



# AGENDA

## ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, 19 December 2017

To be held Swan Hill Town Hall,  
McCallum Street, Swan Hill  
Commencing at 4:00 PM

**COUNCIL:**

Cr LT McPhee – Mayor

Cr JN Katis

Cr GW Norton

Cr C Jeffery

Cr L Johnson

Cr B Moar

Cr A Young

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**SECTION A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

- **Open**
- **Acknowledgement to Country**
- **Prayer**
- **Apologies**
- **Confirmation of Minutes**
  - 1) Ordinary Meeting held on 21 November 2017
- **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**
- **Receptions and Reading of Petitions, Memorials, Joint Letters and Deputations**
- **Public Question Time**

## **SECTION B – REPORTS**

### **B.17.128 PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND FOR A SERVICE STATION, CONVENIENCE RESTAURANT, INSTALLATION OF ADVERTISING SIGNAGE IN COMMERCIAL 2 ZONE AND VARIATION TO CLAUSE 52.12-1 AT 120 KARINIE STREET, SWAN HILL**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Development and Planning  
**File Number:** 2017/118  
**Attachments:** 1 Development Plans

#### **Declarations of Interest:**

Helen Morris - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

#### **Summary**

This report seeks a Council resolution to grant a Notice of Decision to issue a planning permit for the use and development of the land for a service station, convenience restaurant, installation of advertising signage in Commercial 2 Zone and variation to clause 52.12-1 at 120 Karinie Street, Swan Hill.

This application has been referred to Council as one objection has been lodged against the proposal.

#### **Discussion**

##### Location and existing conditions

The subject site is located at the northern entrance of Swan Hill and is located immediately south of the railway line and on the northwest corner of the roundabout at the junction of the Murray Valley Highway, Nyah Road and Karinie Street.

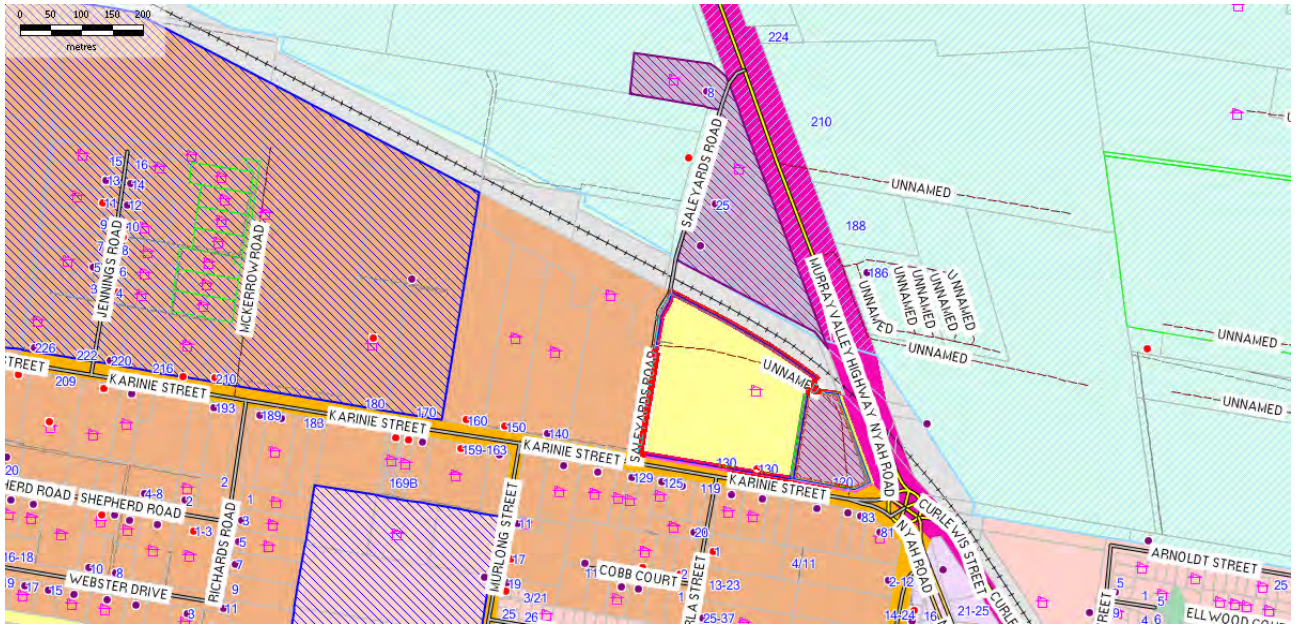
The sites frontage to the Murray Valley Highway, is approximately 152 metres in length with the Karinie Street frontage being approximately 129.3 metres. The saleyards are located adjacent the site on the western boundary.

The site is located in an area that accommodates a range of uses and built forms. The site is opposite the Swan Hill North industrial area which extends along the southern and northern length of Karinie Street for approximately 1.9km, with the exception of the adjacent saleyards which is zoned Public Use Zone 1.

Located to the north and east of the subject site is predominantly Farming Zone land, with a small section of Commercial 2 Zone land immediately north of the railway line. Some uses north of the subject site are a construction company and an approved

planning permit for truck sales and repairs and to the north east of the subject site is a Big 4 Park.

There are no sensitive land uses being conducted within close proximity to the subject site.



Map 1 – zoning and location of the subject land



Map 2 – aerial view of the subject land

### The Proposal

The applicant proposes to develop and use the land for the purposes of a service station and convenience restaurant intended to provide services to both light and

heavy vehicles. The building has a floor area of 495 sqm comprising of a pay point for the service station, retail area for convenience and confectionary goods, truckers lounge and dining area.

There will be two separate areas that will provide four petrol dispensers and three diesel dispensers each located under canopies. The dispensers will be serviced by three underground fuel tanks and one above ground tank for diesel.

25 Car parking spaces will be provided on the site, together with four truck parking areas and 4 bus/caravan parking spaces

It is proposed that both the service station and convenience restaurant will operate 24 hours per day, Monday to Sunday inclusive.

A planning permit is required due to the following permit triggers outlined in the Planning Scheme:

Zoning of the land:

Clause 34.02-1 Section 2 Use in the Commercial 2 Zone (C2Z)

- Service Station
- Convenience Restaurant

Clause 34.02-4 Construct a building or carryout works associated with a Section 2 use in the C2Z

Particular Provisions of the land:

Clause 52.05 A variation of advertising signage

Clause 52.12 Variation to the particular provisions of Service Stations

Overlay affecting the land:

Clause 43.02-2 Design and Development Overlay 7 - however not a permit trigger

### Assessment

#### State Planning Policy Framework

##### *Clause 17.01-1 Business*

Objective: „To encourage development which meet the communities” needs for retail, entertainment, office and other commercial services and provides net community benefit in relation to accessibility, efficient infrastructure use and the aggregation and sustainability of commercial facilities.”

The proposal supports the objective by providing a retail service to the community within close proximity to the central activity centre.

#### Local Planning Policy Framework

##### *Clause 21.02-2 Key Issues – Settlement and Housing*

- The maintenance of Swan Hill as the major regional centre which most other towns rely on for services and facilities.

*Clause 21.04-1 Settlement Network and Hierarchy*

Objective: „To maintain the settlement hierarchy.“

Strategy 1.1 Encourage use and development that will assist Swan Hill and Robinvale maintaining and enhancing their respective regional roles as significant providers of residential, commercial, business, industrial land and community services and facilities.

*Clause 21.08-1 Business*

Objective: „To provide for the growth of business and commerce.“

Strategy 1.1 Encourage growth and infill development in business areas.

Strategy 1.2 Provide a broad range of services and facilities that is consistent with the role of the town in the settlement hierarchy.

**Commercial 2 Zone**

The purpose of the Commercial 2 Zone is as follows:

- **To implement the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.**
- **To encourage commercial areas for offices, appropriate manufacturing and industries, bulky goods retailing, other retail uses, and associated business and commercial services.**
- **To ensure that uses do not affect the safety and amenity of adjacent, more sensitive uses.**

The proposal meets the purpose of the zone by creating a retail use with good links to road infrastructure for consumers.

**Particular Provisions**

**Clause 52.05 - Advertising Signs:**

Pursuant to the advertising sign requirements at Clause 52.05 of the Swan Hill Planning Scheme that is relevant to this application, is the requirements at Category 1 – Commercial Areas. Business identification signage is a Section 1 use, unless



the total advertisement area of all signs exceeds eight square metres. The proposed signage exceeds this requirement, therefore requires a planning permit.

VicRoads have approved the signage subject to standard conditions. The proposed advertising signage is considered appropriate.

**Clause 52.06 - Car parking:**

Pursuant to the car parking requirements at Clause 52.06, 10 car parking spaces are required for a convenience shop if the floor area exceeds 80sqm. This development is 495sqm therefore 10 carparking spaces are required for the convenience shop.

A convenience restaurant requires 0.3 car spaces per patron permitted, 40 seats are proposed within the convenience restaurant, therefore, 12 car parking spaces are required for the use.

The applicant proposes to provide 25 car parking spaces for the site, exceeding the required 22 car parking spaces required by Clause 52.06.

**Clause 52.07 – Loading and Unloading of Vehicles**

The proposal meets the requirements of this provision.

**Clause 52.12 - Service Stations:**

The purpose of the requirements of Clause 52.12 is to;

- Ensure the amenity, site layout and design are considered when land is to be used for a service station, especially if the site adjoins a residential zone. This development does not adjoin a residential zone.
- Ensure that the use of land for a service station does not impair traffic flow or road safety. The Traffic and Transport Assessment prepared by Cardno indicate no traffic impairment will occur due to the proposed use of the site, Council's engineering department are also satisfied with this conclusion.

Requirements set within this clause must be met. However, a permit may be granted to vary the requirements if the Responsible Authority considers a better design solution will result.

Site area and dimensions

Proposal complies with requirements.

Crossovers

A variation is required in relation to crossover width which should be no wider than 7.7metres.

The proposed crossovers are to be 16 metres wide to enable b-double truck access and egress to and from the site.

All other requirements of this provision are complied with and it is deemed acceptable to allow this variation.

#### Kerb or barrier

Will be provided through conditions on permit, therefore, proposal complies with requirements.

#### Road Setbacks

Proposal complies with requirements.

#### Discharge of waste

Will be provided through conditions on permit, therefore, proposal complies with requirements.

#### Amenity requirements

Proposal complies with requirements.

#### Trailers for hire

No trailer hire facilities are proposed on the site.

#### Adjoining residential zone

The site does not adjoin General Residential Zone.

Given there is only one variation required for this provision and the benefit derived from granting the variation, it is deemed acceptable.

### **Design and Development Overlay 7 – Commercial 2 Zone Highway Frontages**

Design Objectives of this schedule are to;

- Create attractive and vibrant entrances to Swan Hill along the Murray Valley Highway.
- Ensure the siting and design of new development is not detrimental to the image of Swan Hill.
- Ensure that new development addresses the Murray Valley Highway so that a sense of arrival to Swan Hill is created by appropriate built form.
- Encourage contemporary architectural outcomes in terms of building facades, roof forms and lines, colours, materials and setbacks that reinforce an attractive gateway to Swan Hill.

- Ensure that signage does not dominate the streetscape or lead to visual clutter.

This schedule recommends that buildings and works should comply with the following requirements;

#### Site coverage

A variation to the requirement of 30% of the site should be pervious to rainfall is sought.

The area of the site that is pervious to rainfall is 16.1%. Given the nature of the proposed use a large portion of the site is required for truck turning movements and therefore hard stand area.

#### Setbacks

Proposal complies with requirements.

#### Height

Proposal complies with requirements.

#### Building bulk

The proposal complies with this requirement as the building is not considered a large building.

#### Car parking and access

Proposal complies with requirements.

#### Fences

No fencing proposed.

#### Landscaping

A variation to the requirement of at least 15% of the area within the front building setback is sought.

Given the nature of the site and the need for two access points fronting Karinie Street, along with the need for circulation of large vehicles and queuing lengths around the site compliance with this requirement is impractical.

The applicant has provided additional landscaping in for the form of 5 large canopy trees along the sites frontage to Murray Valley Highway. These trees will soften the

appearance of the building and car parking areas when viewed from Murray Valley Highway.

It should be noted that the sites boundaries with the exception of the access points are set aside for landscaping.

#### Outdoor storage and work areas

Not applicable

#### Services

Proposal complies with requirements.

Given the above information and the decision guidelines of this overlay, the variations as sought should be granted.

#### **Consultation**

##### Referrals

Comment was sought from VicRoads, as well as Council's Building, Health, and Engineering Departments.

VicRoads did not object to Council issuing this planning permit however, did recommend conditions for inclusion in the planning permit. These have been included.

The Building Department raised no objections subject to compliance with the Building Act and Regulations.

The Public Health Department raised no objections subject to compliance with and registration under the Food Act, 1984.

Engineering Services raised no objections subject to the standard conditions for drainage, and access. Additional conditions regarding linemarking and directional and warning signage will be included in permit conditions.

##### Notification

The proposal was advertised to surrounding land owners and occupiers as well as displaying a sign on the property and placing an advertisement in The Guardian newspaper. Through this public notification process one objection to the proposal was received.

The concerns raised by the objector are primarily procedural issues, policy matters and traffic and safety and are summarised as follows:

- Procedural matters  
The original application did not include a variation to Clause 52.12 which is required.

*The application was subsequently amended to include the variation to clause 52.12.*

- Policy Matters  
The objector contends that the proposal is not supported through various policy of the Planning Scheme, particularly Clause 21.07-2 where key issues are;
  - Recognising the importance of highway entrances to the image of Swan Hill; and
  - Encouraging well designed development at entrances to townships.

Other policy raised was Clause 21.07-2, Strategy 2.1 „ensure that new development enhances the appearance and presentation of highway entrances through siting, design, height, built form, mass, materials and external finishes.

The objector also contends that there are many areas of non-compliance with regards to DDO7 particularly, permeability, maximum building setback, presentation and design to the Murray Valley Highway, location of car parking, retention of landscaping and percentage of landscaping in front setback.

*The nature of the site is that it is well setback from the highway, with over a 30 metre wide road reserve. There are existing trees planted within the road reserve and additional trees have been provided on the site adjacent the road reserve to soften the appearance of the site and to enhance the appearance of the site from the highway.*

*The building is setback 14 metres from the property boundary at its closest point, and sited at an angle that further minimises its visibility. Given the overall setback of approximately 44 metres from the highway, the modest scale of the development and landscaping provided it is concluded that no unreasonable visual impact as viewed from the highway will occur.*

- Traffic and safety
  - No consideration for dedicated right and left turn lanes to access the development.
  - No microsimulation or queuing analysis has been undertaken and the entry points to the site to consider the impacts of vehicles accessing the site. The queuing and turning will negatively impact upon the safe operation of Karinie Street and the roundabout to the east.
  - There are significant and multiple locations for conflict between articulated and light vehicles on the site.
  - No consideration has been provided in the event of a b-double queuing to be refuelled and how other light and articulated vehicles will be capable of accessing the site.

*The applicant provided a response to the objections which was developed by Cardno utilising SIDRA intersection analysis software which concluded that the proposed use and development will have no detrimental impact on the operation of the roundabout. SIDRA results also found that the expected right turn queues would generally not exceed 11.8m, or approximately one to two vehicles (depending on vehicle type).*

*The engineering department reviewed all the information provided by Cardno and are satisfied to approve the application subject to conditions.*

### **Financial Implications**

This development will have no adverse financial implications for Council.

### **Social Implications**

The development will facilitate job growth of approximately 10 permanent staff positions to operate and manage the facility, as well as secondary job opportunities in the form of deliveries, maintenance and cleaning.

### **Economic Implications**

There are no known adverse economic implications for the proposed use and development. The ongoing employment will have a positive impact on the local economy.

### **Environmental Implications**

Subject to planning permit conditions regarding drainage and amenity protection and compliance with EPA Publication 888.1 Guidelines on the design, installation and management requirements for underground petroleum storage tanks, there are no foreseen environmental implications.

### **Risk Management Implications**

Traffic impact assessments have been completed.

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Economic growth*** - Provide land use planning that is responsive and which proactively encourages appropriate development.

