

# Central Goldfields Shire Priority Projects



Central Goldfields Shire residents face significant challenges in accessing the services they need compared to residents in Melbourne and regional capitals. Our community faces high levels of youth disengagement, long travel times to reach essential services and critical infrastructure shortages that limit our region's potential.

Central Goldfields Shire is seeking to partner with the Victorian Government to deliver seven key projects that will directly address these issues by bringing community-building facilities into the heart of our region. For each of these projects, the Shire has already committed funds and completed initial works – all that's needed to begin construction is gap funding.

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# All-abilities access at Maryborough Sports and Leisure Centre

Despite high use by people with a disability, Maryborough Sports and Leisure Centre isn't currently DDA-compliant. Makeshift solutions, such as using a storage room as a change facility, are not acceptable, and work needs to be done to ensure all local residents can access the centre.



## Residents with a disability have to make do with band-aid solutions

Maryborough Sports and Leisure Centre is an important health and fitness hub for a large number of local residents. This includes residents with a disability, who currently use the facility extensively.

Resident feedback and a recent DDA audit have revealed that the centre is significantly non-compliant. Patrons with a disability are forced to change in a store room, doors and stairs offer limited accessibility, and car parking doesn't meet the needs of residents with mobility challenges.

Funding is needed to rectify these issues, improve accessibility and ensure the centre is available for use by all our residents.

## Grassroots fundraising is under way

Management and patrons of the centre are already trying to raise a portion of funds to improve accessibility. While this funding stream will contribute a portion of costs, funding from the state government will go a long way to securing urgent upgrades.

## Key upgrades required

- Upgrade a storage room to an accessible change room
- Improve entrances, door widths and other areas for accessibility
- Create accessible parking.

## Projected cost

\$350,000

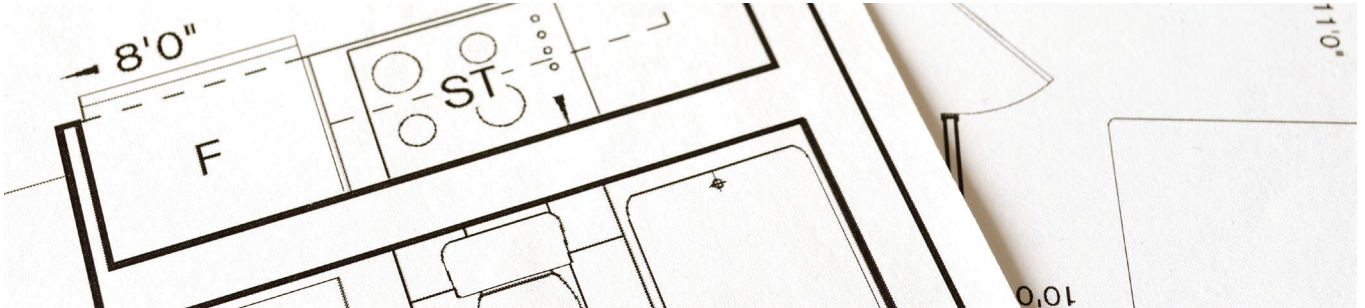


## Engineering drawings are already complete

Central Goldfields Shire has invested resources in a full audit and the production of engineering drawings necessary to begin works on upgrading the facility. Further, Council has allocated nearly \$70,000 for project management costs to upgrade the centre. This is a shovel-ready project – all that's needed to get to work is the necessary funding.

# Deledio multi-use facility upgrade

The entire Dunolly community uses the Deledio Reserve facilities for events, but the current facilities are severely degraded. Replacing them with new, purpose-built facilities will have broad community benefits for the entire region.



## A critical community hub run down

The Deledio Reserve facilities in Dunolly are more than a sport pavilion – the complex is a vital resource for community events and gatherings. With a full kitchen and ample space, the facility is the foundation of many local clubs and societies, which depend on the facilities for many of their activities.

