Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Strategy, online at: www.adaptgrampians.com.au/about/#strategy. IWM will assist in monitoring and adapting to climate change as a shared responsibility.

Water security is needed for the region's changing agricultural sector and economic future

The region is a major producer of food, fibre and forestry products,

making agriculture a key contributor to the region's prosperity, now and in the future. Water underpins agriculture and, as such, is an enabler of economic growth and job creation, from large food processing businesses in major population centres to boutique food and agribusinesses in small towns.

Central Highlands agriculture has an important role to play as Australia's population grows to more than 35 million people by 2050. As a food and fibre producer and exporter, the region needs to address the challenges of climate change adaptation and the changing water cycle. However, there are also opportunities for the agriculture sector with State Government support for moving towards a 'circular economy'. For example, biosolids – the nutrient-rich organic material left over after sewage treatment – can be applied to agricultural land to improve soil structure, nutrient levels, and water retention. The Central Highlands Water Clunes Soil Nutrient Improvement Facility is already processing biosolids for reuse, delivering on significant environment, economic and social sustainability outcomes.

The natural environment needs protection, preservation, and rehabilitation

Climate change, urbanisation and changes in land use continue to put pressure on the region's waterways and landscapes. Several ecosystems, such as areas of mountain ash forest and the flow-stressed Moorabool River, are already under pressure and need rehabilitation and revegetation. IWM offers the potential for people to work together to manage water flows in urban and natural environments, so that flood waters are less damaging, water pollution is prevented, and water is directed where it's needed. A healthy environment benefits wildlife and the community and is an important consideration for climate change adaptation.

Traditional Owners are taking an increasingly active and leading role in water management

The region is the Country of many Traditional Owner groups as well as Aboriginal communities that identify a connection to land.

There is growing recognition of Traditional Owners' and First Nations' right to self-determination and inherent obligations to continually speak for and look after the Country of their ancestors and for current and future generations. Traditional Owners in the Central Highlands are taking more of a leadership role.

Victoria is the first state to progress Treaty discussions, the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria has formed, and there is increasing understanding among Victorians of Indigenous rights, connection to Country, and the need for inclusion, consultation, and reconciliation. IWM is increasingly being considered in this context.

This SDS highlights the key challenges in the region and also identifies collaborative IWM opportunities that can address climate change and other key drivers to improve resilience and liveability in cities and towns in the region.

POPULATION GROWTH

173,000 NOW (2021)

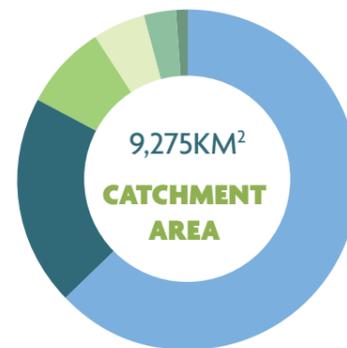
217,000 BY 2036



25.4% INCREASE

THE REGION

- DRYLAND PASTURE 63%
- NON-FARMLAND 20% (RURAL LIVING, ROADS AND WATER BODIES)
- BROAD ACRE CROPPING 8%
- NATIVE VEGETATION 5%
- HORTICULTURE 3%
- URBAN 1%



CHANGE IN RAINFALL BY 2040

DECREASE BY 16.2% WITH MORE-INTENSE RAINFALL IN SOME YEARS



TEMPERATURE AN INCREASE OF 0.7-1.6C INCREASE BY 2040

CONDITION OF WATERWAYS

	AVOCA	MOORABOOL
GOOD:	0%	0%
MODERATE:	74%	57%
POOR:	24%	5%
VERY POOR:	2%	38%



Sources:
Population data: Victoria in Future 2019
Temperature and rainfall are the highest and lowest predictions across the Avoca and Moorabool catchments. Predictions represent the annual average at 2040 relative to the year 1995. Guidelines for Assessing the Impact of Climate Change on Water Availability in Victoria, November 2020.
Waterway condition sources: Third Index of Stream Condition report - ISC North Central Region and Third Index of Stream Condition report - ISC Corangamite Region

PROGRESS SO FAR

The first Central Highlands IWM Forum SDS was published in September 2018. It articulated the regional context, the shared vision and the strategic water-related objectives for the region. It also listed IWM opportunities as ‘ready to advance’ projects, developed collaboratively by the forum partners. It can be viewed online at www.water.vic.gov.au



Many forum members have IWM at the forefront of their thinking and several are regularly implementing IWM as their principal approach to water management. The projects – past, current and future – listed in this document and endorsed by the forum members are those that will create shared benefits from a collaborative, multi-party approach. Our first SDS identified 13 opportunities that reflect the Central Highlands IWM Forum’s initial priorities and opportunities. Most of these opportunities are underway or completed. Progress on the 2018 SDS projects is summarised in the table below. Six projects have been completed, including the Daylesford IWM Plan, an important project for the region that has been expanded to include other townships. The ‘Breathing Life into the Yarrowee River: Works Prioritisation Masterplan’ project has been completed and new priority action are to be implemented. Five more projects are underway.

The Central Highlands IWM Forum is flexible and responsive to the changing needs and priorities of local governments and other members. The forum acknowledges that, while some projects are going well, IWM hasn’t been implemented as well as hoped, with some projects delayed as forum members dealt with the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and greater than expected population growth. Of the two 2018 projects yet to commence, one has been scheduled, and the other is still planned as a priority for future years and included in this SDS.

Much of the forum’s project work over the last three years has been conceptual, focused on planning, conducting feasibility studies, developing business cases, and building strong working relationships between collaborators. These relationships and ways of working together have been the great success of the forum. The next phase will see forum members working together on the implementation of IWM projects, with scope to develop further opportunities that grow from them. Future work will also be informed by the recovery targets set in the region’s Sustainable Water Strategy (SWS), currently under development.

Table 1 : Summary of the status of 2018 SDS IWM opportunities

IWM opportunity	Status	Notes
Mapping of Cultural Values on Waterways by Traditional Owners	In progress	Significant progress in methodology for shared Traditional Owner values identification. This project is on-going in nature.
Enhancing Flows to the Moorabool and Leigh Rivers	Completed	Background work for this project has been completed and has been incorporated into the draft SWS.
Central Highlands Small Towns Green-Blue Infrastructure Plan	Completed	A guide for green-blue infrastructure in small towns has been developed and is now available for use. See case study on page 16. Collaboration facilitated through this project led to the development of the ‘Beaufort Linear: Green-Blue Infrastructure for a Small Town’ project. See page 29
Maryborough IWMt Plan	Completed	The Plan was delivered in 2020. One of the projects identified in this plan, the Station Domain Precinct stormwater harvesting concept design, has already received funding. Further implementation of this plan is outlined in this SDS. See page 24
Daylesford IWM Plan	Completed	Originally centred on Daylesford only, the scope of this project was expanded to include Hepburn Springs, Creswick and Clunes as additional towns within the Hepburn Shire. This plan was finished in 2022. The implementation of this plan is outlined in this SDS. See page 25.
Ballan IWM Plan	Scheduled	Now that the Daylesford IWM Plan has finished, IWM planning for Ballan is next in line, expected to commence in 2023. See page page 26
Revitalising Lake Burrumbeet and Burrumbeet Creek	In Progress	Work is underway to revitalise the creek, with enthusiastic community support. Cultural heritage values have been identified for Burrumbeet Creek. Included in this SDS as ‘Revitalising Lake Burrumbeet’. See page 27
Beaufort Closed-Loop Recycled Water Scheme	In Progress	This project is under construction and will supply recycled water to multiple recreational spaces through ‘purple pipes’. Construction will be completed in late 2022. See page 28
Integrated Management of the Tullaroop Catchment (Stage 1 - Planning)	Completed	This integrated catchment plan was completed in 2020 and is ready for implementation. See page 30
Breathing Life into the Yarrowee River: Implementing Priority Actions	Completed	The Masterplan for the Yarrowee River has been completed. Priority actions have been identified for implementation. An example is the proposal to daylight sections of the Yarrowee River. See page 31
Expanding Ballarat’s Alternative Water Network	In Progress	Prioritised projects are in development, with some included for implementation in this SDS. Now renamed as Expanding Ballarat’s Diverse Water Network project. See page 32
Ballarat West Stormwater Harvesting	Not started	This opportunity has been enabled through the Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) development process. As the Ballarat West PSP is advanced over the next 20 years, the finalisation of detailed designs for this infrastructure is still a priority. See page 33
Victoria Park (Ballarat) Greens Space Transformation	In Progress	Early assessments and designs are complete and detailed designs are underway and are expected to be completed in early 2023. The next stage, construction, is proposed in this SDS as ‘Recycled Water for a Green Victoria Park’. See page 33

Case study

Central Highlands Small Towns Green-Blue Infrastructure Guide

A practical guide enabling water-sensitive small towns everywhere

The Central Highlands Water region has nearly 60 small towns with populations between 100 and 10,000 people. Fully-fledged integrated water management (IWM) plans are beyond the capacity and budgets of most, but that doesn't mean they can't benefit from elements of integrated water management.