### **Options**

Council generally has two options when considering this application. These being,

1. Issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit with conditions, or

2. Issue a Notice of Refusal for the Planning Application.

### **Recommendations**

#### **That Council:**

**Issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit for the use and development of the land for a service station, convenience restaurant, installation of advertising signage in Commercial 2 Zone, and variation to Clause 52.12-1 of the Planning Scheme subject to the following conditions:**

- 1 The development as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.
- 2 The location and details of the signs as shown on the endorsed plans, must not be altered without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.
- 3 All fencing fronting Murray Valley Highway and Karinie Street must be visually permeable to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
- 4 Unless with the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority, on completion of the development, the landscaping works shown on the endorsed plans must be carried out, completed and thereafter maintained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
- 5 The amenity of the locality must not be adversely affected by the activity on the site, the appearance of any buildings, works or materials, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
- 6 All external lighting must be designed, baffled and located so as to prevent adverse effect on adjoining land, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
- 7 No goods, equipment or machinery associated with the use of the land permitted are to be stored outside a building so as to be visible from any public road or thoroughfare.
- 8 Garbage bin storage must be screened from public view.
- 9 The sign must be constructed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
- 10 The loading and unloading of goods from vehicles must only be carried out on the land (within the designated loading bay) and must not disrupt the circulation and parking of vehicles on the land, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

**SECTION B - REPORTS**

19 December 2017

- 11 The applicant/owner must restrict sediment discharges from any construction sites within the property in accordance with Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control (EPA 1991) and Environmental Guidelines for Major Construction Sites (EPA 1995).
- 12 Prior to the use commencing, the area(s) set aside for the parking of vehicles and access lanes as shown on the endorsed plans must be:
  - a) Constructed;
  - b) Properly formed to such levels that they can be used in accordance with the plans;
  - c) Surfaced with an all-weather sealcoat or treated to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority to prevent dust and gravel being emitted from the site;
  - d) Drained and maintained;
  - e) Line marked or signed to indicate each parking space and all access/egress routes, including „No Right Turn“ on exit as per CARDNO traffic Report;
  - f) Include measures to manage traffic and pedestrian flows to and from car parking areas both on- and off the land associated with the use of the land;
  - g) Include detail of all offloading and filling areas or “potential spillage areas”.

to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. Car spaces, access lanes and driveways must be kept available for these purposes at all times, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
- 13 Prior to the commencement of the use vehicular crossings shall be constructed in accordance with the endorsed plan(s) to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority, and must :
  - a) Be constructed at right angles to the road, and any redundant crossing shall be removed and replaced with concrete (kerb and Channel)
  - b) Be setback a minimum of 3 metres from any side-entry pit, power or telecommunications pole, manhole cover or marker, or street tree; and/or
  - c) Be at least 9 metres apart.
- 14 All redundant vehicle crossings must be removed and (kerb and channel) reinstated to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority
- 15 Access to and egress from the site for all vehicles (including waste collection vehicles) must only be from Karinie Street, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
- 16 Prior to the commencement of the works, a drainage plan with computations prepared by a suitably qualified person to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions and a minimum of



three copies must be provided. The plans must be in accordance with Council's Infrastructure Design Manual and include :

- a) How the land will be drained;
- b) Underground pipe drains conveying stormwater to the legal point of discharge;
- c) Measures to enhance stormwater discharge quality from the site and protect downstream waterways. All light hydrocarbon storage or potential spillage areas must be bunded or independently drained via impermeable surface, respectively, to light fuel interjector, ensuring no effluent or polluted water of any type enters the storm water system in accordance with EPA standards;
- d) A maximum pumped discharge rate after retention as per endorsed calculations;
- e) Documentation demonstrating approval from the relevant authority for the legal point of discharge; and
- f) Storm water from paved areas must be intercepted and drained through site drainage network.

- 17 Prior to the commencement of the use, all drainage works required by the approved drainage plan must be completed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

### **VicRoads Conditions**

- 18 No direct access to the Murray Valley Highway will be permitted and the boundary along the highway must be fully fenced without any opening to discourage anyone especially trucks to park within the highway road reserve to walk into this development.
- 19 Prior to the development coming into use, the entrance and exit from the development must be designed, constructed and sealed generally in accordance with the submitted Drawing No TP03/Project 16392 (dated June '17) to a standard acceptable in writing by VicRoads and the Responsible Authority, and at no cost to VicRoads.
- 20 NO EXIT signs at the entry and NO ENTRY signs with LEFT ONLY signs at the exit must be installed.
- 21 Any advertising signs must satisfy the following:
- a) Council must be satisfied that the requirements in the Swan Hill Planning Scheme for Advertising Signs (Clause 52.05) have been met, and the signage is within the property line as indicated in the application.
  - b) The services advertised are conducted on the property on which the signage is to be erected.

- c) The signage is professionally manufactured from non-reflective or non-fluorescent materials.
- d) If the signage is illuminated, the source of the lighting must not be visible from any part of the highway.
- e) Any illumination must not be flashing, nor cause dazzle to the highway traffic.

### **Expiry of Permit**

22 This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:

- a) The development is not commenced within two (2) years of the date of this permit.
- b) The development is not completed within four (4) years of the date of this permit.

In accordance with *Section 69* of the *Planning and Environment Act, 1987*, the Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing.

PROPOSED FUEL FILLING STATION  
AT  
LOT 1 KARINIE STREET,  
SWAN HILL, VIC 3585

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS LIST:

TP.01	TITLE PAGE AND LOCALITY PLAN
TP.02	EXISTING CONDITIONS SITE PLAN
TP.03	PROPOSED SITE PLAN
TP.04	PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN (NA)
TP.05	PROPOSED ELEVATIONS
TP.06	PROPOSED ELEVATIONS (CONCEPT)
TP.07	SIGNAGE DETAILS



DR	DESIGNER	DATE	REVISION
TR	TRACER	10/01/2017	1
CH	CHECKER	10/01/2017	1
AP	APPROVED	10/01/2017	1
PL	PROJECT LEADER	10/01/2017	1
PR	PROJECT MANAGER	10/01/2017	1
ST	STATIONER	10/01/2017	1
TR	TRACER	10/01/2017	1
CH	CHECKER	10/01/2017	1
AP	APPROVED	10/01/2017	1
PL	PROJECT LEADER	10/01/2017	1
PR	PROJECT MANAGER	10/01/2017	1
ST	STATIONER	10/01/2017	1



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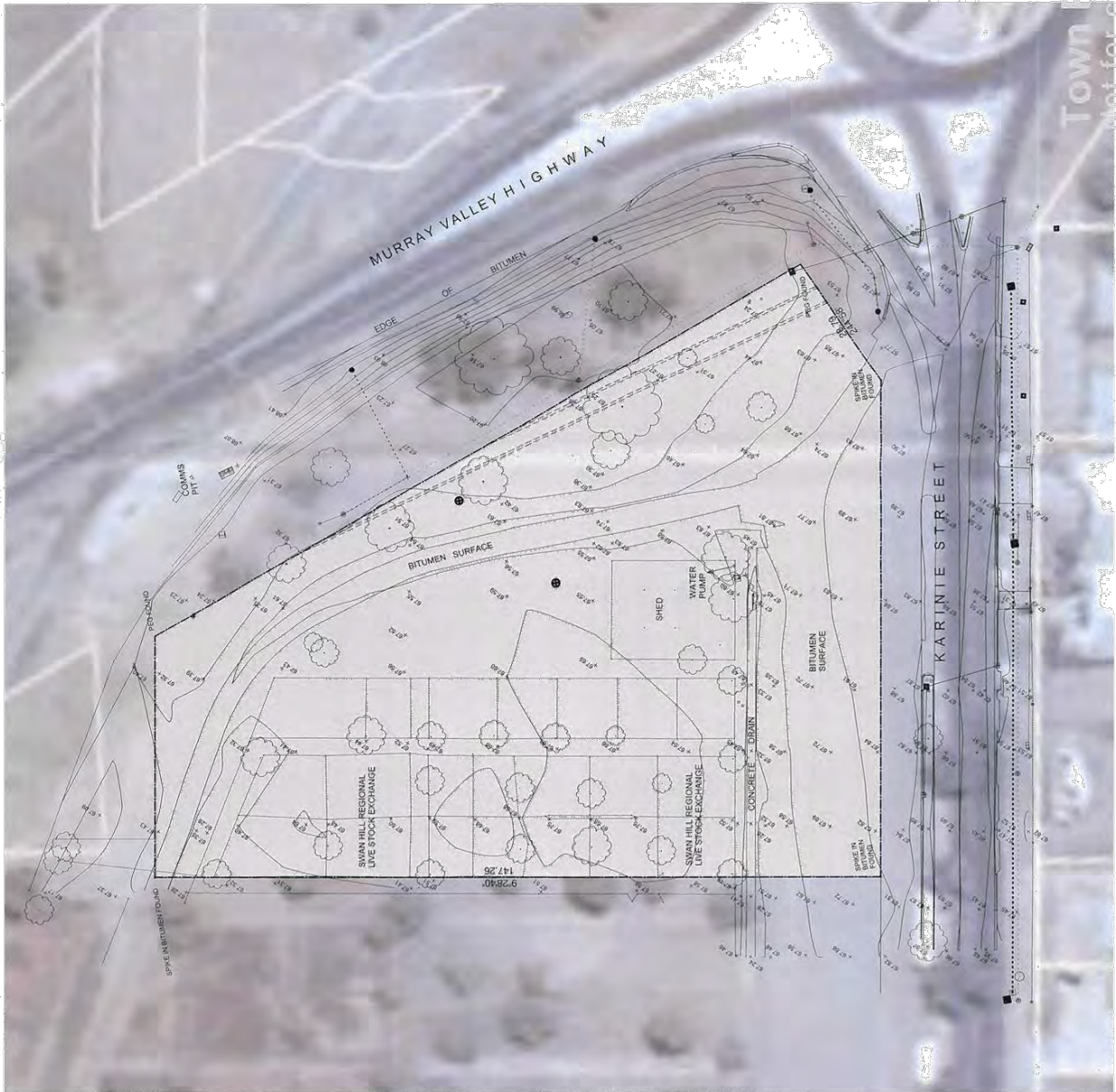
100 BROADWAY  
SWAN HILL VIC 3585  
TEL: 08 9432 3333  
WWW.TRIG.COM.AU

PROJECT	PROPOSED FUEL FILLING STATION
CLIENT	UNITED PETROLEUM PTY LTD
ADDRESS	LOT 1 KARINIE STREET SWAN HILL VIC 3585
DATE	10/01/2017
SCALE	AS SHOWN
STATUS	PROPOSED LOCALITY SITE PLAN

Town Planning  
Not for construction

DATE	10/01/2017	SCALE	AS SHOWN
DRAWN	HJS	CHECKED	AB
DATE	10/01/2017	SCALE	AS SHOWN
DRAWN	HJS	CHECKED	AB
DATE	10/01/2017	SCALE	AS SHOWN
DRAWN	HJS	CHECKED	AB

PROJECT	PROPOSED FUEL FILLING STATION
CLIENT	UNITED PETROLEUM PTY LTD
ADDRESS	LOT 1 KARINIE STREET SWAN HILL VIC 3585
DATE	10/01/2017
SCALE	AS SHOWN
STATUS	PROPOSED LOCALITY SITE PLAN



AP	AP	AP	AP
AP	AP	AP	AP
AP	AP	AP	AP
AP	AP	AP	AP



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PROPOSED FUEL FILLING  
STATION

LOT 1 KARRIE STREET  
SWAN HILL  
VIC 3685

EXISTING CONDITION - SITE PLAN

DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	APP'D
JUN 17	1:400	HJS	AB
BY TOWN PLANNING		PROJECT NO.	16392
DRAWN BY		SCALE	A
CHECKED BY		DATE	18/07

Town Planning  
Not for construction

AREA SCHEDULE	
TOTAL SITE AREA-	133,991M <sup>2</sup>
FUELS FILL AREA-	4,991M <sup>2</sup>
CONCRETE PROVIDED-	3 TRUCKS
ROAD PAVING-	25 CARS
PAVEMENT WORK-	1 OPERATOR

- D. INTERPRETATION 1/16 13/04/17
- C. LANCE PROGRESSIVE DRAWINGS 1/16 13/04/17
- B. PRELIMINARY APPROVALS 1/16 13/04/17
- A. FIELD INVESTIGATION/SITE VISIT 1/16 13/04/17
- 0. DESIGN 1/16 13/04/17
- 0. CONSTRUCTION/INSTALLATION 1/16 13/04/17
- 0. PRODUCTION/AS-BUILT 1/16 13/04/17
- 0. PRELIMINARY/INITIAL 1/16 13/04/17
- 0. ANY COMMENTS/ISSUES 1/16 13/04/17



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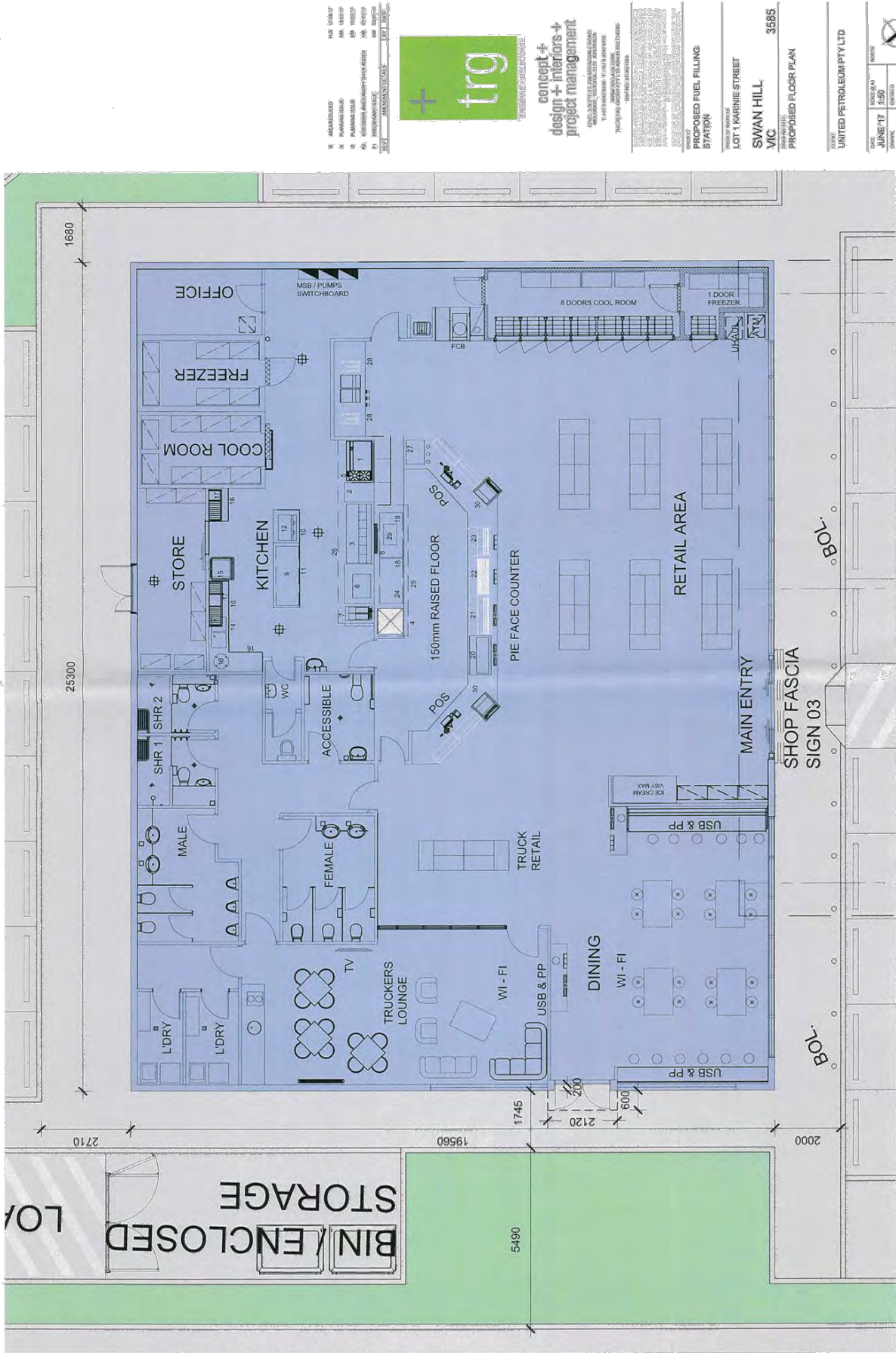
PROJECT: PROPOSED FUELLING STATION  
 LOT 1 KARINE STREET  
 SWAN HILL VIC 3585  
 PROPOSED SITE PLAN

CLIENT: UNITED PETROLEUM PTY LTD

DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHKD
21/04/17	ISSUED FOR PERMIT	JHS	AB

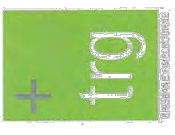
PLANNING PERMIT: TP03  
 DRAWN BY: JHS  
 CHECKED BY: AB





