

Priority Projects Plan



Central Goldfields Shire Council is seeking to partner with the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments to deliver nine key projects that will benefit our community, promote recreation and social connection, attract visitation and boost our local economy.

For each of these projects, Central Goldfields Shire Council has already committed funds and completed initial works – all that's needed to begin construction is gap funding.

Contents

Priority Projects Plan	1
Maryborough Railway Station Activation	2
Carisbrook Levee	3
Wastewater for a growing Talbot	4
Developing a pathway network	5
Central Goldfields Art Gallery upgrade – Stage 2 and 3	6
Carisbrook Recreation Reserve Stage 2	7
Deledio Recreation Reserve Dunolly	8
Maryborough Splash Park	9
Central Goldfields Youth Hub	10

Central Goldfield Shire

22 Nolan Street, Maryborough VIC 3465

Phone: 03 5461 0610

Email: mail@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au

Maryborough Railway Station Activation



Council adopted the Economic Development Strategy and Tourism & Events Strategy in March 2020. Both strategies include the Maryborough Railway Station activation project in their lists of 'Transformative Projects' due to its vision of 'an iconic, game changing local and visitor hub that accommodates a mix of tourism, commercial, transport and community uses'.

Council's Economic Response and Recovery Taskforce has also endorsed this project as a priority action in supporting recovery from the economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Station building is one of the most impressive examples of gold rush era architecture in Australia and is perhaps the grandest station in regional Victoria. Upon visiting in 1895, Mark Twain observed: "Don't you overlook that Maryborough station, if you take an interest in governmental curiosities. Why, you can put the whole population of Maryborough into it, and give them a sofa apiece, and have room for more." Located at the heart of the Central Victorian Goldfields World Heritage bid area, the Station can find new life in the 21st Century.

Council has the lease for approximately 1000 square metres of space in the building and is developing a Master Plan for re-activating this space to give it new life as a vital hub of creative enterprise, small business incubation and visitor activity.

Key upgrades required:

Renovations to long-neglected parts of the building

Projected cost:

\$1.5 - \$2 million

An initial grant from the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund is enabling the establishment of a co-working space and small business support centre. Subsequent stages of the project are being refined through a business case process and will require considerable investment to renovate long-neglected parts of the building. This will enable it to accommodate an eclectic mix of functions such as:

- Visitor information centre and regional produce showcase
- Social enterprise café providing training in hospitality
- Artists workshop/studio spaces
- Small business incubator, co-working space and support centre
- Regional market

Carisbrook Levee



Central Victoria was subject to a number of widespread heavy rainfall and flood events in late 2010 and early 2011. Carisbrook was one of the towns hit hardest during this period, and was flooded in September 2010, and again in January 2011 with the majority of the township inundated in the 2011 event. Over 250 properties were inundated during the floods. A number of dwellings required demolition and reconstruction.

The Carisbrook Flood and Drainage Management Plan - developed in partnership with the community in response to the floods - recommends building a levee to protect the town.

Council funding, together with funding from the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme, has seen the first two stages of the Western Floodway and Levee completed.

External funding is now required to deliver Stages 3 and 4 of the project. The project has been designed, the planning permit has been issued and it is ready to be built.

Key upgrades required:

Funding needed to complete stage 3 and 4 of the Carisbrook Levee

Projected cost:

\$1.8 million

The existing funding is insufficient to complete the final stages of the levee, due to increased land acquisition costs and final cost estimates arising from completed detail design. A recent quantity survey undertaken for the outstanding levee works demonstrated \$1.8 million is needed to complete the works.

Without the funding Carisbrook continues to be at risk of flooding. Council is looking to provide certainty to the community that these works can be completed this year given it is almost 10 years since the floods occurred. The completion of the levee could also provide an economic stimulus to the area as part of post COVID-19 recovery.

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.

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 Talbot 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.

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

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.