'Green-Blue Infrastructure' (GBI) elements present opportunities to implement IWM in small towns. GBI refers to the natural and built assets within urban landscapes that combine living (green) infrastructure, such as parks and vegetation, with water (blue) infrastructure, such as rainwater tanks or waterways.

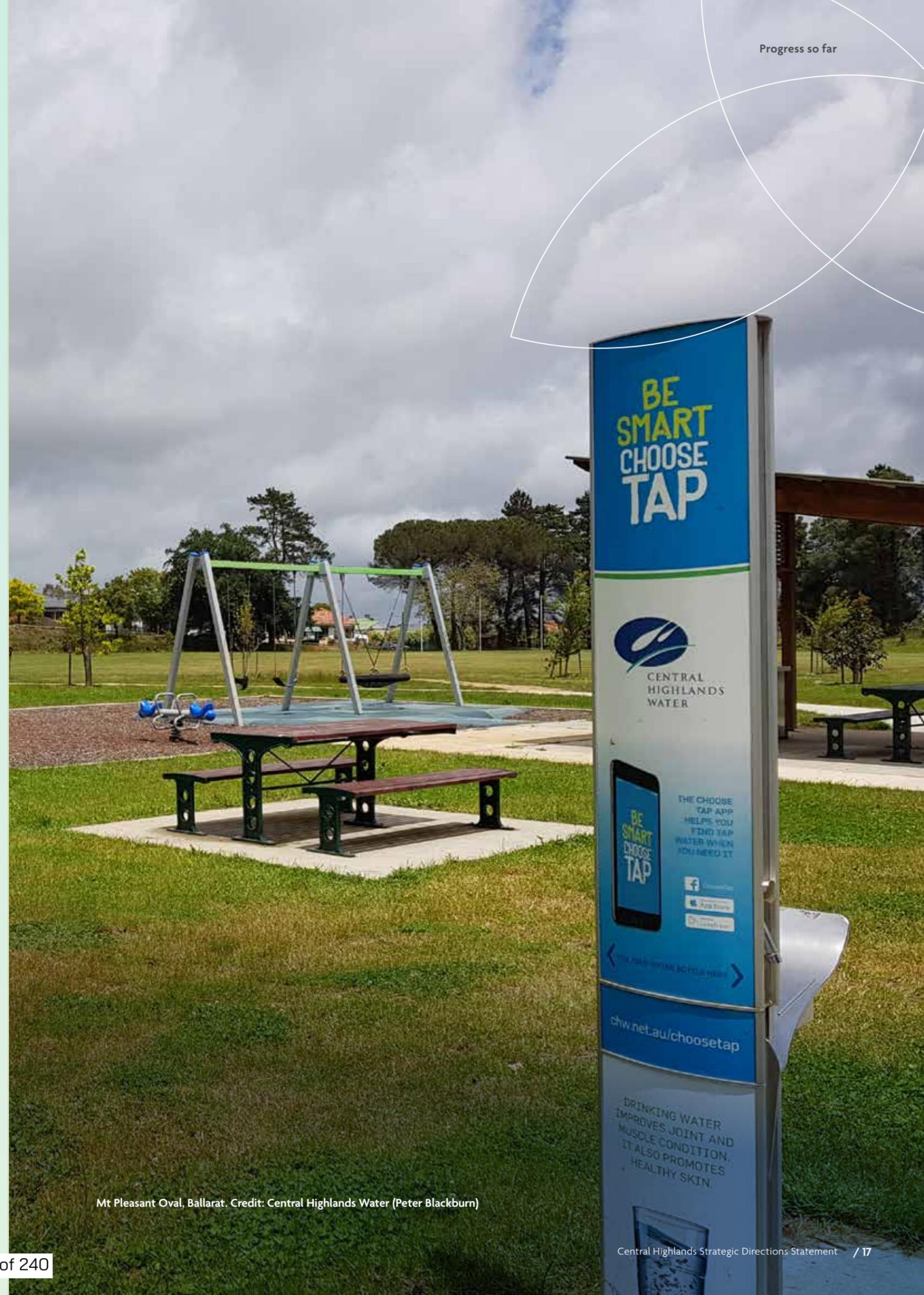
Central Highlands Councils Victoria, an alliance of eight central Victorian municipal councils, led a project to develop the 'Greening Small Towns: A plan for green-blue infrastructure in small towns of Victoria's Central Highlands' – a 'how-to' manual to help local governments plan and implement GBI projects in small towns, from rain gardens and tanks at the lot scale to wetlands and green corridors that manage rainwater and stormwater at a precinct scale.

This Guide is now ready for use by local governments and organisations that are implementation partners. Practitioners involved in the development process say one of the best outcomes of the project has been the conversations had during workshops run in 2019 and 2021 which informed the final Guide. IWM lies is at that intersection between health and wellbeing, engineering, environment, planning and culture, all of which came together through the people involved in the workshops, giving practitioners a chance to collaborate and learn from each other.

Already, those conversations and lessons are bearing fruit. For example, work on the Guide has also led to the development of projects, such as the 'Beaufort Linear: Green-Blue Infrastructure for a Small Town' project.



Examples of green-blue infrastructure. Credit: Damien D'Aspromonte, Foresight Advisory



Mt Pleasant Oval, Ballarat. Credit: Central Highlands Water (Peter Blackburn)

Case study

Integrated Management of the Tullaroop Catchment (Stage 1 – Planning)

Collaborating now for the catchment's future

The Tullaroop catchment is valued by Traditional Owners, the Djaara people, and the local community for its picturesque waterways, wetlands and surrounding landscapes. Much of the 71,818 hectares is highly productive agricultural land used for grazing and cropping. It supplies drinking water for the residents of Maryborough and surrounding areas, as well as water for downstream irrigation along the Loddon and Murray systems. It also provides a wildlife habitat and a range of additional environmental, social, cultural and economic values to communities in central Victoria.

The catchment faces continued pressure from agricultural intensification, lifestyle development and recreational access which, along with predicted climate change impacts, place increasing demand on, and threatens, water resources in the Tullaroop system. Urban influences on the catchment, such as significant stormwater inflows and septic wastewater systems are also significant threats to waterway health and the supply of safe, secure, and affordable drinking water.

The 2018 Central Highlands IWM Strategic Directions Statement identified 'Integrated Management of the Tullaroop Catchment' as a priority and an opportunity. The project brought together North Central Catchment Management Authority and Central Highlands Water with implementation partners Goulburn-Murray Water, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Hepburn Shire Council, Central Goldfields Shire, and the City of Ballarat. Together, these collaborative partners developed the 'Tullaroop Integrated Catchment Management Plan' so that catchment challenges can be better managed. Importantly, this plan works alongside, and directly informed the Maryborough

IWM Plan and the Daylesford, Hepburn Springs, Creswick and Clunes IWM Plan which aim to improve urban water management in the catchment.

Importantly, the 30-year plan has also integrated the insights, knowledge and techniques of both a western scientific tradition and those of the Djaara people in identifying long-term, practical and meaningful actions to improve catchment health outcomes. The Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation has played a significant role in identifying significant values of importance to Traditional Owners through an Aboriginal Waterways Assessment. The results of this work have fundamentally shaped the design of the Plan as well as the priorities recommended for implementation.

The plan also incorporates the most cost-effective investments for improving river health and water supply quality. The Investment Framework for Environmental Resources was used to assess the benefits and costs of interventions, ensuring cost-effective interventions were selected as priorities.

Implementing the Plan will see several different organisations and community groups working together to improve waterway health through a range of environmental works while ensuring the supply of quality water is secured for communities, and the cultural importance of the catchment is protected for the future.