Town Planning  
Not for construction

1	ADMINISTRATIVE	DATE	DESCRIPTION
2	PRELIMINARY	18/06/17	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
3	REVISED	18/06/17	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
4	REVISED	18/06/17	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
5	REVISED	18/06/17	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
6	REVISED	18/06/17	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
7	REVISED	18/06/17	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
8	REVISED	18/06/17	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
9	REVISED	18/06/17	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
10	REVISED	18/06/17	ISSUED FOR PERMIT



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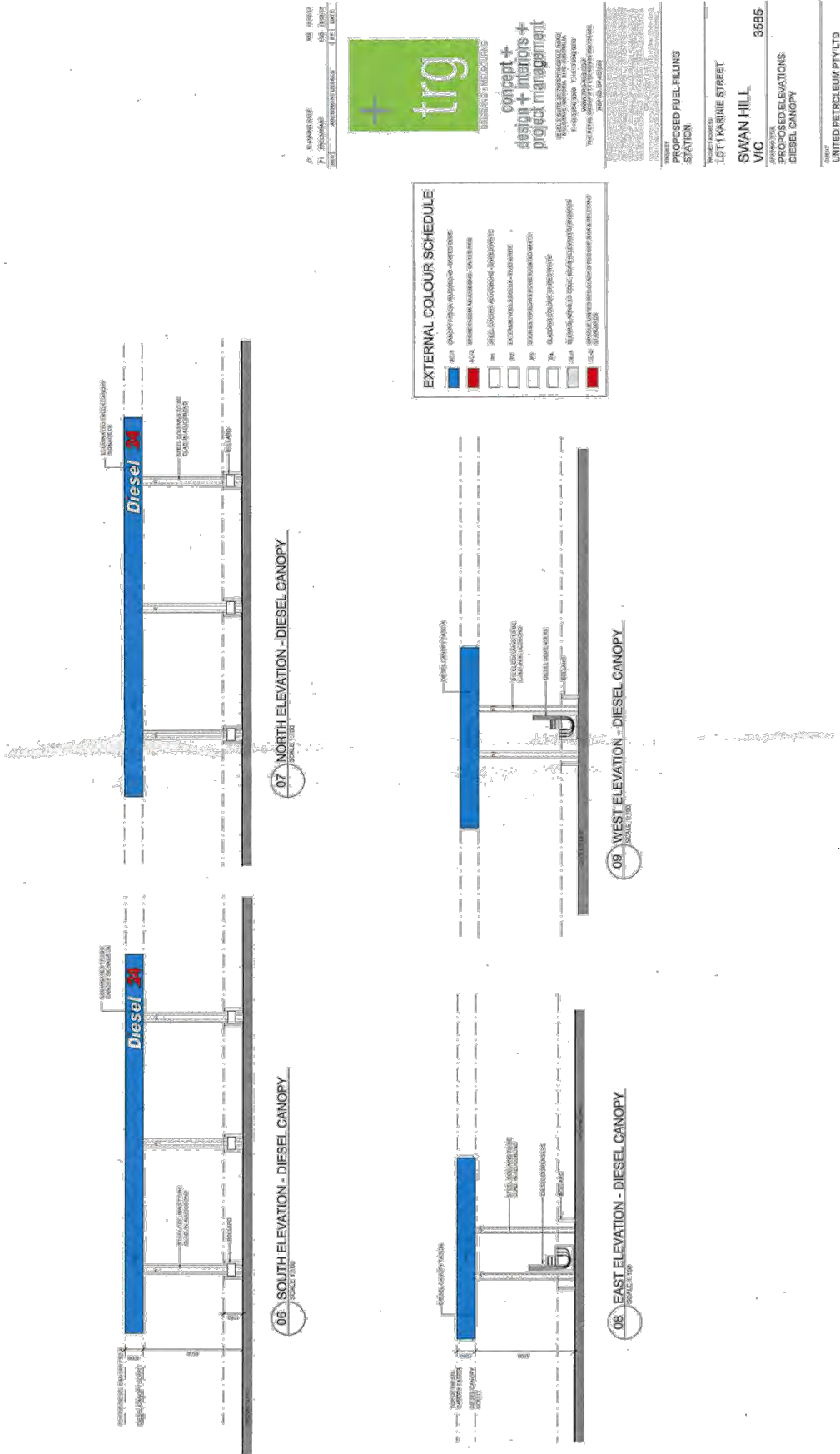
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1000 GARDEN ROAD, SUITE 1000  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000  
TEL: 03 9439 1000  
WWW.TRG.COM.AU

PROJECT NO: 16392  
PROPOSED FLOOR FILLING STATION  
LOT 1, KARRIE STREET  
SWAN HILL VIC 3585

CLIENT: UNITED PETROLEUMPTY LTD  
DATE: JUNE 17 2017  
DRAWN BY: KMJ  
CHECKED BY: AB  
SCALE: AS SHOWN  
PROJECT NO: 16392  
SHEET NO: B

DATE	DESCRIPTION
JUNE 17 2017	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
KMJ	DRAWN BY
AB	CHECKED BY
AS SHOWN	SCALE
16392	PROJECT NO
B	SHEET NO





DATE	18/01/2017
BY	TRG
FOR	UNITED PETROLEUM PTY LTD
PROJECT	PROPOSED FUEL-FILLING STATION
LOCATION	LOT 1 MARINE STREET SWAN HILL VIC 3585



design + interiors + project management  
 10/100 MARINE STREET  
 SWAN HILL VIC 3585  
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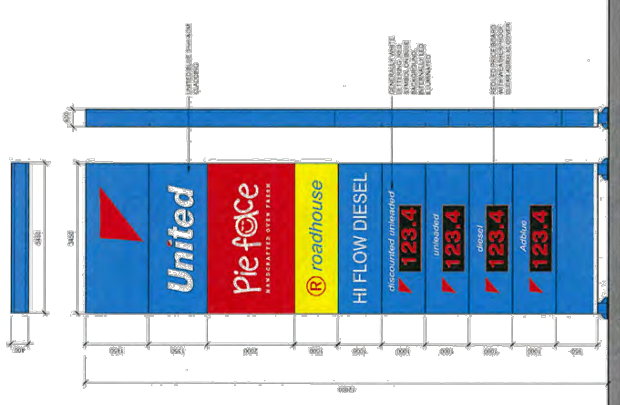
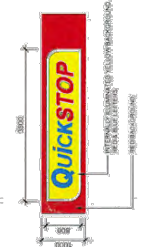
PROPOSED FUEL-FILLING STATION
LOT 1 MARINE STREET
SWAN HILL VIC 3585
PROPOSED ELEVATIONS
DIESEL CANOPY

CLIENT	UNITED PETROLEUM PTY LTD
DATE	18/01/2017
BY	TRG
FOR	UNITED PETROLEUM PTY LTD
PROJECT	PROPOSED FUEL-FILLING STATION
LOCATION	LOT 1 MARINE STREET SWAN HILL VIC 3585

PRELIMINARY	16382	TP06	0	30/09
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Town Planning  
 Not for construction





NO.	REVISION	DATE	BY	CHKD BY	DATE	REVISION
1	ISSUED FOR PERMIT	17/06/2017	TRG			
2	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	17/06/2017	TRG			
3	ISSUED FOR SIGNAGE	17/06/2017	TRG			
4	ISSUED FOR SIGNAGE	17/06/2017	TRG			
5	ISSUED FOR SIGNAGE	17/06/2017	TRG			
6	ISSUED FOR SIGNAGE	17/06/2017	TRG			
7	ISSUED FOR SIGNAGE	17/06/2017	TRG			
8	ISSUED FOR SIGNAGE	17/06/2017	TRG			
9	ISSUED FOR SIGNAGE	17/06/2017	TRG			
10	ISSUED FOR SIGNAGE	17/06/2017	TRG			



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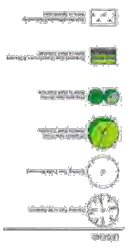
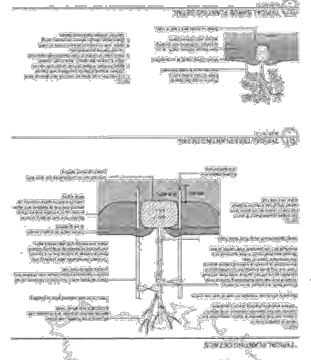
PROPOSED FUEL FILLING STATION  
 PROJECT ADDRESS  
 LOT 1 KARINTE STREET  
 SWAN HILL VIC 3585  
 SIGNAGE DETAILS

CLIENT		PROJECT NO.	
UNITED PETROLEUM PVT LTD	170/180 SOUTH ROAD	170/180 SOUTH ROAD	170/180 SOUTH ROAD
DATE		SCALE	
JUN 17	1:50	M/S	A/B
M/S	A/B	PRELIMINARY	PERMIT / SET OFF
PROJECT NO.	-16952	TP07	C

Town Planning  
 Not for construction

NO	NAME	DATE	STATUS
1	PROJEKAT	15.12.2010	IZVOD
2	PROJEKAT	15.12.2010	IZVOD
3	PROJEKAT	15.12.2010	IZVOD
4	PROJEKAT	15.12.2010	IZVOD
5	PROJEKAT	15.12.2010	IZVOD
6	PROJEKAT	15.12.2010	IZVOD
7	PROJEKAT	15.12.2010	IZVOD
8	PROJEKAT	15.12.2010	IZVOD
9	PROJEKAT	15.12.2010	IZVOD
10	PROJEKAT	15.12.2010	IZVOD

This section contains detailed technical specifications and descriptive text for the development plan, detailing the layout, materials, and environmental considerations for the site.



## **B.17.129 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND FOR A DWELLING**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Development and Planning  
**File Number:** 2017/98  
**Attachments:** 1 Proposed Site Plan, Floor and Elevation Plans

### **Declarations of Interest:**

Helen Morris - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

### **Summary**

The application is for the use and development of the land for a dwelling in the Farming Zone, located at Willox Road, Murrawee. This report seeks a Council resolution to refuse a planning permit application.

### **Discussion**

#### *Location and existing conditions*

The subject site is located on the north side of Willox Road, at the intersection of Willox Road and Niemann Road. The site has an irregular shape with an overall area of approximately 17.09 hectare and is currently vacant with the provision of native vegetation.

Please see the aerial image below for more details on the site and surrounds.



Fig. 1 Aerial image of site and surrounds

### *Proposal*

The applicant is seeking approval for the use and development of the site for a dwelling.

The proposed dwelling will be setback approximately 20m from Willox Road and approximately 25m from the western boundary. The proposed dwelling will comprise four bedrooms, family, living and dining areas and kitchen with an overall habitable area of 269m<sup>2</sup>. It will also comprise a double garage and portico with a combined area of approximately 50m<sup>2</sup>.

The proposal also involves construction of an agricultural building which does not require a planning permit. No significant earthworks have been proposed and no native vegetation removal will be required for the development.

### The Objectives of Planning in Victoria

Planning Schemes in Victoria must seek to achieve the objectives of planning in Victoria as set out in Section 4(1) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The relevant objective to the proposal is:

- *To provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use and development of land.*

For the reasons explained further in this report, the proposal will result in loss of agricultural land and involves residential development in an agricultural area, therefore, not contributing to the orderly planning of the area.

### State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF)

#### *Clause 11.13-3 Agricultural productivity*

Objective: „To support and manage rural landscapes“.

#### *Strategies*

- *Protect areas of strategic significance for agriculture.*
- *Support adaptation of the agricultural sector to embrace opportunities and respond to the potential risks arising from climate change.*
- *Facilitate ongoing agricultural productivity and investment in high value agriculture.*
- *Protect and maintain productive land and irrigation assets necessary to help grow the region as an important food bowl for domestic and international exports.*

The proposal in its current state does not support agriculture and rural production as it proposes development that appears to be predominantly for residential purposes. Although the proposal involves an agricultural component it failed to demonstrate that the primary use of the land is to support agriculture. No farm plan was provided to support the application, despite a further information request. The proposal has, therefore, the potential to create conflict between rural and residential uses.

#### *Clause 14.01-1 Protection of agricultural land*

Objective: „To protect productive farmland which is of strategic significance in the local or regional context“.

The clause states, that in considering a proposal to develop agricultural land, the following factors must be considered:

- *The desirability and impacts of removing the land from primary production, given its agricultural productivity.*
- *The impacts of the proposed subdivision or development on the continuation of primary production on adjacent land, with particular regard to land values and to the viability of infrastructure for such production.*
- *The compatibility between the proposed or likely development and the existing uses of the surrounding land.*
- *Assessment of the land capability.*

In response to the above it is noted that:

- Agriculture is an important part of the municipality's economy and permanent removal of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes is strongly discouraged.
- Any proposed non-agricultural use and development may give rise to land use conflicts between the agriculture and non-agricultural use.

Collectively, these policies place great emphasis on the importance in protecting existing agricultural land from inappropriate development, which could permanently remove the land from agricultural use.

The subject site is within a Farming Zone and recognised for its productive capacity. Clause 14.01-1 is particularly clear in requiring a nexus between development of farmland and ongoing productive use of agriculture and to protect against loss of agricultural land.

It is further noted that the SPPF contains a clause specifically relating to rural-residential development, with Clause 16.02-1 aiming “*to identify land suitable for rural living and rural residential development.*” The strategies associated with this objective also aim to:

- *Manage development in rural areas to protect agriculture and avoid inappropriate rural residential development.*
- *Ensure planning for rural living avoids or significantly reduces adverse economic, social and environmental impacts by:*
  - *Discouraging development of isolated small lots in rural zones from use for rural living or other incompatible uses.*

This policy further reiterates the need to direct rural-residential development to areas that do not impact on the agricultural land resource.

#### Local Planning Policy Framework (including the Municipal Strategic Statement)

##### *Clause 21.02 – Key issues*

##### *Key issues in relation to Natural Resource Management:*

- *The need to support dry land agriculture.*
- *The significant potential for adding value to agricultural product including horticulture.*

Any proposal for a dwelling within the Farming Zone must consider this Clause. The Clause details the importance of the agricultural sector within the municipality and provides a framework for decision making regarding subdivision and development.

In this instance the proposal does not address the key issues and does not support the ongoing agricultural industry in the municipality.

##### *Clause 21.06-1 Rural areas*

##### *Overview:*

*The agricultural sector is a significant source of economic activity in the municipality. Subdivision and rural housing in rural areas that is not associated with dedicated rural and agricultural activities can potentially undermine the viability of the rural sector through land use conflict, loss of productive agricultural land, use of infrastructure and water that could be used for agricultural production, and land values exceeding agricultural value. Housing for lifestyle purposes in rural areas has the potential to create demand for community and physical infrastructure that may be more appropriately located in dedicated rural living areas.*

##### *Key issues*

- *Recognising the importance of the agricultural sector to the local economy.*
- *Recognising the potential for subdivision and rural dwellings to undermine agriculture.*

Objective 2:

*To ensure that new dwellings do not undermine the productive agricultural base of the municipality, particularly in irrigated horticultural areas.*

Any dwelling proposal in the Farming Zone must also have regard to the following strategies:

*Strategies:*

- *Strategy 2.1 Ensure any new dwelling has a relationship with and is required to directly support the continuing operation of an existing rural use conducted on the land.*
- *Strategy 2.2 Ensure any new dwelling is compatible with and will not have an adverse impact on agricultural land and other rural land uses on the land, adjoining land and the general area.*
- *Strategy 2.3 Ensure new dwellings:*
  - *Are set back from neighbouring farm land and do not reduce the potential for agricultural production or other rural uses on surrounding farm land.*
  - *Do not have an adverse effect on existing rural and irrigation infrastructure, and will not reduce the continuing use of this infrastructure for agricultural production.*
- *Strategy 2.4 Encourage the consolidation of land in the same ownership to support applications for new dwellings.*

In relation to the above policy, the subject site is a small lot (less than 20 hectares) in the Farming Zone and therefore its development for the purpose of a single dwelling is not encouraged, noting that planning policies seek to protect productive farmland rather than increasing density and numbers of rural dwellings in a Farming Zone area. In this instance, the proposed dwelling cannot be considered as consistent with or supported by such policy in relation to rural and regional development, particularly where such development is explicitly discouraged.

Objective 3:

*To avoid land use conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural land uses.*

*Strategies:*

- *Strategy 3.1 Ensure there is an appropriate separation between agricultural and non-agricultural land uses by using landscape buffers, orientation and siting of buildings.*
- *Strategy 3.2 Ensure that use and development in the municipality is not prejudicial to agricultural industries or the productive capacity of the land.*

- *Strategy 3.3 Discourage use and development of land that is incompatible with the use of land for agriculture.*

The above strategies generally encourage the use and management of land for agriculture, discourage conversions of productive agricultural land to non-productive purposes, ensure new development relates to the productive use of the land and ensure any use of the land for residential activity is secondary or ancillary to the primary agricultural use of the land.