Developing a pathway network



Central Goldfields Shire aims to be an active, connected and healthy community where people of all ages and abilities regularly walk and cycle.

Every year Council commits funding for footpaths, bike paths and shared pathways but additional funding is needed to deliver a dedicated program of new pathways across our townships to ensure our community is healthy and connected. As part of the Victorian Government Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative, Central Goldfields Shire participated in the Active Living Census in 2019. More than 1,176 responses were received providing us with a developed dataset to better understand the needs of our community.

Whilst walking was identified as the most common and simple form of exercise in our Shire, the results also told us that 69% of adults living in the Central Goldfields Shire are overweight or obese and just 51% of adults meet the guidelines for physical activity.

Key upgrades required:

Construction of a pathway network in the Shire

Projected cost:

\$500,000

Based on these findings, it is more important than ever for us to provide walking and cycling opportunities that meet the needs of the growing number of older adults and the high percentage of people with disabilities.

Pathways that are safe, well linked, easy to access from homes and provide universal access are a priority. Without a better network, opportunities for our community to walk and cycle from home to the shops, school, work, or to visit friends will be missed.

Central Goldfields Art Gallery upgrade – Stage 2 and 3



The upgrade to the Central Goldfields Art Gallery was identified as a priority project in the Central Goldfields Shire Tourism and Events Strategy 2020 – 2025, adopted in March 2020. Informed by extensive consultation across our municipality, the project was included as one of the key 'Transformative Projects' that will support and leverage the local emerging arts and culture sector.

Located in the 1861 historic fire station, the Gallery revitalisation will pave the way for a larger and more varied program of arts to be presented for the local community and visitors to the region.

Stage 1 of the project will be funded via the Regional Infrastructure Fund and includes the activation of the iconic and original fire station doors to create a welcoming entrance, increasing gallery exhibition spaces and installation of improved environmental and climate controls.

Stage 2 and 3 will complete the upgrade with integrated intelligent modern design that will significantly enhance the cultural value of the gallery as a vital arts space of regional significance for social, educational and cultural experiences.

Key upgrades required:

Funding to complete stage 2 and 3 of the Gallery upgrade project

Projected cost:

\$1.15 million

The internal gallery spaces will be remodelled to include:

- improved storage facilities for the shire's art collection
- improved accessibility and visitor services amenities
- pop-up exhibition space
- enhanced education, community and artist workshop space
- Indigenous Interpretive Garden reflecting the vibrant culture of the Dja Dja Wurrung people and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists living and working in central Victoria.

Carisbrook Recreation Reserve Stage 2



The Carisbrook Recreation Reserve Project creates an accessible and inclusive modern sporting facility and community hub for the growing population of Carisbrook and surrounding townships.

Stage Two of the project will deliver two netball change rooms, office space, a new show court with lighting, car parking and a bowls pavilion with a new toilet block. Each of these elements has been planned carefully in collaboration between local sporting clubs, social groups, the local primary school and Central Goldfields Shire Council.

Research undertaken by Netball Victoria in preparing its state-wide facilities strategy indicates that Carisbrook, and the municipality more broadly, has the lowest provision of netball courts per head of population in rural and regional Victoria. The Carisbrook Recreation Reserve Project helps to address this issue and alongside other features of the development, contributes to our ambition to get more people, more active, more often.

Some of the direct benefits of the project include:

- Increased female participation in netball
- All year access to a netball court enabling summer play
- New opportunities for participation
 - clinics, carnivals, hosting of finals events

Key upgrades required:

New netball court, changing facilities, first aid room, car parking and public toilets

Projected cost:

\$1.1 million

- Local access to learning opportunities and skills development for players, administrators, coaches, volunteers and umpires
- Increased opportunities for evening fitness training/activities through improved lighting
- Easy access to an accessible toilet for bowls club members– essential for some older members and members with a disability.
- Enhanced safety through the creation of a dedicated pedestrian zone and parking area

More widely the project will further enhance the improvement works to the Pavilion undertaken through Stage One of the project. The Project in its entirety will provide Carisbrook residents with many more opportunities to stage local events, classes and gatherings.