Tullaroop Creek. Credit: North Central Catchment Management Authority



Tullaroop Reservoir. Credit: Central Highlands Water (Andrew Thomas)

IWM OPPORTUNITIES

IWM opportunities that link to and address challenges for the region were identified and developed by the practitioners of the forum's participating organisations.

A summary of the priority IWM opportunities is shown in Table 2, with more detail in the following section. This list is dynamic and will continue to be updated to reflect the forum's priorities and opportunities as they arise.

Partners are committing their best endeavours to ensure priority projects and strategies are moved forward, in line with the shared vision and strategic outcomes of the forum

Table 2: IWM opportunities 'ready to advance' in the Central Highlands region

IWM opportunity	Strategic outcomes							Location	Scale
Support for Wadawurrung and Djaara Care-for-Country Opportunities	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact	To be determined	Safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future	Effective and affordable wastewater systems	Manage flood risks	Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung Country	Forum Area
Enhancing Flows to the Moorabool and Leigh Rivers	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact	To be determined	Safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future	Effective and affordable wastewater systems	Manage flood risks	Ballarat and Moorabool River	Forum Area
Maryborough IWM Plan Implementation	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact	To be determined	Safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future	Effective and affordable wastewater systems	Manage flood risks	Maryborough and Carisbrook	Town
Daylesford, Hepburn Springs, Creswick and Clunes IWM Plan Implementation	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact	To be determined	Safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future	Effective and affordable wastewater systems	Manage flood risks	Daylesford, Hepburn, Creswick, Clunes	Town
Ballan IWM Plan	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact	To be determined	Safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future	Effective and affordable wastewater systems	Manage flood risks	Ballan	Town
Revitalising Lake Burrumbeet	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact	To be determined	Safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future	Effective and affordable wastewater systems	Manage flood risks	Burrumbeet catchment	Sub-catchment

Shade scale

	High impact		Safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future		Healthy and valued landscapes
	Medium impact		Effective and affordable wastewater systems		Traditional Owner and community values reflected in place-based planning
	Low impact		Manage flood risks		Jobs, economic opportunity and innovation
	To be determined		Healthy and valued waterways and waterbodies		

IWM opportunity	Strategic outcomes							Location	Scale
Beaufort Closed-Loop Recycled Water Scheme	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact	To be determined	Safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future	Effective and affordable wastewater systems	Manage flood risks	Beaufort	Town
Beaufort Linear: Green-Blue Infrastructure for a Small Town	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact	To be determined	Safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future	Effective and affordable wastewater systems	Manage flood risks	Beaufort	Town
Integrated Management of the Tullaroop Catchment (Stage 2 – Implementation)	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact	To be determined	Safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future	Effective and affordable wastewater systems	Manage flood risks	Tullaroop Creek catchment	Sub-catchment
Breathing Life into the Yarrowee River: Implementing Priority Actions	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact	To be determined	Safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future	Effective and affordable wastewater systems	Manage flood risks	Yarrowee River	Sub-catchment
Expanding Ballarat's Diverse Water Network	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact	To be determined	Safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future	Effective and affordable wastewater systems	Manage flood risks	Ballarat	Lot scale
Ballarat West Stormwater Harvesting Hubs	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact	To be determined	Safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future	Effective and affordable wastewater systems	Manage flood risks	Ballarat West	Lot scale
Recycled Water for a Green Victoria Park	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact	To be determined	Safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future	Effective and affordable wastewater systems	Manage flood risks	Ballarat	Precinct
Mullawallah Wetland Management Plan	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact	To be determined	Safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future	Effective and affordable wastewater systems	Manage flood risks	Ballarat West	Town
Miners Rest Flood Mitigation	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact	To be determined	Safe, secure and affordable supplies in a changing future	Effective and affordable wastewater systems	Manage flood risks	Miners Rest	Town

REGIONAL ENABLERS

‘Regional enabler’ projects facilitate region-wide IWM initiatives. These are highly collaborative opportunities with broad reach that involve and benefit a large number of stakeholders and support and elevate IWM. Three such projects from the first SDS have been delivered. A further project has been identified.

Support for Wadawurrung and Djaara Care-for-Country Opportunities

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation) conducted a 2018 SDS project to map the cultural sites and values along waterway corridors in the region. This project has created a knowledge base that can be managed by the relevant Traditional Owner groups and used to inform management of waterways and water bodies on their Country.

Building on this knowledge, it is anticipated the Wadawurrung will identify priority sites to be the focus of future IWM projects through the forum. At the time of publication, the

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation was going through personnel changes. It is anticipated that, with time and much-needed resourcing, the Wadawurrung will lead the development of further new IWM project proposals, in addition to the Mullawallah Wetland Management Plan. The Central Highlands IWM Forum is committed to providing greater support for Traditional Owner-led IWM, as well as improving Traditional Owner partnerships, inclusion and consideration in all projects. As such, this ‘project’ is included as the Forum members’ statement of intent to support self-determination and commitment to work collaboratively on Traditional Owner-led projects as they develop.

Lake Wendouree, Ballarat. Credit: Central Highlands Water.



Enhancing flows to the Moorabool and Leigh Rivers

The Moorabool and Leigh Rivers are on the Traditional lands of the Wadawurrung people who have had an ongoing connection with the river for thousands of generations.

The Moorabool River is one of the most stressed waterways in the state, and the Leigh River is heavily influenced by stormwater runoff and treated wastewater inflows from Ballarat. Both rivers flow into the Barwon and Lower Barwon Rivers, which flow through Geelong and feed Ramsar-listed wetlands. Climate change and growing populations in both Ballarat and Geelong will continue to place pressure on these significant rivers. Improvements to the volume and timing of inflows to these rivers will help protect the plants and animals dependent on them.

During 2018 and 2019, the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority updated the environmental FLOWS Study for the Upper Barwon, Yarrowee and Leigh River systems, in preparation for the Central Region Sustainable Water Strategy. This study found that an additional 44 GL of water a year is required to return the Barwon system to within 75% of the natural flow regime and to meet all environmental flow recommendations.

In addition, the Moorabool FLOWS Study completed in 2015 highlighted the current Environmental Entitlement (up to 2,500 ML per year) falls far short of the volume of water required to achieve the aspirational flow recommendations (14,600 to 36,000 ML).

Key findings from the Upper Barwon, Yarrowee and Leigh FLOWS Study systems include:

Low flows during dry periods (such as the summer months) are important for providing habitat refuges for aquatic life, such as platypus, growling grass frog, fish, and macroinvertebrates. Dry period flows are also important for maintaining good water quality in those refuges and for providing opportunities for fish and other fauna to migrate up and down waterways.

In the Yarrowee, Leigh and Lower Barwon these low flows are predominately provided by discharge of recycled water from the Ballarat South Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

However, the timing of the current discharges from the Ballarat South WWTP do not reflect the environments needs.

Importantly, any loss of recycled water inflows from the Ballarat

South WWTP would increase the volume of water required to meet environmental needs in the Yarrowee, Leigh and Lower Barwon.

With appropriate modifications to the current timing and volume of recycled water discharges from the Ballarat South WWTP, this water source could play an important role in the long-term supply of environmental water to the Barwon River system.

The opportunity exists to examine possible long-term options to capture, treat and manage both recycled water and stormwater runoff from Ballarat to supplement environmental flows in the Moorabool River and Leigh River.

The Long-Term Water Resource Assessment for Southern Victoria also highlighted the importance of this opportunity, and the draft Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy includes an action (Action 8.5) to investigate options for using treated stormwater and recycled water from the Ballarat South WWTP to improve flows and waterway health in the Yarrowee River, Leigh River and Moorabool Yulluk (Moorabool River).

Protecting the diversity of life dependent on the rivers is critical to maintaining both environmental and cultural values in a drying climate.



Status	Concept
Lead agency	To be determined
Implementation Partners	Central Highlands Water, City of Ballarat, Moorabool Shire Council, Southern Rural Water, DELWP, Barwon Water, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
Location	Moorabool and Leigh River Catchments
Scale	Regional

PRIORITISING ACTION IN MAJOR URBAN CENTRES

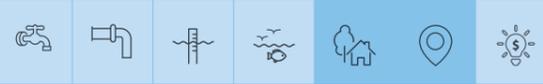
Identification and prioritisation of IWM projects has recently been done under several new IWM Plans for the region, but action is now required to implement these plans and realise their aspirations. Other major centres have been prioritised to also begin the IWM planning process, with Ballan, a growing urban centre next.