Approval of a dwelling on the subject land, as proposed, will result in a permanent change to the land use of the site. This land use change will limit the ability for agriculture to be facilitated in the context of the wider area and does not support the general principle to support the consolidation and enhancement of rural land. By allowing a dwelling on the lot without a justifiable link to agricultural production of the land will simply result in an increase of land value, and thus compromise the affordability and viability of agricultural activities in the Farming Zone.

#### *Clause 21.06-2 Agriculture and horticulture*

Agriculture is an important industry in the municipality and its protection and enhancement is linked to the environmental and economic well-being of the community.

Agricultural production is the cornerstone of the municipality's regional economy. Swan Hill region has one of the most productive and diverse agricultural sectors in Australia. Considerable opportunities have been identified for expansion and growth of the horticultural industry.

The transfer and trading of water has led to the establishment of intensive agricultural industries on land that was not traditionally used for this purpose, such as at Wemen. There are substantial opportunities to diversify the agricultural and horticultural base by optimising the use of water and irrigation infrastructure and finding opportunities to process local product and develop markets including tourism.

#### *Key issues:*

- *Supporting dry land agriculture.*

The proposal also involves the use of land for seed harvesting and production, but adequate justification has not been provided that it will be the primary use of the land. The proposed application therefore lacks information to address the above objective.

#### Farming Zone

The purpose of the Farming Zone is to provide for the use of land for agriculture, to encourage the retention of productive agricultural land and to ensure that non-



agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.

The use of the land for a dwelling is listed as a discretionary use (permit required) within the provisions of Farming Zone for lots that do not meet the minimum lot size specified in the schedule to the Farming Zone (being 100 hectares). This does not imply that a permit for a dwelling should be granted. The key consideration is the appropriateness of the dwelling use, having regard to the purpose of the zone.

As previously discussed, both the State and local planning policies are very clear that dwellings on small lots within the Farming Zone are strongly discouraged, except where the dwelling is demonstrated to provide a genuine benefit to the agricultural use of the land. Specific decision guidelines are provided within the Clause 35.07-4 for when dwellings are proposed, as follows:

- *Whether the dwelling will result in the loss or fragmentation of productive agricultural land.*
- *Whether the dwelling will be adversely affected by agricultural activities on adjacent and nearby land due to dust, noise, odour, use of chemicals and farm machinery, traffic and hours of operation.*
- *Whether the dwelling will adversely affect the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.*
- *The potential for the proposal to lead to a concentration or proliferation of dwellings in the area and the impact of this on the use of the land for agriculture.*

The submission provided with the application states that the primary use of the land will be seed harvesting with no convincing argument/evidence to support the need for the dwelling on the land for agricultural production. It rather demonstrates that the dwelling will be the primary use of the land and the seed harvesting business appears to be the secondary component of the allotment.

It is considered that dwellings on small rural parcels will contribute to the fragmentation of agricultural land, as the land will lose the opportunity to be consolidated with adjoining larger parcels to potentially support productive agricultural uses. A dwelling is also a sensitive use, which may adversely impact the operation of legitimate farming activities, if residents consider they are affected by noise, smell etc. and make complaints.

Council must have regard to the orderly planning of the area and the potential for further proliferation of dwellings should this application be approved. Both State and local planning provisions have strong emphasis on limiting the widespread use of small rural lots in the Farming Zone for hobby farm and rural living purposes. Many rulings by VCAT reinforce that while dwellings may have been constructed in the vicinity, it does not necessarily mean that a new dwelling should be approved on this basis. The argument of the 'horse has bolted' has been widely dismissed by VCAT

and one must draw the line in the sand. To this end the Tribunal made these comments in *Mengler v Hepburn SC*<sup>1</sup>:

*It can be said of nearly any permit application that, alone, its impact is negligible in regional or state terms. But a purpose of specific policies and objectives being incorporated into the new format Schemes is to describe how, over time, the Council envisages change occurring and attempts to manage that process. By its inclusion in the Scheme, those ambitions have been endorsed as being consistent with state planning policy. Any change (whether better or worse) will usually happen incrementally. In its own small way, a subdivision and/or development makes a contribution to achieving (or not) the overall strategic goals set out in the Scheme. The principles set out in the relevant planning controls and policies are very clear and it is important they be upheld particularly when there are no strong arguments to justify a departure from, or different approach to the application of, those principles.*

In addition, there have been many proceedings before the Tribunal where a proposal for a dwelling has failed because agricultural pursuits have not been sufficiently demonstrated; perhaps otherwise described as speculative, token, doubtful or too uncertain for various reasons. Often the proposals were determined to have attempted to create, or would have created, a rural living lot that is at odds with outcomes sought for farming areas.

In recent years, VCAT has upheld a number of decisions on rural dwellings in the Farming Zone. Of particular relevance to this application is *Ward v Macedon Ranges SC*<sup>2</sup>. In the decision of *Ward*, Member Potts commented:

*Planning policy at a state and local level seeks for land to be available for consolidation into larger enterprises consistent with a vision for broad acre agricultural activity. Allowing a dwelling on this land would mean future consolidation into larger land holdings would be unlikely. The effect of the dwelling would be to decouple this land from its agricultural value and hence the purposes of the zone.*

Similarly, when the Tribunal upheld refusal on the application for a dwelling on a Farming Zoned land in *Benca v Macedon Ranges SC*<sup>3</sup>, Member Rundell remarked on setting up a precedent and proliferation of dwellings on existing farming zoned lots:

*Some lots in the locality do not have dwellings. There also may be many small lots in the Macedon Ranges Farming Zone which do not have dwellings. Planning applications utilise previous decisions. I have no doubt that should planning approval be granted this case, it will be used to support planning applications for a dwelling on other lots less than 40 hectares. An approval in this situation will form part of the long established pattern of small lots being gradually removed from farming on an ad hoc, incremental basis. Whilst each approval may have a minimal impact, over time the*

<sup>1</sup> [2007] VCAT 394 (15 March 2007)

<sup>2</sup> [2013] VCAT 1758 (10 October 2013)

<sup>3</sup> [2010] VCAT Ref No P2687/2009 (17 March 2010)

*cumulative impact of many approvals is that areas once used for farming are no longer used for that purpose and transition to become rural living precincts. Planning policy is clearly indicating that this incremental process needs to cease.*

Simply because a dwelling can be considered under the zone, does not mean that every application that can meet these requirements should be approved. The application must demonstrate how the purpose of the zone is met and how the guiding policies are addressed for approval to be a real option.

## **Conclusion**

The allotment to the south-western side of the site (west of Niemann Road) is also under the same ownership and contains an existing dwelling occupied by the applicant. The proposed seed harvesting production can be monitored by living on the adjoining dwelling. The proposal lacks the information in relation to the agricultural aspect and no farm management plan was submitted with the application to support the proposal. The proposal in its current state clearly shows that the dwelling will be the primary use of the land.

The site is not connected to water for irrigation purposes and water is only available for stock and domestic purposes to the site. Accordingly, the site currently falls within dry land farming area of the municipality and, therefore, to use the land for dwelling will require 100 hectares of land under the Farming Zone. The subject land can be irrigated in future and Goulburn-Murray Water has confirmed that water can be made available on the land for agricultural purposes. Land can be used for dwelling in the irrigated area if the area of the land is 20 hectares or more. In both cases the site does not meet the minimum lot size requirement under the Farming Zone. By approving the use of land for dwelling without providing adequate justification for agriculture will result in fragmentation of agricultural land.

Consideration of this application has required particular attention to both State and local policies as these sections of the Swan Hill Planning Scheme contain numerous, specific guidelines for development of agricultural land within the municipality. In general, both State and local policies seek to support and enhance agricultural pursuits by ensuring that future development, particularly residential development, does not result in the permanent removal of productive agricultural land or inhibit the continuation and development of existing agricultural uses. These objectives are reiterated in the purposes of the Farming Zone.

For these reasons as discussed above, the proposal will incrementally further fragment the agricultural area; lead to a concentration or proliferation of dwellings in the area; impinge the opportunity to use this land for more productive, sustainable agriculture and eventually have an adverse impact on use of the land for agriculture.

## **Consultation**

Notice of the application

The application was not advertised to the surrounding property owners and occupiers.

### Referrals

The application was referred under Section 52 of the Act to Goulburn Murray Water and no objections have been raised by the authority subject to conditions.

The application was also referred internally to the Health, Building and Engineering Departments who also approved the proposal subject to conditions.

### **Financial Implications**

Nil

### **Social Implications**

Nil

### **Economic Implications**

Agriculture is an important part of the municipality's economy, and permanent removal of agricultural land for residential purposes will therefore have a negative economic impact. The use of the land for dwelling will only benefit the owners and will eventually create detriment to the greater agricultural area.

### **Environmental Implications**

Nil

### **Risk Management Implications**

Nil

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Economic growth*** - Provide land use planning that is responsive and which proactively encourages appropriate development.

### **Options**

1. Issue a Planning Permit for the use and development of the land for a dwelling at Willox Road, Murrawee subject to conditions and in accordance with the endorsed plans; or
2. Issue a Refusal to Grant a Planning Permit for the use and development of the land for a dwelling at Willox Road, Murrawee.

## **Recommendations**

**That Council issue a Refusal to Grant a Planning Permit for use and development of the land for a dwelling located at PC 372268R, Willox Road, Murrawee, on the following grounds:**

- 1. The proposal is contrary to the purpose of the Farming Zone, which aims to provide for the use of land for agriculture, retention of productive agricultural land and to ensure that non-agricultural uses (particularly dwellings) do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.**
- 2. The proposal is contrary to Clauses 11.05-3, 11.11-3, 14.01 and 16.02-1 of the Swan Hill Planning Scheme as it will lead to an unplanned loss of productive agricultural land due to a permanent land use change.**
- 3. The proposal is contrary to the provisions of the Local Planning Policy Framework, including Council's Municipal Strategic Statement, particularly Clauses 21.02 and 21.06, in that it will encourage further proliferation of residential developments in the Farming Zone, thereby removing land from bona fide agricultural production.**
- 4. The proposal will further solidify the fragmentation of existing farming land and holdings as it will remove the opportunity for consolidation or restructure of allotments to facilitate agricultural activities and will limit the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.**
- 5. The proposal is contrary to the orderly planning of the area.**

### **Draft permit conditions if Option 1 applies:**

- 1 The use and development as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.
- 2 Prior to the commencement of the use of the dwelling, the dwelling shall be fitted with a wastewater treatment and disposal system to a design approved Council's Environmental Health Officer and such that all effluent is disposed of within the boundaries of the allotment. A separate permit must be obtained from Council's Environmental Health Department prior to its installation.
- 3 Prior to the commencement of the use of the dwelling, the owner of the lot must enter into an agreement with the Responsible Authority in accordance with Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The agreement must provide for:
  - a) The area has intensive agricultural uses operating in it.
  - b) The land and its occupants may experience off site rural activity effects,

including noise, sprays and dust that may cause a loss of residential amenity.

- c) Existing agricultural and rural uses in the area have a „right to farm“ or right to legally continue the use.

Application must be made to the Registrar of Titles to register the Section 173 Agreement on the title to the land under Section 181 of the same Act prior to the commencement of the use.

The owner must pay all costs (including Council’s costs) associated with the preparation, execution, registration and (if later sought) cancellation of the Section 173 Agreement.

- a) 4 Prior to the commencement of the use of the dwelling, an all-weather road, with dimensions adequate to accommodate emergency vehicles must be constructed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
- b) 5 Prior to the commencement of the use of the dwelling, the dwelling must be connected to a reticulated potable water supply with adequate storage for domestic use as well as for fire fighting purposes.
- 6 Prior to the commencement of the use of the dwelling, the dwelling must be connected to a reticulated electricity supply or have an alternative energy source.
- 7 Prior to the commencement of the use of the dwelling, the permit holder must ensure that stormwater runoff from the development/site can be retained within the boundaries of the lot to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
- 8 The applicant/owner must restrict sediment discharges from any construction sites within the property in accordance with Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control (EPA 1991) and Environmental Guidelines for Major Construction Sites (EPA 1995).
- 9 Prior to the commencement of the use vehicular crossings shall be constructed in accordance with the endorsed plan(s) to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
- 10 Prior to the commencement of the use, the internal access driveway must be constructed, formed, finished and drained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
- 11 That storm water runoff from all buildings, tanks and paved areas must be dissipated as normal un-concentrated overland flow clear of all buildings and property boundaries.
- 12 Prior to the commencement of the use, the permit holder must upgrade

Niemann Road from the end of seal to the driveway into the property to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. Including :

- a) All weather gravel road 4m in width as per the Infrastructure Design Manual standard for a Rural Access road, or payment in lieu.

### **Goulburn-Murray Water conditions**

- 13 All waste water from the dwelling must be treated and disposed of using an approved system. The system must have a certificate of conformity issued by the Conformity Assessment Body (or equivalent approval) and be installed, operated and maintained in accordance with the relevant Australian Standard and EPA Code of Practice.
- 14 The wastewater disposal field must be located in accordance with the requirements of Table 5 of the EPA Code of Practice – Onsite Wastewater Management, 891.4, July 2016.
- 15 The wastewater disposal area must be kept free of stock, buildings, driveways and service trenching and must be planted with appropriate vegetation to maximise its performance. Stormwater must be diverted away. A reserve wastewater disposal field of equivalent size to the primary disposal field must be provided for use in the event that the primary field requires resting or has failed.
- 16 The wastewater management system must be appropriately designed to manage the potential volume of wastewater generated under full occupancy (based on a minimum 4 bedrooms), including an appropriately sized disposal area specific to the proposal and subject land in accordance with the requirements of Council's Environmental Health Officer.
- 17 No buildings are to be constructed within 30 metres of GMW open channels and drains, or within 50 metres of Hollway's Lake.
- 18 All constructed and ongoing activities must be in accordance with sediment control principles outlined in „Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control“ (EPA, 1991).


### **Expiry of Permit**

- 19 This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:
  - a) The development is not commenced within two (2) years of the date of this permit.
  - b) The development is not completed within four (4) years of the date of this permit.
  - c) The use is not commenced within two (2) years of the completion of the

development.

In accordance with *Section 69* of the *Planning and Environment Act, 1987*, the Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing.