Deledio Recreation Reserve Dunolly



The Deledio Recreation Reserve facilities in Dunolly are more than a sports pavilion – the complex is a well-loved and well-used 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, and complete reconstruction is required.

Central Goldfields Shire Council, in collaboration with the Dunolly Recreation Reserves Committee of Management, has developed concept plans for a new building, which create opportunities for more local people to benefit from the facilities.

The concept plans, which form part of Council's commitment of \$200,000 in forward estimates for the project, offer an ambitious and practical vision of a modern integrated sporting and community hub for Dunolly which prioritises women's participation in sport and increased accessibility to enable people of all ages and abilities to be more active, more often.

Key upgrades required:

Construction of a new sports pavilion and community facility

Projected cost:

\$2.5 million

The hub includes changing facilities that cater for the increased participation of men and women in sport as well as a much needed expansion of space available in the town to host local events, classes and activities that can be accessed by people of all ages and abilities.

Maryborough Splash Park



The development of a splash park in Maryborough has become a priority for local people and Central Goldfields Shire Council over the past 12 months.

As part of the Central Goldfields Your Community 2030 – 10 year planning project in 2019-20 community plans for eight townships across Central Goldfields Shire were developed. Community members of all ages spoke about the benefits a splash park would bring to local families.

The ambition for a new splash park was also identified by young people during the consultation exercise for the Maryborough Skate and Scooter Park, with concept plans for the park eventually incorporating initial plans for the inclusion of a Splash Park on a nearby site in Princes Park.

The Splash Park will provide a free activity for people of all ages and abilities, and will further enhance the attractiveness of Princes Park to local families and those from further afield. Importantly, the Splash Park will provide more opportunities for social connection and participation in outdoor physical activity.

Key upgrades required:

Design and build of a Splash Park in Maryborough

Projected cost:

\$500,000

This project is a strong example of community empowerment in action in Central Goldfields and Council is committed to working with the local community, and our young people in particular, as we further develop the project to realise their vision.

Central Goldfields Youth Hub



The development of a Youth Hub for Central Goldfields represents the culmination of a major program of collaboration and consultation with young people and youth services from across the Shire and the wider region.

The Youth Hub project was established as a priority through the Youth Alliance – a partnership between local youth providers - supported by the multi-agency Go Goldfields Partnership and more recently through Council's leadership.

The Hub creates a dedicated space for young people aged 12 to 18 to get together and have fun, learn new skills, develop new interests and have access to services and information on a wide range of subjects including employment pathways, health, alcohol and other drugs, housing and mental health.

A 'pop-up' Youth Hub, which commenced operation from Maryborough Town Hall in early 2020 was welcomed enthusiastically by young people from across the Shire with hundreds of young people accessing services in its first few weeks of operation.

The key strength of the Youth Hub model in the Shire is its multi-agency partnership approach. Partners include: Maryborough & District Health Service, Anglicare, Youth Support & Advocacy Service, Cobaw Health, Victoria Police, Head Space, Maryborough Education Centre, Highview,

Key upgrades required:

Design and build of a permanent Youth Hub Facility in Maryborough

Projected cost:

Up to \$3 million

GForce, Central Victoria Primary Care Partnership, Western Victoria Primary Health Network, Goldfields Employment & Learning Centre, Federation University, Bendigo Health and Goldfields Local Learning & Employment Network.

The success of the 'pop-up' has led to the Council's commitment to undertake the next phase of the project; a comprehensive scoping and design project which will support the establishment of a permanent Youth Hub in the Shire.

Young people across Central Goldfields Shire are innovative, smart, resourceful and resilient. The creation of a permanent Youth Hub can provide many of our young people with the space and support they need to channel their potential and achieve amazing things for themselves and their community in the years to come.