Maryborough IWM Plan Implementation

An IWM Plan was developed for Maryborough (including the neighbouring areas of Carisbrook and Flagstaff) as proposed in the Central Highlands IWM Forum's 2018 SDS. The Plan sets out to enhance water resources, support urban greening and liveability, improve the health of local waterways and water bodies and drive economic and social benefits in the area. The Plan considers all aspects of the urban water cycle and prioritises a series of IWM projects for further investigation. The priority projects that emerged from the Plan include:

- implementing schemes for greening Station Domain as a key community asset
- harnessing stormwater for healthier street trees at town entrances, in new development areas, and in central commercial and highly trafficked areas
- improving local lakes and waterways for community wellbeing, including Lake Victoria, Tullaroop Creek and Goldfields Reservoir
- diversifying and expanding the local water supply network to create greening opportunities and enhance resilience
- supporting flood mitigation initiatives prioritised through the Carisbrook and Maryborough Flood Management Plans.

Following completion of the Maryborough IWM Plan, collaborative partners are now committed to the implementation of the Plan as the opportunities arise. A concept design has already been developed for the 'Greening Station Domain' project.

	
Status	Implementation
Lead agency	Central Highlands Water
Implementation Partners	Central Goldfields Shire Council, North Central Catchment Management Authority, DELWP, Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation)
Location	Maryborough
Scale	Town/Shire



Lake Daylesford. Credit: Hepburn Shire Council

Daylesford and Hepburn Springs, Creswick and Clunes IWM Plan Implementation

Daylesford and Hepburn Springs is the third largest urban area in the Central Highlands region, and ongoing growth is forecast. The nearby communities of Creswick and Clunes are also important towns with strong tourism and visitor economies, and active communities. An IWM Plan for these communities has been developed with a community summary plan a final plan released in 2022.

The plan considers the whole water cycle and identifies and assesses a range of IWM opportunities within these towns and across the Hepburn Shire. Some of the identified priorities include:

- identification of diverse water sources for open space irrigation in Daylesford
- a recycled water use strategy for Shepherds Flat, Daylesford
- development of stormwater and rainwater harvesting opportunities for Doug Lindsay Reserve in Creswick
- a stormwater management plan for Creswick Creek
- identifying diverse water sources for use by larger water users in Clunes
- shire-wide opportunities such as investigating street and building-scale IWM opportunities, community water education programs, better planning for new developments and improving connectivity of natural and recreational spaces.

Following completion of the Daylesford and Hepburn Springs, Creswick and Clunes IWM Plan, collaborative partners are now committed to the implementation of the Plan as the opportunities arise.

	
Status	Implementation
Lead agency	Central Highlands Water
Implementation partners	Hepburn Shire Council, North Central Catchment Management Authority, DELWP (Grampians), Goulburn-Murray Water, Regional Development Victoria, Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation)
Location	Daylesford, Hepburn Springs, Creswick and Clunes
Scale	Town/shire

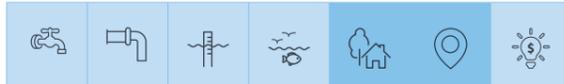
Ballan IWM Plan

Ballan is a growing urban area in the Central Highlands region, which also lies in the Werribee IWM Forum area. As identified in the 2018 SDS, there is opportunity to collaborate across both forum areas to develop a holistic IWM Plan for the town.

Ballan has been identified as a priority for the Central Highlands region as, largely due to its proximity to Melbourne growth areas, it is expected to grow substantially and the towns water supply is drawn from the same network that supplies Ballarat, which already impacts on the flow-stressed Moorabool River. The management of urban stormwater in the upper Werribee catchment has also been identified as a priority in Melbourne Water's Healthy Waterway Strategy (2018).

An IWM Plan for Ballan can articulate a community vision, identify IWM opportunities and prioritise them for delivery. IWM projects can help secure the towns water supply, enhance amenity, and ensure the resilience of green assets in the township.

Building on the experience and methodologies established for the Ballarat, Maryborough and Daylesford IWM Plans, the Ballan IWM Plan is scheduled to commence in late 2022.

	
Status	Committed
Lead agency	Central Highlands Water
Implementation partners	Moorabool Shire Council, Melbourne Water, Southern Rural Water, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Werribee IWM Forum
Location	Ballan
Scale	Town

Beaufort Lake. Credit: Pyrenees Shire Council

DELIVERING BENEFITS IN KEY REGIONAL LOCATIONS

The water cycle connects people and settlements with waterways and landscapes beyond urban areas. These projects focus on IWM opportunities that connect urban communities with the outdoor environment

Revitalising Lake Burrumbeet

There are identified opportunities to revitalise Lake Burrumbeet and sections of Burrumbeet Creek through collaborative planning and investment. Since the identification of the Revitalising Lake Burrumbeet and Burrumbeet Creek project in the 2018 SDS, DELWP (Grampians region) led the Lake Burrumbeet Futures Project which collaborated with partner organisations and the community to shape a longer-term vision for the lake. The Victoria's Great Outdoors investment program has also provided funds to improve recreation infrastructure at Lake Burrumbeet reserve, to support accessibility and visitor management.

However, with additional collaboration and investment, there are opportunities to broaden the existing scope of works, to support further restoration of the recreational, cultural and environmental values of Lake Burrumbeet, Burrumbeet Creek, Baillie Creek and surrounding wetlands. Lake Burrumbeet is the site of significant cultural heritage, including scarred trees, artefact scatters, fish traps. Lake Burrumbeet is part of the traditional lands of the Burrumbeet Balug clan, of the Wadawurrung people. The name Burrumbeet means 'muddy water' in the Wadawurrung language.

The IWM process also offers the opportunity to create positive outcomes from urban development within the Burrumbeet catchment.

Specific actions for Lake Burrumbeet include:

- development of a clear and sustainable management model that will consider the natural, cultural and recreational values and future management aspirations of the Wadawurrung people
- consideration of the influence of flows and water quality from Ballarat North WWTP and local runoff to determine possible actions for enhancement
- further assessments to identify and implement management

- actions which to address impacts on cultural values, such as introduced plant, animal, and aquatic pests
- protection, restoration and stabilisation of surrounding waterways and riparian zones.

	
Status	Concept and feasibility
Lead agency	DELWP (Grampians), Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.
Implementation partners	City of Ballarat, Central Highlands Water, Federation University, Lake Burrumbeet Ski Club, Friends of Lake Burrumbeet, Victorian Fisheries Authority, DELWP, Arthur Rylah Institute, local landholders
Location	Burrumbeet catchment
Scale	Sub-catchment

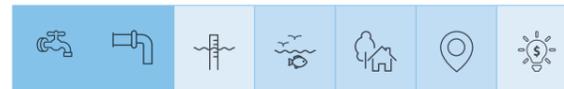


Beaufort Closed-Loop Recycled Water Scheme

This project aspires to a closed-loop recycled water scheme to manage all of the Beaufort community's wastewater within the urban environment. The Beaufort Closed-Loop Recycled Water Scheme project invests in environmental sustainability as well as the wellbeing and recreational benefits provided by Beaufort community facilities.

Since identification in the 2018 SDS Pyrenees Shire Council has led the development of detailed designs for the delivery of recycled water assets to priorities community facilities. To realise this design, Central Highlands Water is now leading the construction of necessary WWTP upgrades, a new pumpstation and three kilometres of pipeline which are due to be completed by late 2022.

The project is a partnership between Central Highlands Water and Pyrenees Shire Council, who remain committed to identifying and delivering further opportunities to supply recycled water and other diverse water supplies to uses that enhanced the wellbeing and resilience of the Beaufort community.



Status	Construction
Lead agency	Pyrenees Shire Council
Implementation partners	Central Highlands Water, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Beaufort Golf Club, Beaufort Football and Netball Club, Beaufort Cricket Club, Beaufort Croquet Club, local schools
Location	Beaufort
Scale	Town

Beaufort Linear: Green-Blue Infrastructure for a Small Town

The Beaufort Linear project has evolved as a direct result of the 'Green Blue Infrastructure for Small Towns' project, a priority identified in the 2018 SDS.