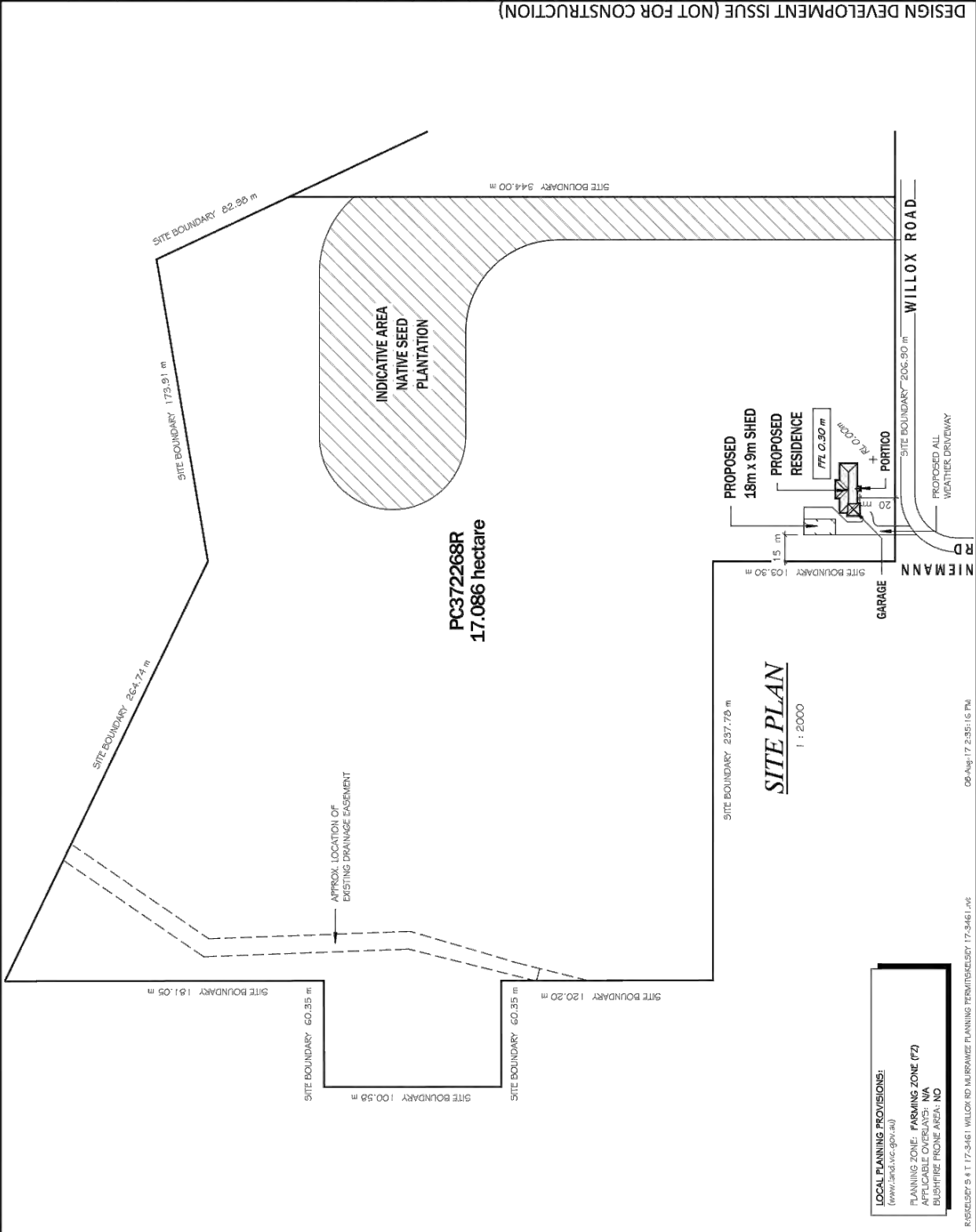


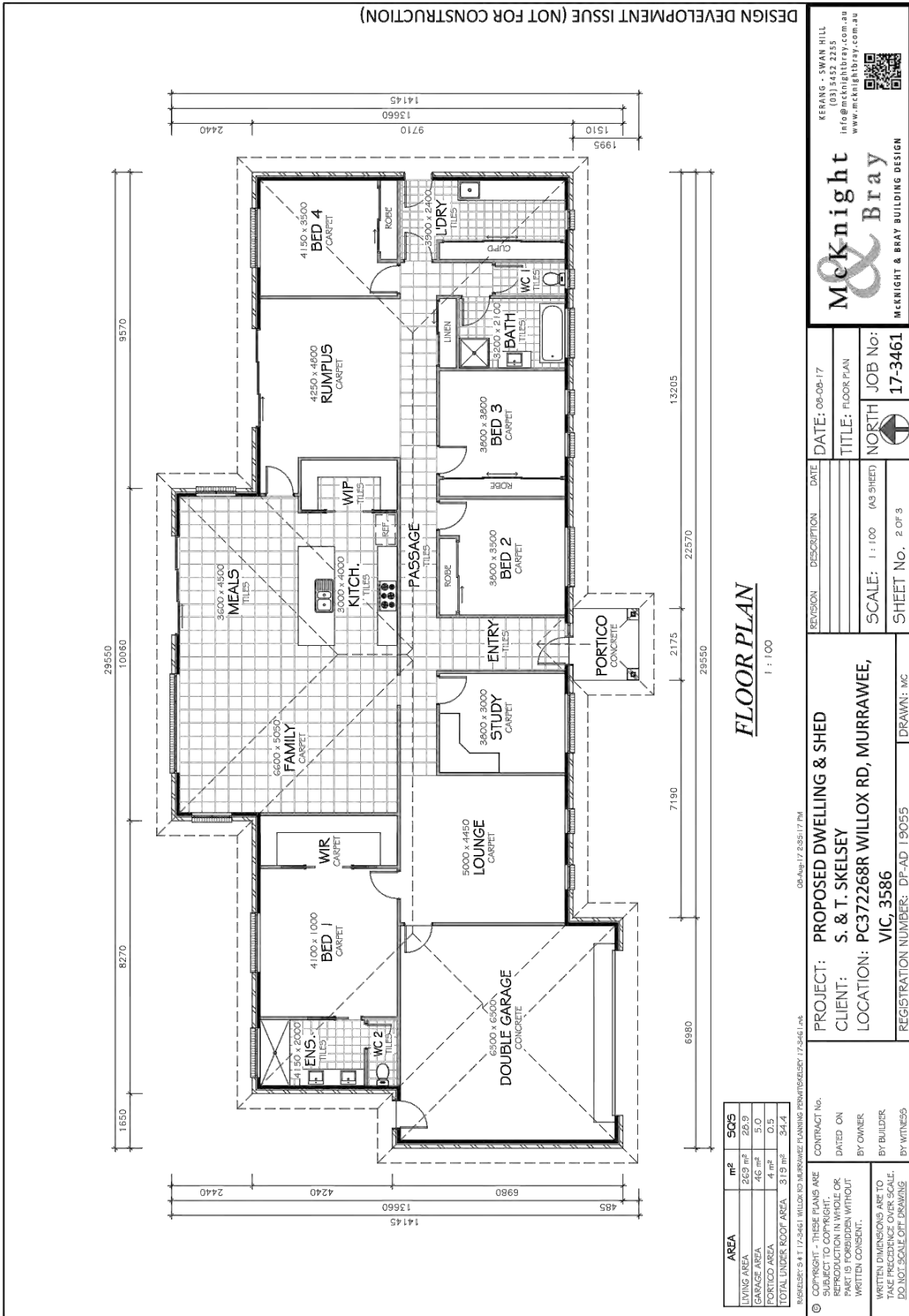
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<b>PROJECT:</b> PROPOSED DWELLING & SHED	
<b>CLIENT:</b> S. & T. SKELSEY	
<b>LOCATION:</b> PC372268R WILLOX RD, MURRAWEE, VIC, 3586	
<b>DATE:</b> 08-08-17	
<b>TITLE:</b> SITE PLAN	
<b>SCALE:</b> 1 : 2000 (A3 SHEET)	
<b>SHEET No.</b> 1 OF 3	
<b>DRAWN:</b> MIC	
<b>NORTH:</b> 	<b>JOB No:</b> 17-3461
CONTRACT No. DATED ON BY OWNER BY BUILDER BY WITNESS	
REVISION DESCRIPTION DATE	REGISTRATION NUMBER: DP-AD 19055


**McKnight & Bray**  
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 info@mcnightbray.com.au  
 www.mcnightbray.com.au



DESIGN DEVELOPMENT ISSUE (NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION)





**SOUTH ELEVATION**  
1 : 100

**EAST ELEVATION**  
1 : 100

**WEST ELEVATION**  
1 : 100

**NORTH ELEVATION**  
1 : 100

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT ISSUE (NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION)

PROJECT: PROPOSED DWELLING & SHED  
 CLIENT: S. & T. SKELSEY  
 LOCATION: PC372268R WILLOX RD, MURRAWEE, VIC, 3586  
 REGISTRATION NUMBER: DF-AD 19055 DRAWN: MC

CONTRACT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ DATED ON \_\_\_\_\_ BY OWNER \_\_\_\_\_ BY BUILDER \_\_\_\_\_ BY WITNESS \_\_\_\_\_

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REVISION	DESCRIPTION	DATE

DATE: 08-08-17  
 TITLE: ELEVATIONS  
 NORTH JOB No: 17-3461  
 SCALE: 1 : 100 (A3 SHEET)  
 SHEET No. 3 OF 3

08-Aug-17 2:55:18 PM  
 PROJECT: PROPOSED DWELLING & SHED  
 CLIENT: S. & T. SKELSEY  
 LOCATION: PC372268R WILLOX RD, MURRAWEE, VIC, 3586  
 REGISTRATION NUMBER: DF-AD 19055 DRAWN: MC

KERANG - SWAN HILL  
 (03) 5452 2255  
 info@mcknightbray.com.au  
 www.mcknightbray.com.au

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 MCKNIGHT & BRAY BUILDING DESIGN

### **B.17.130 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C65**

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Director Development and Planning
<b>File Number:</b>	S22-03-01-07
<b>Attachments:</b>	1 Explanatory Report 2 Instruction Sheet 3 Zoning Maps

#### **Declarations of Interest:**

Helen Morris - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

#### **Summary**

This report seeks a Council resolution to formally adopt Amendment C65 and forward the amendment to the Minister for Planning (Minister) for approval and gazettal.

Council at its meeting of 27 June 2017 resolved to seek authorisation for the amendment. As a condition of authorisation The Minister for Planning requested that Amendment C65 be placed on public exhibition. Amendment C65 was publicly exhibited between 15 September 2017 and 23 October 2017, with no opposing submissions received.

The Amendment can now proceed to the final stage in the process, which is for Council to adopt the amendment and forward the amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval and gazettal.

#### **Discussion**

The amendment is required to correct the following minor zoning anomalies in the Swan Hill Planning Scheme.

- Crown Allotment 23G, Parish of Woorinen from Public Use Zone 6 – Local Government.  
The request has been made by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning as the land is Crown Land reserved for Public Recreation and held under a locally appointed Committee of Management.
- Rezones a property along Karinie Street, Swan Hill (Lot2, PS740467) from Commercial 2 Zone to Public Use Zone 1 and deleting the Design and Development Overlay, Schedule 7.  
This narrow strip of land is part of the existing Swan Hill Sales Yard and is used as a stock route. The subject land is to be consolidated with rest of the Swan Hill Sales Yard property being Lot 3, PS740467 located immediately to the west. The Design and Development Overlay, Schedule 7 that is to be deleted refers to the Commercial 2 Zone Highway Entrances, which is not applicable to the subject land as it is used in conjunction with the Sales Yard property.

**SECTION B - REPORTS**

19 December 2017

- 15 Gray Street, Swan Hill (CA 1B, Section 12A, Parish of Castle Donnington)  
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning owns the land and Swan Hill Rural City Council are the Committee of Management. The land is currently used as indoor recreation centre. The site is part of a larger area zones Public Park and Recreation Zone and used by the Swan Hill Jockey Club amongst other public recreation uses.
- Part of River Road, Swan Hill (Lot 1, TP666310F)  
Part of the land is currently used as a road and the rest as freehold land. Farming Zone would most accurately reflect the current use of the land.
- 330 River Road, Swan Hill (Lot 1, PS121308)  
The land is not used by the Swan Hill Abattoirs. It is owned by Mr and Mrs S A & K A Hoare, who are residing on the land and using it as a rural residential property. Farming Zone would most accurately reflect the current use of the land given its location.
- Crown Allotments 21B, 20B 18A of Section 3 and Crown Allotments 9A, 10A, 11A, 12A, 13A, 14A, and 15A of Section 1, All Parish of Tyntynder North.  
The request has been made by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries – Loddon Mallee Region to recognise the freehold status of the former Crown Land that was sold to respective landowners in 1974.
- Part of Crown Land adjacent to Nyah-Vinifera Park Government Road adjoining Crown Allotments 9 and 9A, Section 1, Parish of Tyntynder North.  
The rezoning is supported by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.
- Part of Crown Allotment 2026, Parish of Tyntynder North.  
The rezoning is supported by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.
- Crown Allotment 2005, Parish of Tyntynder North.  
The request has been made to allow for sale of surplus Government land to the adjoining landowner under the provisions of the Land Act 1958, once sold it will come under the Transfer of Land Act 1958. The site was identified in the Nyah-Vinifera Park Country of Tatchera Plan 2009 as “not park” and surplus to Government requirements.
- Part of Crown Allotment 2019, Parish of Piangil.  
The request has been made by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning as the land is Crown Land reserved for Public purposes as part of the Murray River Permanent Public Purposes Reserve.
- Crown Allotments 92A and 89A, Section B, Parish of Bumbang.  
The request has been made by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning as the land is Crown Land with a VEAC River Red Gum recommendation of Murray River Park and is managed by Parks Victoria.
- Crown Allotment 75, Parish of Bumbang.

The request has been made by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning as the land is Crown Land and a VEAC River Red Gum recommendation of Murray River Park and is managed by Parks Victoria.

- Crown Allotment 24, Section B, Parish of Bumbang.  
The request has been made by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning as the land is Crown Land.
- Crown Allotment 23D, Section B, Parish of Bumbang.  
The request has been made by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning as the land is Crown Land reserved for cemetery purposes.

Amendment C65 was placed on public exhibition for a period of one month. As there were no objections, the amendment does not need to go before an Independent Panel. The Planning Scheme amendment can be adopted by Council and may be submitted directly to the Minister for Planning for approval.

### **Consultation**

As previously stated, public exhibition of the amendment took place during the months of September and October 2017. Notice of the amendment was sent to affected owners; a notice appeared in The Guardian Newspaper, in the Government Gazette and on Council's website. Only Lower Murray Water (LMW) made a submission, supporting the amendment.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no adverse financial implications, other than for Council to pay the Planning Scheme Amendment fees.

### **Social Implications**

There are no adverse social implications associated with this amendment.

### **Economic Implications**

The rezoning is a desirable administrative change that will allow the land to be used in a manner consistent with its built form and location.

### **Environmental Implications**

Not applicable.

### **Risk Management Implications**

There are no known risks in undertaking the Amendment.

## **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Economic growth*** - Provide land use planning that is responsive and which proactively encourages appropriate development.

### **Options**

At this stage of the Amendment process, the options available to Council under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 are:

Option 1:

To adopt Amendment C65 as exhibited;

Or

Option 2:

Decide to abandon the amendment.

Planning Scheme Amendment C65 has proceeded through the public exhibition process. There were no objections. Council has previously supported the amendment. There has been no change in material circumstances such that the Council approach to the rezoning should be changed. Accordingly, there is strong support for adopting Option 1.

### **Recommendations**

**That Council:**

- 1. Formally adopt Amendment C65 to the Swan Hill Planning Scheme without change, pursuant to Section 29 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*;**
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to finalise the amendment documentation for Ministerial approval;**
- 3. Submit the adopted Amendment C65, together with the prescribed information, to the Minister for Planning for approval pursuant to Section 31 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.**

*Planning and Environment Act 1987*

## **SWAN HILL PLANNING SCHEME**

### **AMENDMENT C65**

#### **EXPLANATORY REPORT**

##### **Who is the planning authority?**

This amendment has been prepared by the Swan Hill Rural City Council, which is the planning authority for this amendment.

The amendment has been made partly at the request of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

##### **Land affected by the amendment**

The amendment applies to the following parcels of land throughout the municipality:

- Crown Allotment 23G, Parish of Woorinen.
- Karinie Street, Swan Hill (Lot 2, PS740467)
- 15 Gray Street, Swan Hill (CA 1B, Section 12A, Parish of Castle Donnington).
- River Road, Swan Hill (Lot 1, TP666310F).
- 330 River Road, Swan Hill (Lot 1, PS121308).
- Crown Allotments 21B, 20B 18A of Section 3 and Crown Allotments 9A, 10A, 11A, 12A, 13A, 14A, and 15A of Section 1, All Parish of Tyntynder North.
- Part of Crown Land adjacent to Nyah-Vinifera Park Government Road adjoining Crown Allotments 9 and 9A, Section 1, Parish of Tyntynder North.
- Part of Crown Allotment 2026, Parish of Tyntynder North.
- Crown Allotment 2005, Parish of Tyntynder North.
- Part of Crown Allotment 2019, Parish of Piangil.
- Crown Allotments 92A and 89A, Section B, Parish of Bumbang.
- Crown Allotment 75, Parish of Bumbang.
- Crown Allotment 24, Section B, Parish of Bumbang.
- Crown Allotment 23D, Section B Parish of Bumbang.

##### **What the amendment does**

The amendment would correct a number of zoning anomalies primarily with regards to rezoning freehold land from a public use zone to Farming Zone and vice versa.

Specifically, the amendment would result in the following changes to the Swan Hill Planning Scheme:

- Rezones Crown Allotment 23G, Parish of Woorinen from Public Use Zone 6 – Local Government to Public Park and Recreation Zone.
- Rezones a property along Karinie Street, Swan Hill (Lot2, PS740467) from Commercial 2 Zone to Public Use Zone 1.
- Deletes the Design and Development Overlay, Schedule 7 from a property along Karinie Street, Swan Hill (Lot2, PS740467).