However, the buildings on site are rapidly deteriorating. Major damage exists in the current building, including extensive termite damage, a cracked concrete slab and a kitchen that may soon not meet health requirements. Multiple building inspections, from both Central Goldfields Shire and independent contractors, have concluded that an upgrade is not suitable, and complete reconstruction is required.

Central Goldfields Shire has completed initial assessments of the project, committing \$200,000 in forward estimates towards design and project management costs. Council is urgently seeking funding from the Victorian Government to proceed with reconstruction works before the facilities becomes unsafe and inaccessible without a replacement under way.

## Key upgrades required

Construction of a new clubroom facility

## Projected cost

\$2.5 million

## Adding support for women's sport

While the cost of reconstruction is significant, it also adds opportunities to improve existing facilities beyond their current offering. The reserve complex currently doesn't cater to women's sport, with no dedicated change rooms and facilities anywhere on the complex. Upgrading the current facilities would represent an additional opportunity to improve women's access to sport on the site, as well as make other upgrades to prepare the site for a growing number of uses into the future.



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# Preserving heritage at Maryborough Outdoor Aquatic Centre

This outdoor pool isn't just an important recreation and sport hub for Maryborough – it's a heritage listed icon. Works are needed to maintain heritage facilities and keep the pool operational for years to come.



## Works are needed now to ensure this iconic facility doesn't fall into disrepair.

With decades of history and operation, the Maryborough Aquatic Centre pools are ageing rapidly. The pool shells are in need of structural upgrades to keep the pool operational, maintain appearances and meet safety requirements.

The broader complex also has significant maintenance requirements, including repair of damaged tiling, plumbing and wall finishings; and improvement of disability access. Due to the heritage status of the building, repairs are also required to bring the complex into compliance with the Cultural Heritage Management Plan. These upgrades, when considered together, can become considerably expensive, and are unable to be funded by Council alone.

Maryborough Outdoor Aquatic Centre is well patronised, and significant community support exists for the project. Council is seeking capital funding to improve the facilities to ensure the complex remains available to Maryborough residents for generations to come.

## Key upgrades required

Structural repairs to the pool shells  
Maintenance work to ensure compliance with the Cultural Heritage Management Plan

## Projected cost

\$4 million

## Heritage Victoria has already been engaged on the project

Working with Heritage Victoria, Council has already produced a detailed structural report, including estimates for repairs costs. Council has also produced a detailed Cultural Heritage Management Plan to ensure repairs are compliant with the complex's heritage.

As significant groundwork has already been undertaken to clarify the facility's needs and develop an appropriate path forward, further partnership with the Victorian Government would allow works to progress quickly.

# Wastewater for a growing Talbot

The Talbot township can't grow and take advantage of economic opportunities while wastewater flows into street drainage. Talbot needs a proper sewerage and wastewater system for residents and businesses.



## Rural towns can't grow without modern infrastructure

With a population of nearly 500 at the last census, the Talbot municipality is one of the larger towns in the region without a functioning sewerage and wastewater system, despite increasing demand for new homes.

The increasing popular farmers' market draws crowds from throughout the region. Installing modern wastewater facilities would improve the quality of life for local residents, allow local businesses to expand opportunities including attracting more visitors to the farmers' market.

## Talk of the town, but never funded

Studies examining connecting Talbot to a modern sewerage system have been occurring for decades, from an Ozwater report in 2005, an AECOM Study in 2010 and a full business case completed by DELWP the same year. The evidence, economic framework and community support is all in place – all that's needed is a commitment to funding the project.

## Key upgrades required

Connection of Talbot to a reticulated sewerage system

## Projected cost

\$6.5 – 7.5 million

## Further delays a risk to the Talbot community

While smaller towns are often able to manage sewerage and wastewater in a sustainable way, Talbot is such a size that the ongoing lack of action is a health risk. Open wastewater flows, particularly during tourist seasons and periods of high economic activity, are not able to be managed appropriately by existing infrastructure.