The aim of this project is to undertake a co-design conversation with the community to inform a feasibility study and masterplan for a green corridor along the Garibaldi Creek in Beaufort. This corridor will link various recreational assets highly valued by the Beaufort community, located between Beaufort Lake and an area to the north of the railway line where the watercourse intersects with Yam Holes Creek.

The objectives are to improve water quality and environmental conditions along the watercourse and create a pedestrian link that provides passive recreation for the local community and for visitors to the town to enjoy.

The proposed recreational path will establish links between the caravan park at Goldfields Recreation Reserve, the schools precinct, the RV free camp site, the swimming pool, Beggs Street playground and the future town entry (after construction of a highway bypass). The potential for harvesting storm water and retaining it in wetland areas for use on green spaces will also be explored.

The next steps include securing funding, then project planning and establishing governance and stakeholder relationships. A community engagement and co-design program will follow, with technical and feasibility work after that. This process will produce a masterplan.

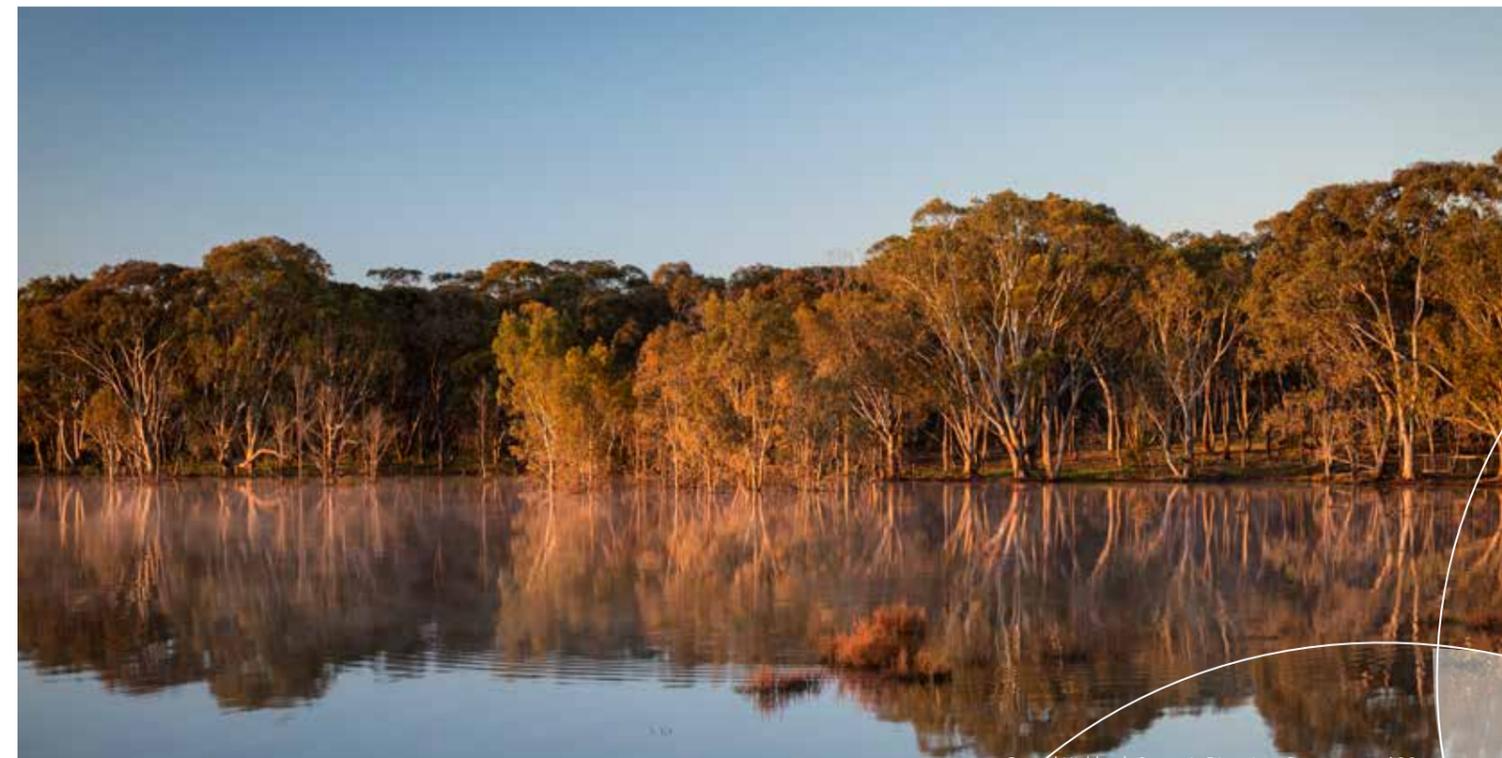


Status	Concept
Lead agency	Pyrenees Shire Council
Implementation partners	DELWP
Location	Beaufort
Scale	Town



Maryborough. Credit: Central Goldfields Shire Council

Tullaroop Reservoir. Credit: Central Highlands Water (Andrew Thomas)



Integrated Management of the Tullaroop Catchment (Stage 2 – Implementation)

The Tullaroop catchment provides a range of environmental, social, cultural and economic values to communities in central Victoria. The catchment faces significant future threats to water quality and the health of aquatic ecosystems from uncontrolled livestock access to waterways and from climate change.

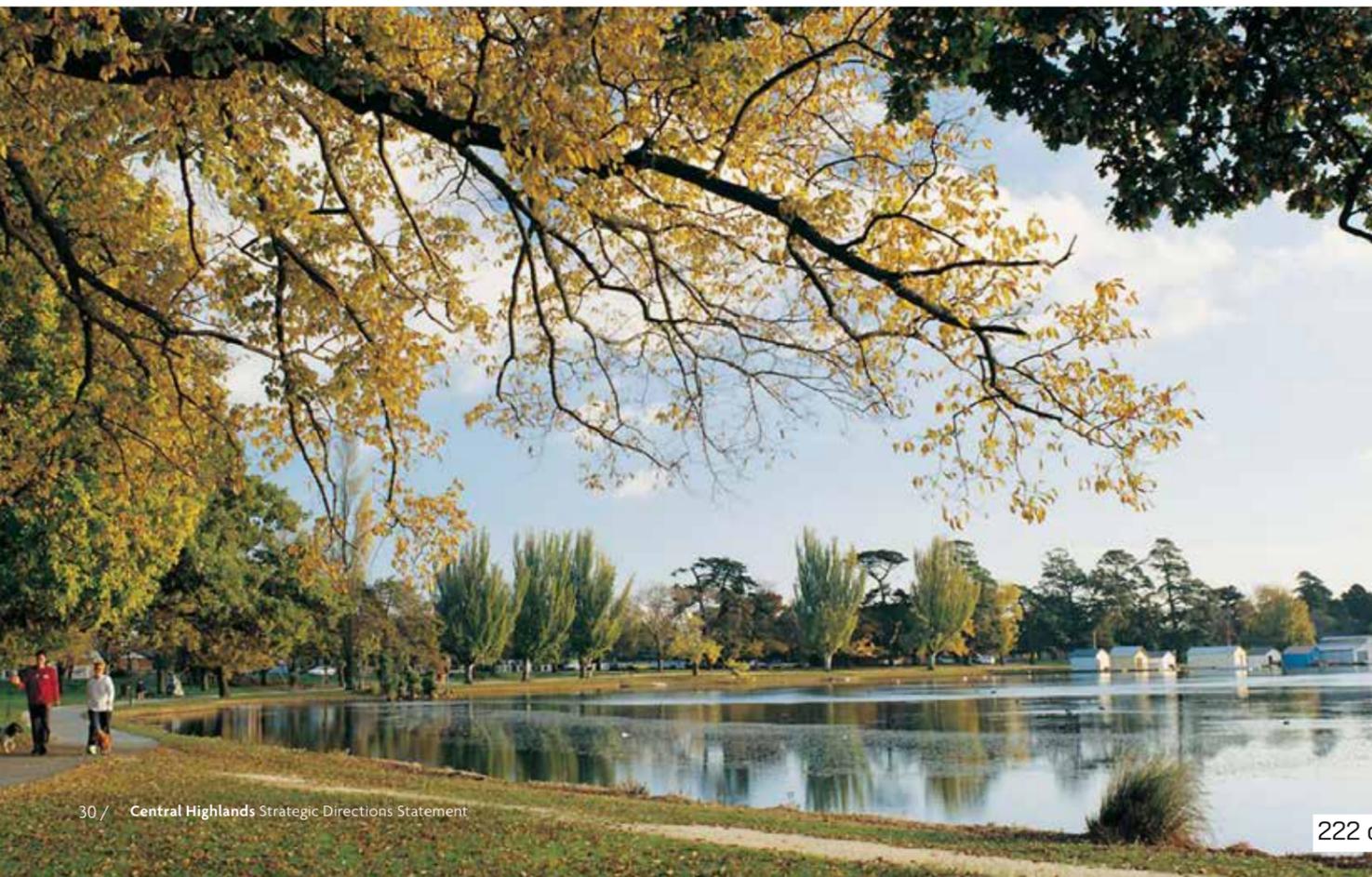
The Tullaroop Integrated Catchment Plan sets out the most cost-effective action to improve river health (fencing the remainder of Birch's and Tullaroop Creeks), improved water supply management practices (stock exclusion from the reservoir, as well as septic audit and compliance measures) and includes priority activities informed by an Aboriginal Water Assessment (Wartaka - cultural management and empowerment of landscape, revegetation and weed control at Long, Merin Merin and Middle swamps, Djandak Wi- cultural burning and cultural heritage audits).