- Rezones 15 Gray Street, Swan Hill (CA 1B, Section 12A, Parish of Castle Donnington) from General Residential Zone to Public Park and Recreation Zone.
- Rezones River Road, Swan Hill (Lot 1, TP666310F) from Public Conservation and Resource Zone to Farming Zone.
- Rezones 330 River Road, Swan Hill (Lot 1, PS121308) from Special Use Zone 1 to Farming Zone.
- Rezones allotments 21B, 20B 18A of Section 3 and 9A, 10A, 11A, 12A, 13A, 14A, and 15A of Section 1, All Parish of Tyntynder North from Public Conservation and Resource Zone to Farming Zone.
- Rezones part of Crown Land adjacent to Nyah-Vinifera Park Government Road adjoining Allotments 9 and 9A, Section 1, Parish of Tyntynder North from Public Conservation and Resource Zone to Farming Zone.
- Rezones part of Crown Allotment 2026, Parish of Tyntynder North from Public Conservation and Resource Zone to Farming Zone.
- Rezones Crown Allotment 2005, Parish of Tyntynder North from Public Conservation and Resource Zone to Farming Zone.
- Rezones part of Crown Allotment 2019, Parish of Piangil from Farming Zone to Public Conservation and Resource Zone.
- Rezones Crown Allotment 92A and 89A, Section B, Parish of Bumbang from Farming Zone to the Public Conservation and Resource Zone.
- Rezones Crown Allotment 75, Parish of Bumbang from Farming Zone to the Public Conservation and Resource Zone.
- Rezones Crown Allotment 24, Section B, Parish of Bumbang from Farming Zone to the Public Conservation and Resource Zone.
- Rezones Crown Allotment 23D, Section B Parish of Bumbang from Farming Zone to the Public Use Zone 5 – Cemetery/Crematorium.

### **Strategic assessment of the Amendment**

#### **Why is the amendment required?**

The amendment is required to correct a number of minor zoning anomalies in the Swan Hill Planning Scheme.

- Crown Allotment 23G, Parish of Woorinen from Public Use Zone 6 – Local Government.

The request has been made by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning as the land is Crown Land reserved for Public Recreation and held under a locally appointed Committee of Management.

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The request has been made to allow for sale of surplus Government land to the adjoining landowner under the provisions of the *Land Act 1958*, once sold it will come under the *Transfer of Land Act 1958*. The site was identified in the Nyah-Vinifera Park Country of Tatchera Plan 2009 as "not park" and surplus to Government requirements.
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- Crown Allotment 23D, Section B, Parish of Bumbang.  
The request has been made by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning as the land is Crown Land reserved for cemetery purposes.

**How does the Amendment implement the objectives of planning in Victoria?**

The amendment corrects a number of minor zoning anomalies ensuring the planning scheme provisions are correctly applied, and implements the objectives of planning in Victoria as identified in Section 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* as follows:

- To provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use, and development of land
- To secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Victorians and visitors to Victoria
- to provide for the protection of natural and man-made resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity;
- to conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value;
- To balanced the present and future interests of all Victorians

**How does the amendment address any environmental, social and economic effects?**

The amendment is not expected to have any environmental effects. The amendment is expected to have positive economic and social benefits for the Rural City of Swan Hill by correcting a number of anomalies in the Swan Hill Planning Scheme.

**Does the amendment address relevant bushfire risk?**

The amendment is not expected to result in increased bushfire risk.

**Does the amendment comply with the requirements of any Minister's Direction applicable to the amendment?**

The amendment is consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes under Section 7(5) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The amendment is consistent with the Ministerial Direction No. 11 – Strategic Assessment of Amendments.

**How does the amendment support or implement the State Planning Policy Framework and any adopted State policy?**

The amendment is consistent with the State Planning Policy Framework with particular regard to its objectives for Settlement (Clause 11), Environmental and Landscape Values (Clause 12), Built Environment and Heritage (Clause 15), Housing (Clause 16) and Infrastructure (Clause 19).

**How does the amendment support or implement the Local Planning Policy Framework, and specifically the Municipal Strategic Statement?**

The amendment corrects a number of zoning anomalies that have been identified. By correcting these anomalies, the amendment assists in the efficient administration of the Swan Hill Planning Scheme and provides for orderly planning and development. In doing so, the amendment supports the implementation of the Swan Hill Municipal Strategic Statement.

**Does the amendment make proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions?**

The amendment makes proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions by applying the appropriate zones to land.

**How does the amendment address the views of any relevant agency?**

The amendment has been prepared partly at the request of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and addresses the views of those agencies consulted during the preparation of the amendment.

**Does the Amendment address relevant requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010?**

The amendment is not expected to have any impact on the transport system.

**Resource and administrative costs**

- **What impact will the new planning provisions have on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority?**

The amendment will have very little impact on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority. The amendment will improve administration by removing anomalies in the planning scheme.

**Where you may inspect this amendment**

The amendment is available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at the following places:

Swan Hill Rural City Council  
45 Splatt Street  
Swan Hill VIC 3585

The amendment can also be inspected free of charge at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at [www.delwp.vic.gov.au/public-inspection](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/public-inspection).

**Submissions**

Any person who may be affected by the amendment may make a submission to the planning authority. Submissions about the amendment must be received by 23 October 2017.

A submission must be sent to:

Chief Executive Officer  
PO Box 488  
Swan Hill, Vic. 3585

**Panel hearing dates**

In accordance with clause 4(2) of Ministerial Direction No. 15 the following panel hearing dates have been set for this amendment:

- Directions hearing: Week commencing 11 December 2017
- Panel hearing: Week commencing 29 January 2018

*Planning and Environment Act 1987***SWAN HILL PLANNING SCHEME****AMENDMENT C65****INSTRUCTION SHEET**

The planning authority for this amendment is the Swan Hill Rural City Council.

The Swan Hill Planning Scheme is amended as follows:

**Planning Scheme Maps**

The Planning Scheme Maps are amended by a total of 8 attached map sheets.

**Zoning Maps**

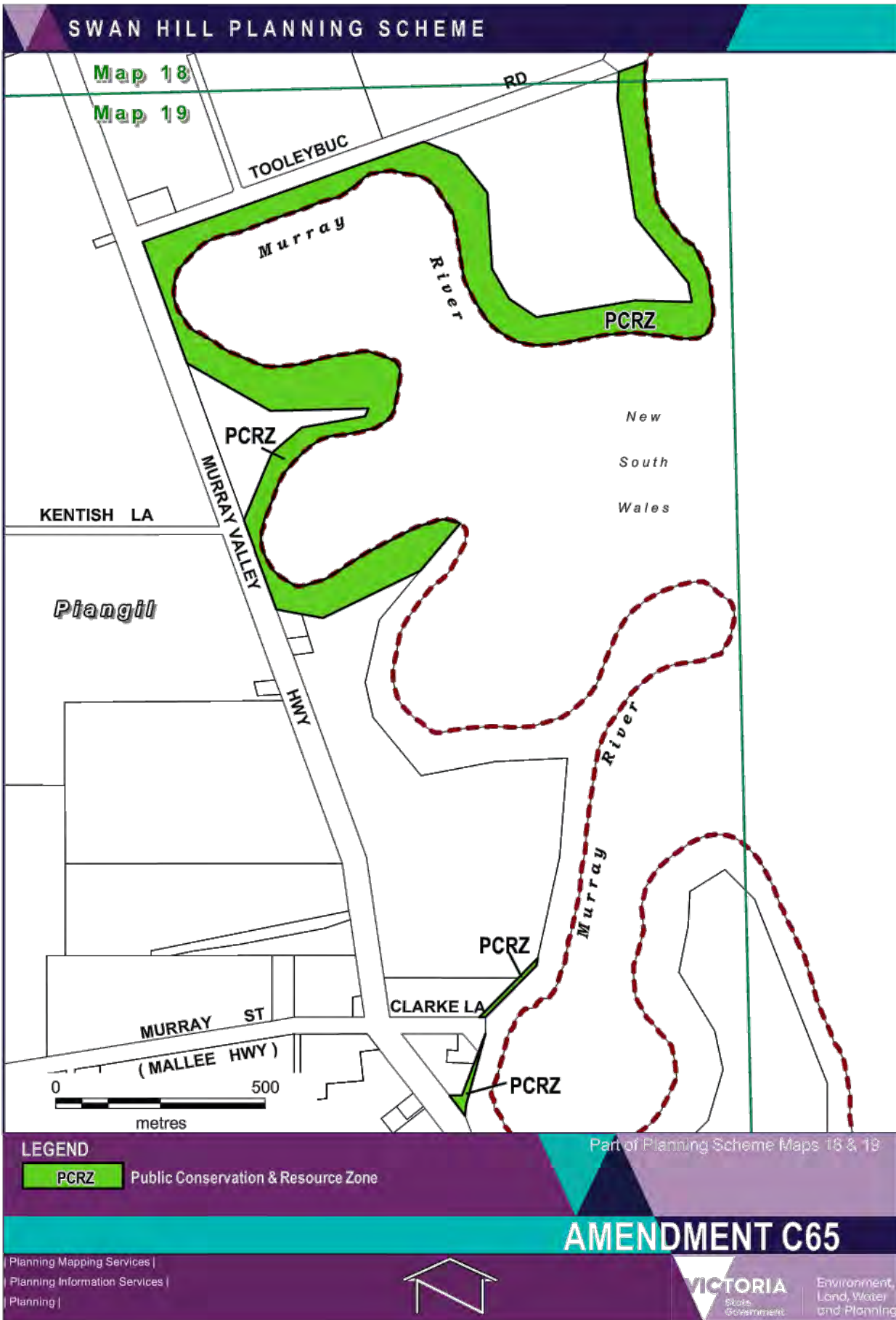
1. Amend Planning Scheme Map Nos. 2 and 3 in the manner shown on the 1 attached map marked "Swan Hill Planning Scheme, Amendment C65".
2. Amend Planning Scheme Map Nos. 18 and 19 in the manner shown on the 1 attached map marked "Swan Hill Planning Scheme, Amendment C65".
3. Amend Planning Scheme Map Nos. 18 and 26 in the manner shown on the 1 attached map marked "Swan Hill Planning Scheme, Amendment C65".
4. Amend Planning Scheme Map No. 29 in the manner shown on the 1 attached map marked "Swan Hill Planning Scheme, Amendment C65".
5. Amend Planning Scheme Map No. 30 in the manner shown on the 1 attached map marked "Swan Hill Planning Scheme, Amendment C65".
6. Amend Planning Scheme Map No. 38 in the manner shown on the 1 attached map marked "Swan Hill Planning Scheme, Amendment C65".
7. Amend Planning Scheme Map No. 40 in the manner shown on the 1 attached map marked "Swan Hill Planning Scheme, Amendment C65".

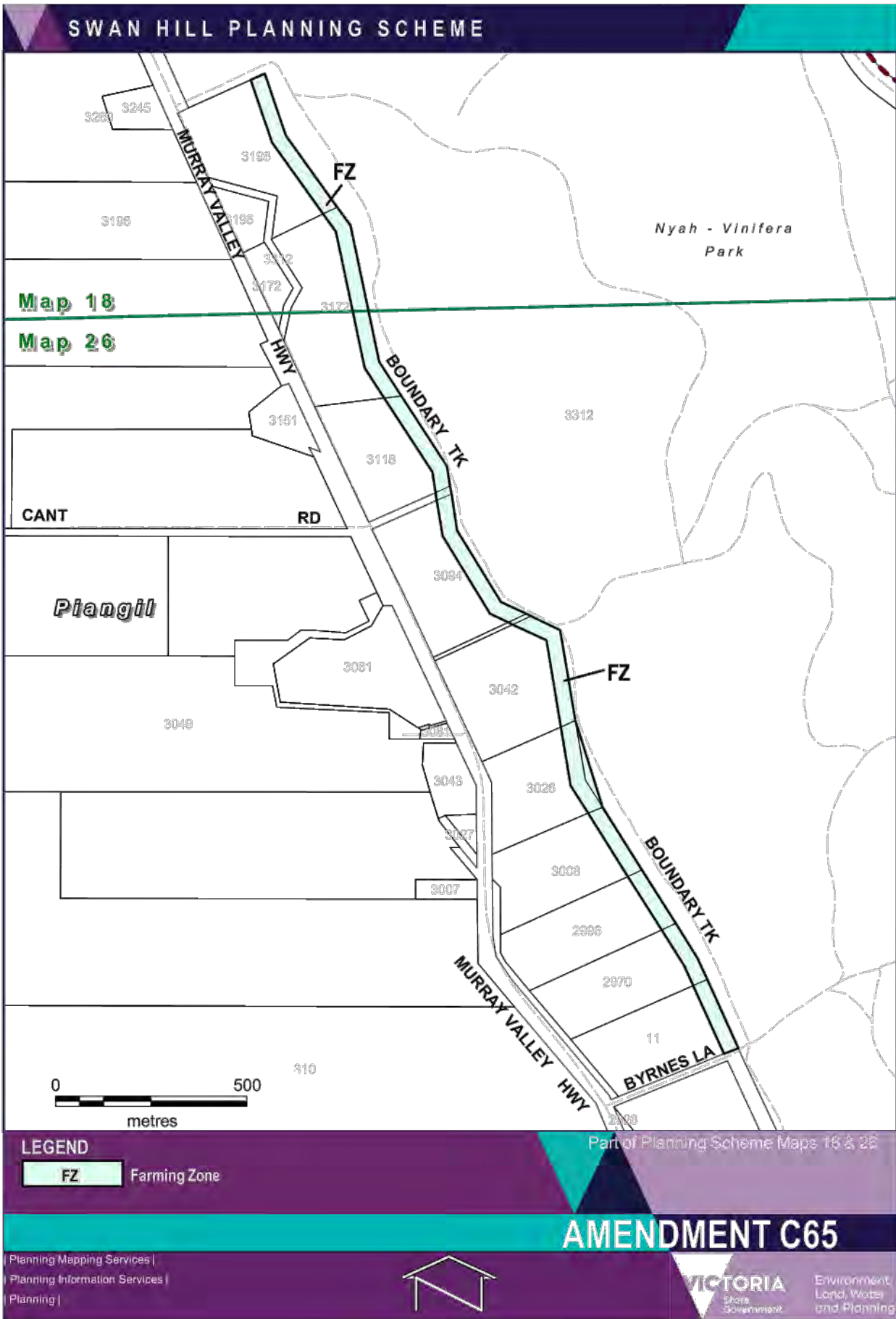
**Overlay Maps**

8. Amend Planning Scheme Map No. 38DDO in the manner shown on the 1 attached map marked "Swan Hill Planning Scheme, Amendment C65".

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LEGEND

	PPRZ Public Park and Recreation Zone
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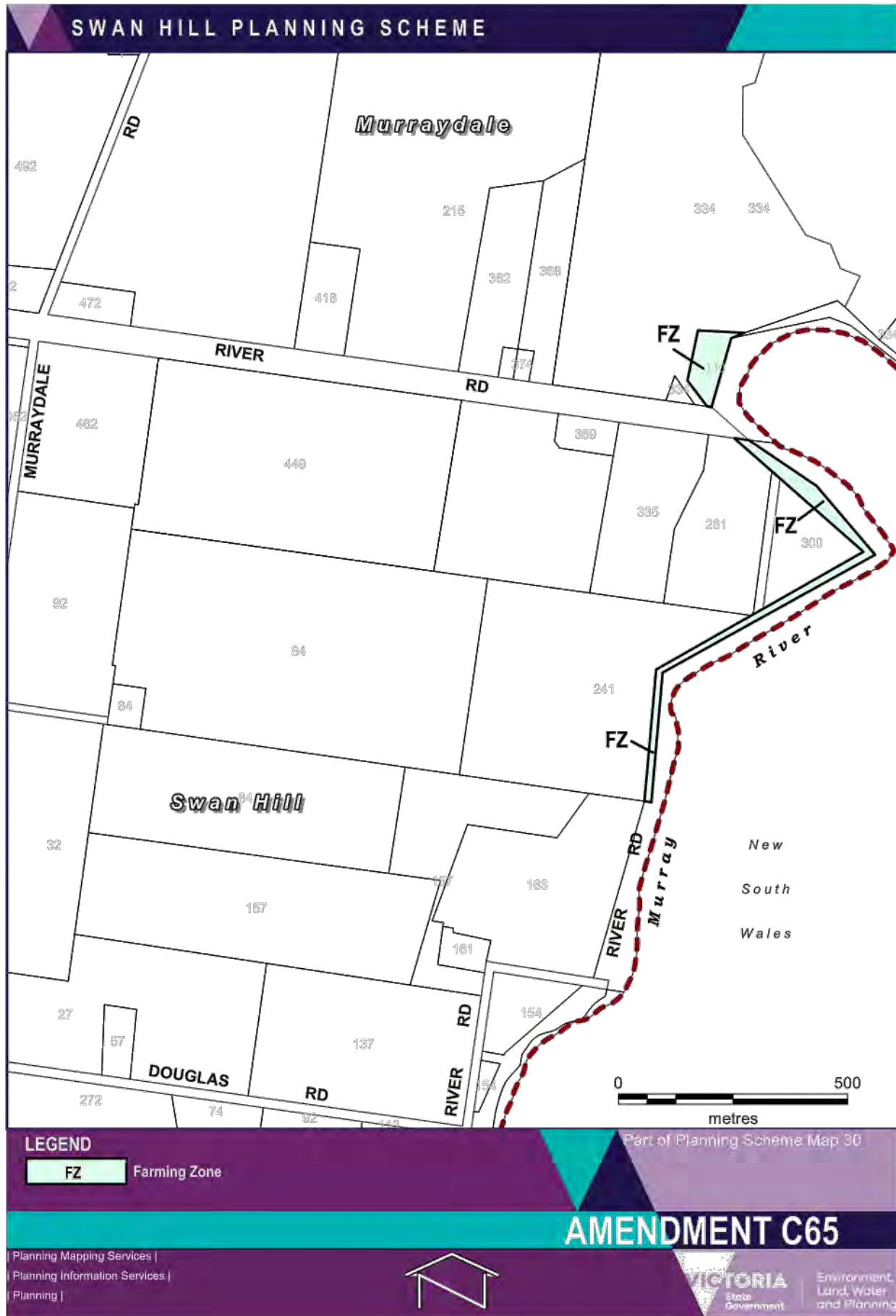
Part of Planning Scheme Map 29