To ensure the safety and health of Talbot residents, and deliver economic growth, the town needs a modern sewerage system.

# A hub for disengaged young people

Central Goldfields Shire has a disproportionately high number of young people who are disengaged from work, education or training. An innovative solution with a local presence is needed to deliver an effective response.



## Young people are disengaging and existing approaches aren't working

Central Goldfields Shire statistics show clearly that young people in the region are struggling to find employ, education or training that meets their needs – at a much higher rate than the state-wide average.

We need local services to meet local needs. This is why Council is seeking to develop a place-based approach for engaging young people in the region. This will support an integrated youth services system, from prevention to early intervention through to a more significant response.

State government funding would assist with the construction, fit-out and ongoing program support of the centre.

## Designed for and by young people

Young people have already been engaged in the design and development of many aspects of the project. This innovative approach is inclusive, ensures designs meet the needs of local young people, and involves the community in an ongoing conversation about youth engagement.

## Key upgrades required

Construction and fit out of a purpose-built youth hub in Maryborough

Ongoing program funding

## Projected cost

\$3 million capital cost

\$200,000 p/a ongoing cost

## Building on existing services

A dedicated youth hub would create efficiencies in delivering existing programs. By giving a dedicated home to a range of services that already work together, service sharing is encouraged, clients can access multiple services within the same building, and staff are better able to learn from shared experiences.

Over the long term, these efficiencies are expected to result in both better outcomes for young people, and for the effectiveness of the programs that participate.



# Supporting Energy Breakthrough – an innovative learning experience

Energy Breakthrough is an engaging and innovative program that encourages students to think creatively while exploring science and technology. After 26 years of growth, the event is looking for a new partner.



## Significant growth – in both the program and its participants

The Energy Breakthrough, held in Maryborough each year, provides opportunities for students, teachers, parents and local industry to work together to design and construct a vehicle, a machine or innovation in technology that will represent an 'energy breakthrough'.

The program encourages participants to examine and use the latest technology while considering its impact on the environment and the way people live locally and globally.

After 26 years of significant growth, the program's major partner, RACV, has withdrawn its support. For the Energy Breakthrough to continue for the hundreds of students who take part every year, it needs a new major partner. Council is seeking funding support from the Victorian Government for a business plan to reshape the future of the event. Planning would focus on attracting new partners, and look at expanding the event across two weekends to increase participation.

## Key funding requirements

Funding to grow this regional event and increase participation for its 30th anniversary

## Projected cost

\$200,000

## Strong partnerships

The Energy Breakthrough is the combined effort of multiple partners, including the Country Education Partnership and VicRoads, together with Central Goldfields Shire. By entering into a partnership agreement, the Victorian Government would be supporting a positive relationship with almost 30 years experience in delivering fantastic programs for students across Victoria.

# Skate and scoot park

There are two very old and inadequate skate facilities in the Shire – one in Maryborough and one in Dunolly. Council will build a new skate park that incorporates a range of activities for skate boarders, scooters and roller bladers in Maryborough.



**Over 1000 of our younger residents have asked Council to build a skate park so they can participate in sport and active recreation.**

Sport and recreation is important to the health and wellbeing of our community and Council needs to provide facilities for all residents.

Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that participation in bike riding and skate wheeled sports (skateboarding, scootering and roller blading) is steadily increasing; 60% of young males and 47% of young females participate in skateboarding, roller blading or scooter riding. Within this context a new skate and scoot park will be an important facility, providing a place to be physically and socially active.

Without a new facility key infrastructure providing for participation in active recreation will not be met.

## Key upgrades required

Construction of a skate and scoot park

## Projected cost

\$400,000 - \$450,000

Council has committed the funding for detailed design of the skate park, and with our consultants, are working with our younger residents to pick the right location and, design the facility.