The plan now enters an implementation phase and will seek multiple forms of investment and ongoing collaboration to achieve the outcomes it sets out. Implementation of multiple IWM Plans for the urban centres in the Tullaroop catchment will also play an important role in achieving the vision of the Plan. Future results of the monitoring and evaluation outcomes will be provided to the community reference group and the IWM forum.



Status	Implementation
Lead agency	North Central Catchment Management Authority
Implementation partners	Central Highlands Water, Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation), Goulburn-Murray Water, Hepburn Shire, Central Goldfields Shire, City of Ballarat
Location	Tullaroop Creek catchment
Scale	Sub-catchment

Lake Wendouree. Credit: Central Highlands Water (Peter Blackburn)



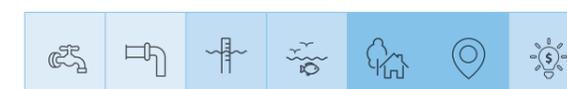
BUILDING ON MOMENTUM IN BALLARAT

Ballarat is a leader in IWM principles and practice. A wide range of projects have been delivered and more are underway, to diversify urban water sources, improve environmental outcomes and enhance the liveability and economic prosperity of the city. Six projects have been selected as priorities to extend, complement and enhance IWM in Ballarat. As the largest settlement in the Central Highlands region, these projects will drive the city forward as an exemplar of IWM.

Breathing Life into the Yarrowee River: Implementing Priority Actions

The Yarrowee River is the centrepiece of Ballarat and recognition of its importance to the community has grown over time. The delivery of works, as part of the 2013 Breathing Life into the Yarrowee River project, (improved vegetation, water quality and community access) heighten community interest in the Yarrowee River. As identified in the 2018 SDS, the Yarrowee River and Tributaries: River Corridor Masterplan was developed and finalised in 2020, almost 20 years after the original masterplan for the Yarrowee River was delivered.

The Yarrowee River and Tributaries: River Corridor Masterplan project generated further community interest and has been highly successful in identifying community outcomes for action. Now, through Action 4.4. of the Rivers of the Barwon (Barre Warre Yulluk) Action Plan, funding has been provided to support the delivery of priority actions (implementation) identified in the Yarrowee River and Tributaries: River Corridor Masterplan. This funding helps ensure the parklands can cater to the recreational needs of the growing community while balancing the protection of cultural and environmental values and restoring habitat.



Status	Implementation
Lead agency	City of Ballarat
Implementation partners	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Central Highlands Water, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP (Grampians)
Location	Yarrowee River
Scale	Sub-catchment

Expanding Ballarat's Diverse Water Network

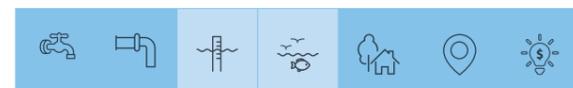
The existing non-potable network in Ballarat has potential for further expansion to support irrigation of schools, sporting grounds, parks and commercial premises. Some conceptual planning has commenced to demonstrate the feasibility of extending the existing recycled water supply network from Ballarat North WWTP to priority locations in Ballarat, including Wendouree West Recreation Reserve, Victoria Park and Mount Rowan Secondary College.

Strategic investigations have also commenced to explore diversifying water opportunities in the Ballarat West Growth Area, including a feasibility assessment and business case development for a residential development scale roof water harvesting scheme to supply managed aquifer recharge within the Cardigan Aquifer. Options for diversifying water supply for the Ballarat West Employment Zone are also being identified.

These schemes will further increase the use of rainwater, recycled water and stormwater across Ballarat, saving precious drinking water and supporting rapidly growing local communities by providing a fit-for-purpose water source for a range of different demands.

The next steps to deliver these priority projects involves securing co-investment funding, undertaking detailed designs and constructing infrastructure. While continuing to advance these existing opportunities, identifying new opportunities

will continue to be a priority for Ballarat's growth areas, and will be supported through the development of precinct scale integrated water management plans, as part of the precinct structure planning processes, when the next major growth area for Ballarat is confirmed.

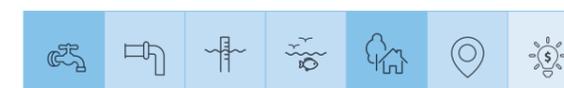


Status	Sub-projects at various stages
Lead agency	Central Highlands Water
Implementation partners	City of Ballarat, Mt Rowan High School, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
Location	Ballarat
Scale	Lot scale

Ballarat West Stormwater Harvesting Hubs

The Ballarat West Growth Area will provide 18,000 new homes for around 40,000 people in the next 20 years. The development will almost double the urban footprint of Ballarat. The additional stormwater runoff from the new development areas could have fundamental impacts on Winter Creek (adjacent to development) and the Yarrowee River (downstream). However, due to early intervention in the planning process, there is an opportunity to create local 'hubs' for stormwater treatment wetlands, which can then supply of treated stormwater for open space irrigation, preventing impacts on connected waterways. By planning for this holistic water management approach, all open spaces and recreational areas are planned to be 600 m of these stormwater hubs. Further detailed designs are still required for transfer infrastructure, which will connect treated stormwater supplies to these recreation areas.

This project was originally proposed in the 2018 SDS and remains a priority for the region. In the next five years, focus areas for the co-delivery of stormwater harvesting in new development areas have been identified. Delacombe Sports Precinct (on-ground in 3 - 5 years), for instance, is a huge opportunity, where it would be prudent to complete detailed design in advance to be shovel-ready.



Status	Concept and feasibility
Lead agency	City of Ballarat
Implementation partners	Central Highlands Water, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, developers
Location	Ballarat West
Scale	Lot scale

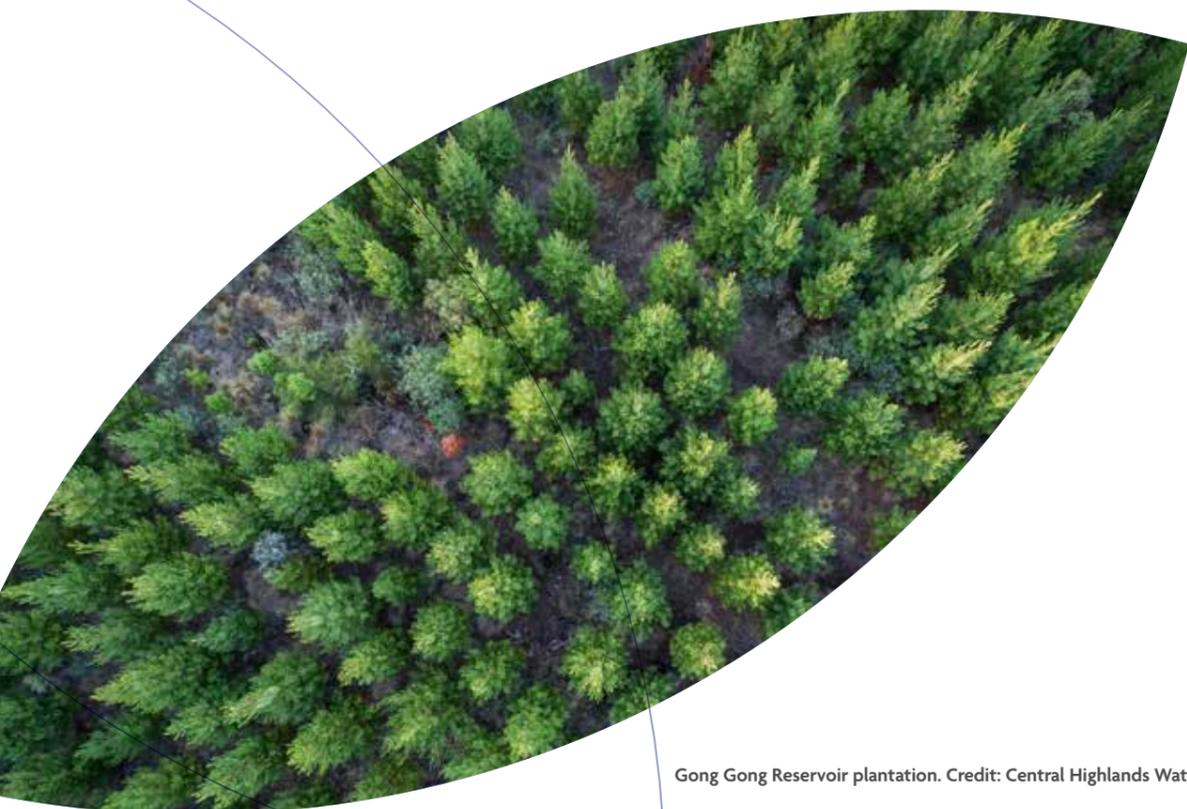
Recycled Water for a Green Victoria Park