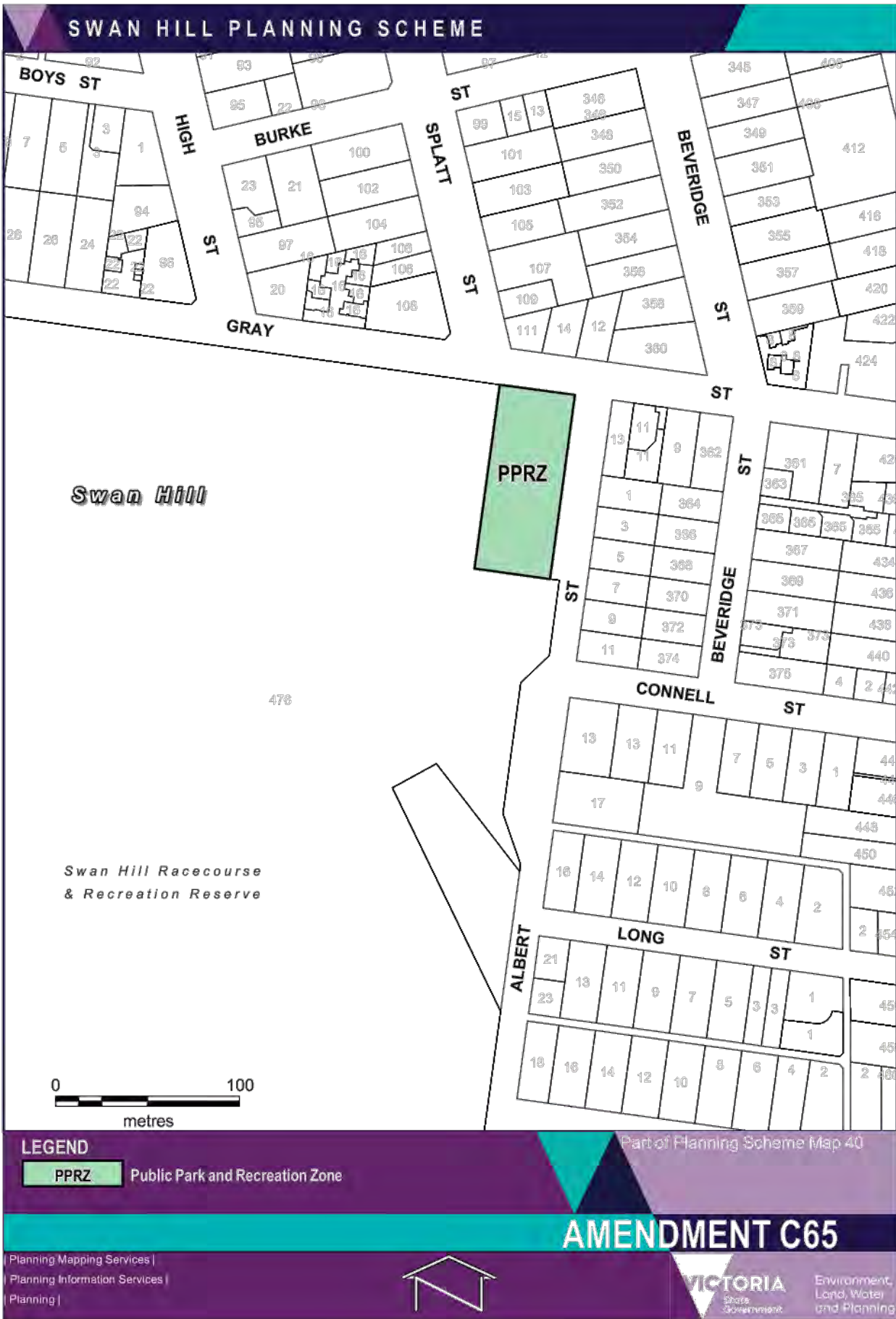
# AMENDMENT C65

| Planning Mapping Services |  
 | Planning Information Services |  
 | Planning |

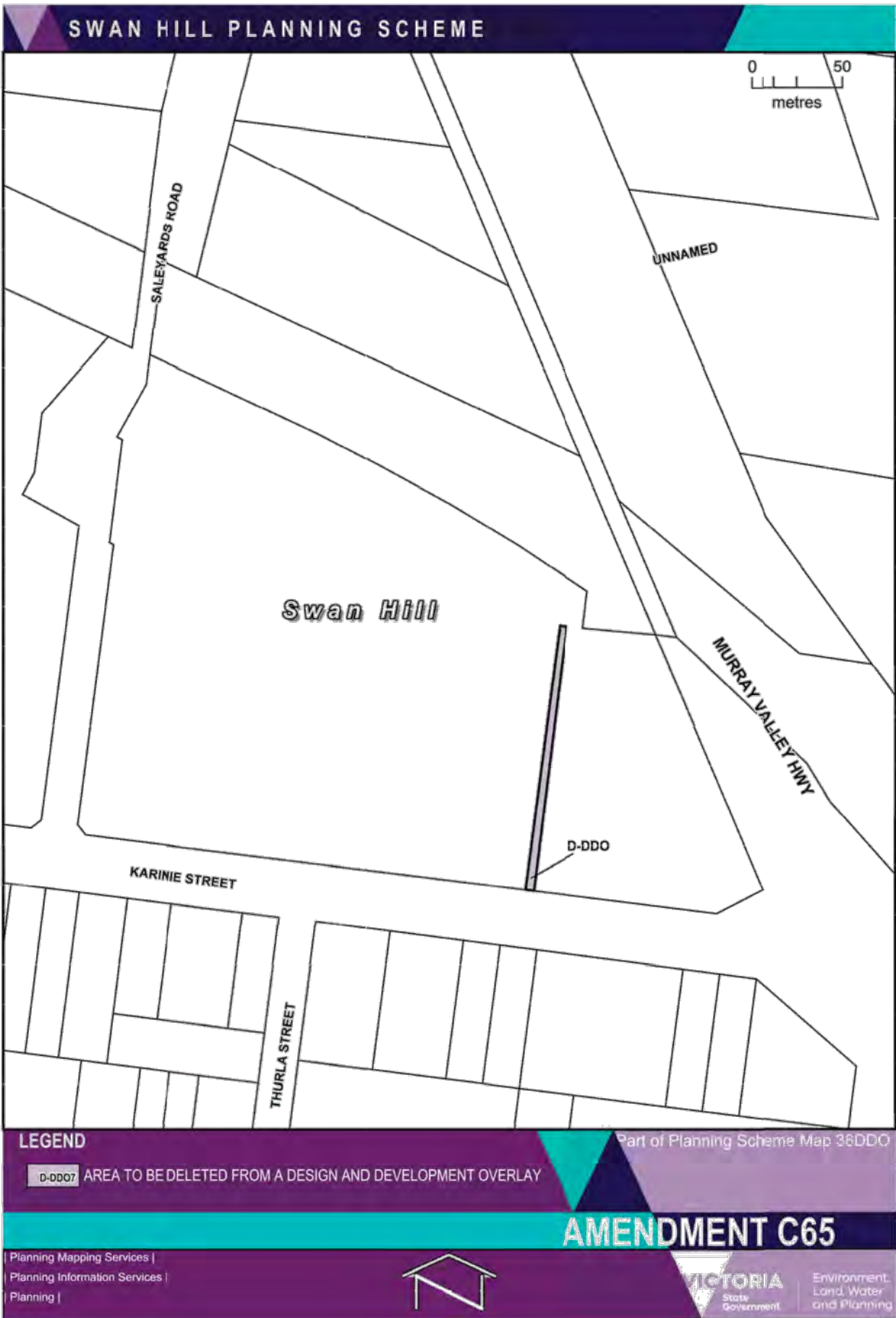


Environment,  
Land, Water  
and Planning









### **B.17.131 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C73**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Development and Planning  
**File Number:** S22-03-01-19  
**Attachments:** 1 Explanatory Report

#### **Declarations of Interest:**

Helen Morris - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

#### **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to request Council to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning (Minister) to undertake Amendment C73 to the Swan Hill Planning Scheme and thereafter to publicly exhibit the amendment at an appropriate time for a period of two months.

#### **Discussion**

##### **Why is the amendment required?**

The amendment is required to implement the following:

- Swan Hill Planning Scheme Review Report (2015);
- Swan Hill Council Plan (2017-2020);
- Swan Hill Health and Wellbeing Plan (2017-2020);
- Development Plan Overlay Review Report (2015);
- Swan Hill Riverfront Precinct Master Plan (2013);
- Swan Hill Car Parking Strategy (2016);
- Swan Hill Rural Land Use Strategy (2016); and
- Swan Hill Health Precinct Study.

##### **Swan Hill Planning Scheme Review Report (2015)**

Swan Hill Rural City Council adopted the Swan Hill Planning Scheme Review Report in 2015 in accordance with the requirements of Section 12B of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act).

Since the introduction of its first „New Format Planning Scheme“ in 2000, the Swan Hill Planning Scheme has been regularly reviewed and updated. In addition to this, there have been numerous Planning Scheme Amendments over the years that have made other incremental changes to the Swan Hill Planning Scheme as specific planning issues have arisen. The scheme was most recently and significantly modified by Amendment C58 in 2016 which implemented the South West Development Plans in Swan Hill.

Since the last planning scheme review, and its implementation by Amendment C39, a number of significant planning changes have occurred in the municipality as well as significant state and regional planning reforms. In particular, the Loddon Mallee Regional Growth Plan now forms part of the Swan Hill Planning Scheme.

The 2015 Planning Scheme Review outlined the major planning policy changes during the inter-review period and the key issues and policy gaps that had influenced the municipality's strategic planning. The findings of the Review support a series of recommendations that will inform the work program for future amendments to the Swan Hill Planning Scheme.

In particular, an outcome of the 2015 Planning Scheme Review was the need for a more contemporary Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) in terms of its content and (to a lesser extent) its structure. Proposed Amendment C73 directly responds to this outcome.

The Review Report findings included (in summary) the need to:

- amend the MSS at Clause 21 to provide clearer strategic direction.
- reintroduce local policies at Clause 22;
- ensure that recently adopted strategic work is included in the Planning Scheme.

The Review included a prioritised program for change, with its highest priority recommendation being to update the Municipal Strategic Statement and Local Planning Policy Framework.

The Review Report also identified other new strategic work that may be required to support future policy development or changes to the provisions of the planning scheme. The work that may be required included the following:

- Small Towns Strategy (yet to be commenced)
- Swan Hill Health Precinct Plan (completed)
- Review of Swan Hill Business Zones (underway)

The Review Report concluded (in summary) that the „rolling“ program of planning scheme amendment approval meant that Swan Hill Rural City Council had a reasonably „fresh“ MSS in terms of content and (mainly thanks to Amendment C39) its structure.

Overall, the 2015 Review confirmed that the strategic basis of the Swan Hill Planning Scheme was fundamentally sound and was evolving progressively to reflect completed strategic work and changing community needs. It was apparent in the 2015 Review that there were further gaps within the strategic work that needed to be completed and adopted by Council. The adoption of the Rural Land Use Strategy, the Swan Hill Car Parking Study and Amendment C58 (among others) has already redressed many of these gaps.

Another major issue arising from the 2015 Review was the need to eliminate unnecessary planning permit applications, which are resource-intensive for little

obvious benefit. It was noted that a rewrite of local schedules would help redress this issue.

Amendment C73 therefore is a direct outcome of the Swan Hill Planning Scheme Review Report 2015.

### **Swan Hill Rural Land Use Strategy (2016)**

The Swan Hill Rural Land Use Strategy (RLUS) was prepared by RMCG and adopted by Council in October 2016. The report included recommendations including two new categories of the Farming Zone (FZ1 and FZ2) and three new Rural Living Zone (RLZ) areas near Robinvale, Nyah and Swan Hill.

The RLUS also included a detailed implementation section which justified revised minimum lot size provisions for the two different categories of farming land, (FZ1 and FZ2) and alterations to the minimum lot size and siting provisions for Rural Living Zone land.

The RLUS was developed to guide the future of rural land use planning within the municipality with one of the main objectives being the protection of agricultural activity from conflicting land uses.

Agriculture is a key driver of the economy contributing a large percentage of the municipality's total output. The RLUS recognised the importance of agriculture and sought to protect and grow the industry, through supportive planning provisions.

The RLUS also sought to support protection of the rural environment. The strategy considers the impact of flood and fire risk on future rural development. The strategy upholds a sustainable approach to rural land use planning within the municipality.

In summary, the RLUS addressed environmental, social and economic effects of the study and recommended implementation as follows:

- Agriculture (and the agricultural supply chain) underpins the SHRCC economy and is the largest employer. The municipality contains some horticultural industries and farmland areas that are of Strategic Significance. Protection of these industries (including through protection of farming land from inappropriate use and development) is vital to ongoing and future economic strength in the municipality.
- The RLUS addresses ways for agriculture to maintain a competitive edge within the municipality and recommends facilitating intensification and farm expansion as key drivers to protect agriculture.
- Environmental values (the Murray River and associated riparian land, waterways, wetlands and remnant vegetation) have been identified as assets to be protected for their contribution to liveability and attractiveness for tourism. There is strong existing support for these values within the MSS.
- Environmental hazards (bushfire and flooding) have been identified as key parameters for selecting appropriate areas for rural residential lot provision.



- Social considerations pervade the study, including protection of cultural assets, protection of local industries and greater diversity of housing stock through the rural residential land supply and demand analysis.

In line with the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) and the existing Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF), the Amendment seeks to limit new housing development in rural areas by introducing new schedules to the FZ and identifying mechanisms to „break the nexus“ between small lots in the FZ and development of those lots for housing which is not used in association with agriculture.

The Amendment identifies candidate areas that should be investigated for rezoning to increase the supply of rural living properties as a way to direct housing growth away from the FZ towards appropriate, high amenity areas with good proximity to existing urban areas (Swan Hill, Robinvale and Nyah).

Implementation of the RLUS will facilitate a coordinated approach to the use and development of rural land now and into the future. Amendment C73 is required to address a number of issues relating to current and emerging trends of inappropriate rural residential land use and development occurring within the Farming Zone. Stronger strategic direction is required regarding protection of agriculture within the municipality by better managing rural residential demand.

As a result, two new categories of „Farming Zone“ have been identified which, more or less, coincide with the analysis in the RLUS which (in accordance with Clause 14.01 of the SPPF) identified land as being „farmland of strategic significance“ and other farmland of „regional significance“ (page 34).

The two new Farming Zone are:

Farming Zone 1 (Broad acre farmland and private irrigation diversion areas) being areas to:

- Promote and encourage commercial scale broad acre agriculture such as livestock grazing and cropping, large scale irrigated development and Farmland of Regional Strategic Significance.
- Protect the opportunity for future horticultural development on Farmland of Strategic Significance.

In the FZ1 areas, the following will be key considerations for minimum lot sizes and dwellings:

- Further subdivision will be rarely required given the large supply of lots at a range of sizes and the trend towards increasing scale.
- Lots should be maintained in sizes suited to broad acre agriculture and the creation of small lots will be strongly discouraged.
- There are a small number of very large lots (> 500ha) that due to their size may be less attractive for sale or transfer between farm businesses. Subdivision of very large lots may be appropriate in some circumstances.

- Given that most commercial broad acre holdings comprise multiple lots, construction of a dwelling on every lot can no longer be expected.