Initiated in the 2018 SDS, feasibility assessments have been completed to find a suitable diverse water source for irrigating Victoria Park, the key green space and recreational reserve in Ballarat and an important asset for communities in the Region. This project will transform Victoria Park into a year-round green space to support numerous community clubs and attract events, as well as enhancing the existing lakes and public amenity.

The next stage requires detailed design work for irrigation infrastructure. The final detailed designs will be future focused, with the ability to accommodate the potential to extend the recycled water supply network from the park to service other areas and uses.



Status	Implementation
Lead agency	City of Ballarat
Implementation partners	Central Highlands Water, DELWP (Grampians), Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, user groups
Location	Ballarat
Scale	Precinct



Gong Gong Reservoir plantation. Credit: Central Highlands Water (Andrew Thomas)

Mullawallah Wetland Management Plan

Mullawallah Wetland, in Ballarat's west, is a site of significance for the Wadawurrung people. It supports several species listed under Victoria's *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (such as the brolga and blue-billed duck) and under international agreements (such as Iatham's snipe). Mullawallah Wetland lies north of Memorial Drive near the Ballarat Ring Road and is subject to extensive residential and industrial development. The region lies within a zone of decreasing annual rainfall and its catchment is becoming increasingly impervious through land development.

The Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, the Ballarat Environment Network and the Cardigan and Windermere Landcare Group have identified the emerging risks to the condition of the wetland including an increasing supply of pollutants, higher peak inflows and lower baseflows, and the drying climate. Each has the potential to impact the diverse wetland biota, as evident from changes to analogous wetlands elsewhere.

While there have been prior risk assessments, wise management of this ecological asset requires a holistic evaluation of hydrological change in the future. An opportunity exists to mitigate threatening processes and to implement management options that manage and capture runoff to offset a drying climate. The Wadawurrung seek to lead a project to manage water on Country and, with collaborators, to commission a plan for Mullawallah Wetland that explores management options under a changing climate and catchment hydrology.



Status	Identified
Lead agency	Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
Implementation partners	City of Ballarat, Ballarat Environment Network, Cardigan-Windermere Landcare Group
Location	Ballarat West
Scale	Town

Miners Rest Flood Mitigation

The Miners Rest Flood Mitigation project has been in planning for several years with options considered and shortlisted. Flood modelling for Miners Rest has explored flood risks and identified and tested several mitigation options. The primary option identified through this study was the widening Burrumbeet Creek between Howe Street and Victoria Street, a section of about 1.3 km.

Burrumbeet Creek between Howe Street and Victoria Street is currently relatively inaccessible and is infested with exotic weed species, meaning opportunities exist to increase community access, while also taking action to restore environmental values. Further collaboration can increase the benefits in this area.

The project has been estimated initially to cost \$4.5 million, and will provide multiple benefits, including flood protection, waterway enhancement and water quality treatment for an adjacent development. The next phase of the project development will be engagement of an engineering consultant to estimate the cost of the works. This will enable discussion of a funding model to be held with the stakeholders who will benefit.



Status	Committed
Lead agency	City of Ballarat
Implementation partners	DELWP
Location	Miners Rest
Scale	Town



Ballarat North Class A Recycled Water Facility. Credit: Central Highlands Water



Integrated Water
Management Forums



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

8.10 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE BIENNIAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Author: Governance Officer

Responsible Officer: General Manager Corporate Performance

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report to Council for noting.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report to Council.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025 – Leading Change

The Community's vision 4. Good planning, governance, and service delivery

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Local Government Act 2020 and the Audit and Risk Committee Charter both include requirements regarding biannual reports from the Chair of Audit and Risk Committees to Council. Section 54 of the Local Government Act 2020 states:

(5) An Audit and Risk Committee must—

(a) prepare a biannual audit and risk report that describes the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee and includes its findings and recommendations; and

(b) provide a copy of the biannual audit and risk report to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next Council meeting.

REPORT

This report was prepared by the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee on behalf of the Committee. The Committee reviewed the report and endorsed it for presentation to Council at its meeting 20 June 2022.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

The Audit and Risk Committee have endorsed the biannual report.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial or resource implications as a result of this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk Legislative compliance - Failure to manage our compliance with relevant legislative requirements

CONCLUSION

Under the Act Council must have an Audit and Risk Committee and this Committee must present a biannual report to Council. This report is being presented to Council at the July meeting for noting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report to Council

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE BIENNIAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

15 June 2022

PURPOSE

As required section 54(5) of the Local Government Act 2020, an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) report must be prepared and presented to Council on the outcomes of the Audit and Risk Committee meetings on a biennial basis.

This report covers the 6 months to 31 May 2022.

CHAIR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Membership and Attendance

Robert Tommasini's term as an Independent Member of the committee was due for expiry in April 2022. The current ARC Charter allows that Committee members may be reappointed for two additional three-year terms, subject to satisfactory performance. The Committee recommended to Council that Robert to be reappointed for an additional three year term from April 2022 to April 2025, and this was carried by Council at the March Council Meeting.

Current Membership

John Watson Independent Chair
Robert Tommasini Independent Member
Linda McNeil Independent Member
Geoff Lovett, Councillor
Gerard Murphy, Councillor

Although not mandatory under the Act, the Independent Audit and Risk Committee members completed personal interests returns.

Attendance

Meeting	6 Dec 2021	7 March 2022
J Watson	✓	✓
R Tommasini	✓	✓
L McNeill	✓	✓
G Lovett	✓	✓
G Murphy	✓	✓

Matters Considered

This report provides a summary of regular matters which are actively considered by the Audit and Risk Committee during each of its meetings. These items are listed on the agenda and include the following:

- Chief Executive Officer's (CEO's) Report including updates on legal and regulatory compliance matters;
- Central Goldfields Shire Council (CGSC) Internal Audit Progress Report (provided by AFS Chartered Accountants, Council's contracted internal auditor);
- Quarterly finance report;
- Strategic Risk Register

- Outstanding Audit Recommendations Register;
- Defined Benefits Superannuation Scheme Update;
- Local Government Act 2020 Implementation Update;
- Management reports on a variety of matters such as Report of Operations, Risk Management, and
- Sector related agencies and integrity reports.

Additionally, the Committee has received reports on:

- VAGO Audit Certificates and Final Financials & Performance Report
- Prioritisation and Resourcing Actioning of Audit Items Report
- Worksafe Visit to Nolan Street
- Non-compliance to Local Government Act Tender Thresholds
- VAGO Audit Strategy Memorandum for the Financial Year 2022
- Roadmap to Resource & Resolve VAGO Audit Recommendations
- Erratum issued for Annual Report

The Committee has reviewed the following policies:

- Nil

The Committee assessed and reviewed the annual Financial and Performance Statements for the 2020-2021 year and recommended to the council that the statements be agreed to in principle, signed and submitted to the Victorian Auditor-General.

Members Only discussion

At each meeting, the committee sets aside time for a Members only discussion if required. During the Members only meeting the members can raise any matter without management or auditors being present. Members can also invite the CEO and or Internal or External Auditors to join them to discuss matters without others being present.

Internal Audit

Internal Auditors

AFS Chartered Accountants are currently contracted by the council to provide internal audit services until 31 October 2023.

Internal Audit Work Plan

The committee approves a rolling three-year internal audit plan and monitors progress against the plan at each meeting.

Reports Presented:

- 2021-04 Internal Audit Report Past Issues Review

Internal & External Audit Recommendations –

Council maintains a register of outstanding actions of prior audit recommendations which has recently been transferred into Pulse management software. The objective of this register is to track the status of outstanding actions in order to ensure that all actions requested by various

auditors are completed by the assigned action officers. Once an action officer considers that an action has been completed it is marked as such.

	Newly added	In Progress	Deferred	Not Started	Completed	Still Open
Sept 2021	8	68	13	7	4	89
March 2022	18	60	27	4	16	91
June 2022	0	51	31	4	21	86

Of the 86 items still open there are 25 rated as low risk, 39 moderate risk, 16 high risk and 6 are not rated.

Following action of the Review and Overhaul of Open Audit Items Register report from AFS (to be received at the June Audit & Risk Committee meeting), we will see a significant change in the outstanding items as we seek to consolidate the register into a more manageable workload.

Internal Auditors Performance Review

The committee annually undertakes a review of the performance of the internal auditors.

Strategic Risk Register and Risk Management

The committee receives regular reports on the status of the strategic risk register and the management of risk within the organisation. The Committee has noted council's allocation to invest in operational risk register and risk management framework as part of the draft 2022/23 Council budget.

Committee Charter

The committee is governed by the ARC Charter adopted by the council as required by the Local Government Act. The Charter is reviewed by the Committee annually with advice provided to Council on any recommended changes.

Committee Annual Work Plan

The committee adopts an annual work plan setting out all the known matters it needs to consider at each of its quarterly meetings. The plan includes all the matters included in the Committee Charter together with matters under the Local Government Act and any other matter the committee considers necessary. The Work Plan is reviewed at each meeting.

Annual Self-Assessment

The committee undertakes an annual self-assessment, and the results are reported to the council by the CEO.

Review of Internal Audit Contract

The committee provided advice to the council recommending an extension to the period of the internal audit contract.

CONCLUSION

The Biannual Report provides the Audit and Risk Committee through the Chair with an opportunity to report to Council a summary of the outcomes of the Audit and Risk Committee over a number of meetings in the reporting period.

Overall the Committee has performed well with all members actively participating in the matters being discussed. The Committee has strived to provide sound and constructive advice to the Council and management and is always focused on aiding continuous improvement in practices and processes, compliance with legislative requirements and management of risk.

Notices of motion

Council meeting

*Printed from Stellar by
Meetings CGSC <meeting@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au>*

Notices of Motion

The Governance Rules provides that Councillors May Propose Notices Of Motion, Chapter 2, Division 4:

Councillors may ensure that an issue is listed on an agenda by lodging a Notice of Motion.

22. Notice Of Motion

22.1 A notice of motion must be in writing signed by a Councillor, and be lodged with or sent to the Chief Executive Officer at least one week before the Council meeting to allow sufficient time for him or her to include the notice of motion in agenda papers for a Council meeting and to give each Councillor at least 48 hours notice of such notice of motion.

22.2 The Chief Executive Officer may reject any notice of motion which:

22.2.1 is vague or unclear in intention

22.2.2 it is beyond Council's power to pass; or

22.2.3 if passed would result in Council otherwise acting invalidly

but must:

22.2.4 give the Councillor who lodged it an opportunity to amend it prior to rejection, if it is practicable to do so; and

22.2.5 notify in writing the Councillor who lodged it of the rejection and reasons for the rejection.

22.3 The full text of any notice of motion accepted by the Chief Executive Officer must be included in the agenda.

22.4 The Chief Executive Officer must cause all notices of motion to be numbered, dated and entered in the notice of motion register in the order in which they were received.

22.5 Except by leave of Council, each notice of motion before any meeting must be considered in the order in which they were entered in the notice of motion register.

22.6 If a Councillor who has given a notice of motion is absent from the meeting or fails to move the motion when called upon by the Chair, any other Councillor may move the motion.

22.7 If a notice of motion is not moved at the Council meeting at which it is listed, it lapses.



NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 6 – Cr Geoff Lovett

TAKE NOTICE that I intend to move the motion set out in this notice at the meeting specified:

Date of meeting: 26/07/2022

Time of meeting: 6PM AEST

Motion:

I, Councillor Geoff Lovett, hereby give notice that I will be moving a Motion at the Council Meeting, 26/07/2022, that

1. Council recognises that the supply of greenfield and urban fringe residential housing land in Maryborough is critically low.
2. Council notes the receipt of a request for a planning scheme amendment, and combined planning permit application the landowner of 52 Ross Street, Maryborough, to re-zone the land from Rural Living Zone to General Residential Zone, and sub-divide 8 hectares of land on the Northern fringe of Maryborough for residential purposes.
3. Council recognises that the application received from the landowner of 52 Ross Street, Maryborough, is proponent funded, and that the technical assessments and other fees will be at the expense of the landowner.
4. Council support the allocation of Officer resources as deemed appropriate to oversee the proponent funded application process.
5. If this motion is carried, Officers will present to Council a regular update about the progress of the combined planning scheme amendment and planning permit application for 52 Ross Street.
6. Council Officers to arrange a meeting at the earliest convenience between the Proponent, the CFA, and appropriate representatives of Council to discuss the potential for the site at 52 Ross Street, Maryborough to be re-zoned, and developed for residential purposes to response to Council's residential land supply issue.

Urgent business

Council meeting

*Printed from Stellar by
Meetings CGSC <meeting@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au>*

Urgent Business

The Governance Rules provide for urgent business as follows:¹

If the agenda for a Council meeting makes provision for urgent business, business cannot be admitted as urgent business other than by resolution of Council and only then if it:

1. 1 relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the agenda; and
2. 2 cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next Council meeting.

¹ Chapter 2, Rule 20.

Confidential business

Council meeting

*Printed from Stellar by
Meetings CGSC <meeting@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au>*

Confidential Business

The public transparency principles include that Council decision making processes be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue an Act.¹

Except in specified circumstances, Council meetings must be kept open to the public.² One circumstance is that the meeting is to consider confidential information.³

If a Council determines that a meeting is to be closed to the public to consider confidential information, the Council or delegated committee must record in the minutes of the meeting that are available for public inspection:⁴

- (a) the ground or grounds for determining to close the meeting to the public by reference to the grounds specified in Act's definition of confidential information;⁵
- (b) an explanation of why the specified ground or grounds applied.

Confidential information, as defined by the *Local Government Act 2020*,⁶ is:

- (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;
- (b) security information, being information that if released is likely to endanger the security of Council property or the safety of any person;
- (c) land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values;
- (d) law enforcement information, being information which if released would be reasonably likely to prejudice the investigation into an alleged breach of the law or the fair trial or hearing of any person;
- (e) legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies;
- (f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information affairs;
- (g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—
 - (i) relates to trade secrets; or
 - (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;
- (h) confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a);

¹ *Local Government Act 2020*, s 58 (a).

² *LGA 2020* s 66 (1).

³ *LGA 2020* s 66 (2) a).

⁴ *LGA 2020* s 66 (5).

⁵ Section 3 (1).

⁶ Section 3 (1).

- (i) internal arbitration information, being information specified in section 145;
- (j) Councillor Conduct Panel confidential information, being information specified in section 169;
- (k) information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information for the purposes of this definition;
- (l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989;

The Governance Rules provide for information relating to a meeting to be confidential:⁷

- If the Chief Executive Officer is of the opinion that information relating to a meeting is confidential information within the meaning of the *Local Government Act 2020*, he or she may designate the information as confidential and advise Councillors and/or members of Council staff in writing accordingly.
- Information which has been designated by the Chief Executive Officer as confidential information within the meaning of the Act, and in respect of which advice has been given to Councillors and/or members of Council staff in writing accordingly, will be presumed to be confidential information.

⁷ Chapter 6.

Meeting closure

Council meeting

*Printed from Stellar by
Meetings CGSC <meeting@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au>*