Farming Zone 2 (Gazetted irrigation districts) being areas to:

- Promote and encourage commercial scale horticulture and other irrigated agriculture.
- Protect Farmland of State Strategic Significance.

In FZ2 areas, the following will be key considerations for minimum lot sizes and dwellings:

- Further subdivision will be rarely required given the large supply of lots at a range of sizes, particularly small lots sizes and will be strongly discouraged.
- Lots should be maintained in sizes suited to horticulture and other intensive irrigated agriculture
- Given the proximity of the established irrigation districts to urban centres, an emerging organic horticulture industry, the intensive nature of the production systems and risk of off-site impacts, dwellings not required for agriculture will be strongly discouraged
- Given that most commercial irrigated agriculture holdings comprise multiple lots, construction of a dwelling on every lot can no longer be expected and the nexus between subdivision and dwellings will be broken.

Based on the above key considerations, the RLUS identified (page 11) that the minimum lot size for subdivision in the two categories be:

- Farming Zone 1                    100 hectares
- Farming Zone 2                    20 hectares

The RLUS also identified (page 11) that the minimum lot size for which no permit is required for a dwelling in the two categories be:

- Farming Zone 1 (Broad acre farmland)                    100 hectares
- Farming Zone 1 (Irrigated [private diversion] areas)                    50 hectares
- Farming Zone 2                    20 hectares

The amendment provides a limited expansion of the Rural Living Zone based on the outcomes of the Rural Land Use Strategy. The RLUS was very mindful of the limitations imposed by Clause 16.02-1 of the SPPF (Rural residential development) and found that there was state and local policy support for the limited provision of rural lifestyle opportunities as part of an overall housing supply within the municipality.

A demand and supply analysis in the RLUS (page 41) found that of the 72 existing lots zoned Rural Living in the municipality, only seven of those were vacant lots. It

also found that of the 511 existing Low Density Residential lots in the municipality, only 35 of these (or about 4 years supply) was vacant.

Criteria for Rural Living investigation areas were identified (page 42) based on (among other things) Planning Practice Note No. 37 (Rural Residential Development). Investigation areas were assessed at:

- Swan Hill township
- Beverford and Woorinen South
- Nyah and Nyah West
- Robinvale
- Lake Boga.

As a result of that assessment (page 47), three areas in Swan Hill, Robinvale and Nyah are to be rezoned to the Rural Living Zone as part of the amendment. It is anticipated that these rezonings will collectively yield about 45 lots of about 2ha.

Council appreciates that state policy does not support an oversupply of „rural lifestyle“ lots and the proposed rezonings, restricted to three dispersed development fronts, accords with the criteria specified in the RLUS and represent a very small opportunity for this form of housing.

As part of its commitment to using the planning scheme to provide the community with a long-term vision for the future, the RLUS also considered a number of other „investigation“ areas for possible rural lifestyle opportunities in the event that demand exceeded supply. As a result, „investigation areas“ near Swan Hill, Nyah, Robinvale and Lake Boga were identified that, subject to future demand, might be suitable in the longer term. These rural residential „investigation areas“ are not to be rezoned as part of this amendment but have been identified on the town framework plans in Clause 21.02.

A new schedule to the Rural Living Zone (RLZ) will also be introduced. The RLZ schedule will introduce the following:

- Minimum area for subdivision: 2 hectares
- Minimum area for which no permit is required to use land for a dwelling: 2 hectares
- Maximum floor area for which no permit is required to extend or alter or extend an existing building used for agriculture: 250 square metres
- Minimum setback from a boundary: 5 metres
- Minimum setback from a dwelling not in the same ownership: 50 metres.

In addition to these new minimum lot size and dwelling provisions, three new local policies at Clause 22 are included in the amendment to provide guidance on rural subdivision, rural housing and rural land use.

The strategic framework proposed to be implemented via the MSS and LPPF as well as amendments to the Farming Zone and Rural Living Zone schedules will trigger

the need to address appropriate uses and subdivision within rural areas on a case-by-case basis. This will ensure productive farmland is not further fragmented, and will encourage consolidation of small lots into larger farms where appropriate, to strengthen the economic viability of those businesses.

The proposed FZ1 and FZ2 schedules aim to support growth and adaptation of agriculture, including intensification and expansion of farms to maintain a competitive edge in the local and broader economies.

Local environmental hazards and values have been considered in preparation of this Amendment and throughout the RLUS in line with the relevant objectives and strategies in the SPPF.

### **Swan Hill Council Plan (2017-2021)**

Council has prepared the 2017-2021 Council Plan and it contains the following „Vision“ for the municipality:

A prosperous and healthy community enjoying quality facilities and services.

The Council Plan is built on five foundation elements being:

- Economic growth
- Community enhancement
- Infrastructure
- Governance and leadership
- Environment

Amendment C73 is consistent with the Council Plan.

### **Swan Hill Car Parking Strategy (2016)**

Council has adopted the Swan Hill Car Parking Strategy (2016) which provides the background to, and justification for the introduction of a Parking Overlay into the scheme. The Strategy (and the overlay) provides:

- Guidelines for the application of car parking credits to new use and development;
- Mechanisms for the collection of a financial contribution in lieu of providing physical car parking spaces;
- Guidelines for Council in its execution of its discretion to collect a financial contribution.

### **Swan Hill Health Precinct Study (2017)**

Council has adopted the Swan Hill Health Precinct Study (2017) which provides encouragement for the development of medical centres in the vicinity of the Swan Hill Hospital.

### **Land affected by the amendment**

The amendment applies to all land within the Swan Hill Rural City Council. The specific areas affected by the amendment are indicated on the 115 attached maps that form part of this amendment.

### **What the amendment does?**

The Amendment will:

#### **Local Planning Policy Framework**

1. Replace the existing MSS with a new MSS at Clause 21 to include the objectives and directions arising from the above reports.
2. Insert six new Local Policies at Clause 22 to address heritage, rural, industrial and residential issues.

#### **Maps**

3. Insert the Mixed Use Zone (and schedule) to a site at the entrance to Lake Boga.
4. Replace the existing Farming Zone with a new Farming Zone 1 and Farming Zone 2.
5. Insert the Rural Living Zone in three locations near Robinvale, Nyah West and Swan Hill.
6. Replace ESO1 mapping with an expanded area along the Murray River consistent with neighbouring Councils.
7. Delete DDO6 and schedule from land near Lake Boga as it is no longer required.
8. Delete DPO2 from land zoned Rural Living near Swan Hill as it is no longer required.
9. Insert a new Parking Overlay in Swan Hill Township to reflect the outcomes of the Swan Hill Parking Strategy (2016).
10. Update Planning Scheme Map Nos. 1-47 (inclusive).

#### **Schedules**

11. Replace the existing schedule to the Rural Living Zone (RLZ) and specify a minimum lot size of 2 hectares to manage subdivision and development in line with the recommendations from the RLUS.
12. Delete the existing schedule to the Farming Zone (FZ).
13. Insert two new Farming Zone schedules (FZ1 and FZ2) to manage subdivision and development in line with the recommendations of the RLUS.
14. Make modifications to the schedules to the General Residential Zone, Industrial 1 Zone and Commercial I Zone to make them consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
15. Make modifications to Schedules 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Special Use Zone to make them more consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.

16. Insert a new Schedule 1 to the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO1) to specifically deal with the Murray River corridor consistent with neighbouring municipalities and consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
17. Insert a new Schedule 3 to the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO3) to specifically deal with Waterways, Wetlands and Lake Environs (other than affected by ESO1) consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
18. Make modifications to Schedule 1 to the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO1) to update references to current regulations and to be consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
19. Make modifications to Schedule 1 to the Design and Development Overlay (DDO1) to clarify referral and notice requirements and to be consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
20. Make modifications to Schedule 2 to the Design and Development Overlay (DDO2) to modify design objectives and include references to the Swan Hill Riverfront Precinct Master Plan (2013) and to be consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
21. Make modifications to Schedules 1, 2 and 3 to the Development Plan Overlay to restructure the schedule consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes and to include reference to the Infrastructure Design Manual.
22. Insert a new Schedule to the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) to reflect the approach adopted to flood risk in other municipalities and to be consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
23. Insert a new Parking Overlay Schedule to reflect the outcomes of the Swan Hill Parking Strategy (2016).
24. Make modifications to the schedule to Clause 61.03 to update map references.
25. Make modifications to the schedule to Clause 66.04 to include ESO1 and ESO3 and to introduce a generic reference to Water authorities.

Council, by endorsing the request to seek authorisation for the amendment, is not approving the amendment. Council will have the opportunity to consider any issues of concern after the public exhibition of the amendment.

At this stage it is considered appropriate to seek Ministerial authorisation for the preparation of the amendment.

### **Consultation**

Upon receipt of the authorisation from the Minister, there shall be consultation in relation to the amendment as per the requirements of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 for a minimum period of 60 days.

Notices will be sent to all rate payers, prescribed Ministers, relevant authorities and a notice will also be placed in the local newspaper (The Guardian).

### **Financial Implications**

There are no adverse financial implications, other than for Council to pay the Planning Scheme Amendment fees, which could be burdensome given that a Planning Panel is likely to be held for this amendment.

### **Social Implications**

There are no adverse social implications associated with this amendment.

### **Economic Implications**

There are no adverse economic implications associated with this amendment.

### **Environmental Implications**

There are no adverse environmental implications associated with this amendment.

### **Risk Management Implications**

Failure to implement robust land use strategies and policies leaves Council vulnerable to inappropriate and adhoc development.

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Economic growth*** - Provide land use planning that is responsive and which proactively encourages appropriate development.

### **Options**

#### **Option 1**

Support the amendment request in principle and resolve to request the Minister to authorise the preparation of the amendment and to publicly exhibit the amendment at an appropriate time for a period of two months;

Or

#### **Option 2**

Not support the amendment request with reasons outlined in the Council resolution.

### **Recommendation**

**That Council support the amendment request in principle, resolve to request the Minister to authorise the preparation of the amendment and to publicly exhibit the amendment at an appropriate time for a period of two months.**

Planning and Environment Act 1987

## SWAN HILL PLANNING SCHEME

### AMENDMENT C73

#### EXPLANATORY REPORT

#### Who is the planning authority?

This amendment has been prepared by the Swan Hill Rural City Council who is the planning authority for this amendment.

The amendment has been made at the request of Swan Hill Rural City Council.

#### Land affected by the Amendment

The amendment applies to all land within the Swan Hill Rural City Council.

The specific areas affected by the amendment are indicated on the 115 attached maps that form part of this amendment.

#### What the amendment does

The Amendment implements the outcomes of the:

- *Swan Hill Planning Scheme Review Report (2015);*
- *Swan Hill Council Plan (2017-2020);*
- *Swan Hill Health and Wellbeing Plan (2017-2020);*
- *Swan Hill Riverfront Precinct Master Plan (2013);*
- *Development Plan Overlay Review Report (2015);*
- *Swan Hill Car Parking Strategy (2016);*
- *Swan Hill Rural Land Use Strategy (2016); and*
- *Swan Hill Health Precinct Study (2017).*

The Amendment will:

#### Local Planning Policy Framework

1. Replace the existing MSS with a new MSS at Clause 21 to include the objectives and directions arising from the above reports.
2. Insert six new Local Policies at Clause 22 to address heritage, rural, industrial and residential issues.

#### Maps

3. Insert the Mixed-Use Zone (and schedule) to a site at the entrance to Lake Boga.
4. Replace the existing Farming Zone with a new Farming Zone 1 and Farming Zone 2.
5. Insert the Rural Living Zone in three locations near Robinvale, Nyah West and Swan Hill.
6. Replace ESO1 mapping with an expanded area along the Murray River consistent with neighbouring Councils.
7. Delete DDO6 and schedule from land near Lake Boga as it is no longer required.
8. Delete DPO2 from land zoned Rural Living near Swan Hill as it is no longer required.



9. Insert a new Parking Overlay in Swan Hill Township to reflect the outcomes of the Swan Hill Parking Strategy (2016).
10. Update Planning Scheme Map Nos. 1-47 (inclusive).

#### **Schedules**

11. Replace the existing schedule to the Rural Living Zone (RLZ) and specify a minimum lot size of 2 hectares to manage subdivision and development in line with the recommendations from the RLUS.
12. Delete the existing schedule to the Farming Zone (FZ).
13. Insert two new Farming Zone schedules (FZ1 and FZ2) to manage subdivision and development in line with the recommendations of the RLUS.
14. Make modifications to the schedules to the General Residential Zone, Industrial 1 Zone and Commercial 1 Zone to make them consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
15. Make modifications to Schedules 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Special Use Zone to make them more consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
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19. Make modifications to Schedule 1 to the Design and Development Overlay (DDO1) to clarify referral and notice requirements and to be consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
20. Make modifications to Schedule 2 to the Design and Development Overlay (DDO2) to modify design objectives and include references to the *Swan Hill Riverfront Precinct Master Plan (2013)* and to be consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
21. Make modifications to Schedules 1, 2 and 3 to the Development Plan Overlay to restructure the schedule consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes and to include reference to the *Infrastructure Design Manual*.
22. Insert a new Schedule to the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) to reflect the approach adopted to flood risk in other municipalities and to be consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
23. Insert a new Parking Overlay Schedule to reflect the outcomes of the Swan Hill Parking Strategy (2016).
24. Make modifications to the schedule to Clause 61.03 to update map references.
25. Make modifications to the schedule to Clause 66.04 to include ESO1 and ESO3 and to introduce a generic reference to Water authorities.

#### **Strategic assessment of the amendment**

### Why is the amendment required?

The amendment is required so as to implement the following:

- Swan Hill Planning Scheme Review Report (2015);
- Swan Hill Council Plan (2017-2020);
- Swan Hill Health and Wellbeing Plan (2017-2020);
- Development Plan Overlay Review Report (2015);
- Swan Hill Riverfront Precinct Master Plan (2013);
- Swan Hill Car Parking Strategy (2016);
- Swan Hill Rural Land Use Strategy (2016); and
- Swan Hill Health Precinct Study.

### Swan Hill Planning Scheme Review Report (2015)

Swan Hill Rural City Council adopted the *Swan Hill Planning Scheme Review Report* in 2015 in accordance with the requirements of Section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act).

Since the introduction of its first 'New Format Planning Scheme' in 2000, the Swan Hill Planning Scheme has been regularly reviewed and updated. In addition to this, there have been numerous Planning Scheme Amendments over the years that have made other incremental changes to the Swan Hill Planning Scheme as specific planning issues have arisen. The scheme was most recently and significantly modified by Amendment C58 in 2016 which implemented the South West Development Plans in Swan Hill.

Since the last planning scheme review, and its implementation by Amendment C39, a number of significant planning changes have occurred in the municipality as well as significant state and regional planning reforms. In particular, the Loddon Mallee Regional Growth Plan now forms part of the Swan Hill Planning Scheme.

The 2015 Planning Scheme Review outlined the major planning policy changes during the inter-review period and the key issues and policy gaps that had influenced the municipality's strategic planning. The findings of the Review support a series of recommendations that will inform the work program for future amendments to the Swan Hill Planning Scheme.

In particular, an outcome of the 2015 Planning Scheme Review was the need for a more contemporary Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) in terms of its content and (to a lesser extent) its structure. Proposed Amendment C73 directly responds to this outcome.

The Review Report findings included (in summary) the need to;

- amend the MSS at Clause 21 to provide clearer strategic direction.
- reintroduce local policies at Clause 22;
- ensure that recently adopted strategic work is included in the Planning Scheme.

The Review included a prioritised program for change, with its highest priority recommendation being to update the Municipal Strategic Statement and Local Planning Policy Framework.

The Review Report also identified other new strategic work that may be required to support future policy development or changes to the provisions of the planning scheme. The work that may be required included the following:

- Small Towns Strategy (yet to be commenced)
- Swan Hill Health Precinct Plan (completed)
- Review of Swan Hill Business Zones (underway)

The Review Report concluded (in summary) that the 'rolling' program of planning scheme amendment approval meant that Swan Hill Rural City Council had a reasonably 'fresh' MSS in terms of content and (mainly thanks to Amendment C39) its structure.

Overall, the 2015 Review confirmed that the strategic basis of the Swan Hill Planning Scheme was fundamentally sound and was evolving progressively to reflect completed strategic work and changing community needs. It was apparent in the 2015 Review that there were further gaps within the strategic work that needed to be completed and adopted by Council. The adoption of the Rural Land Use Strategy, the Swan Hill Car Parking Study and Amendment C58 (among others) has already redressed many of these gaps.

Another major issue arising from the 2015 Review was the need to eliminate unnecessary planning permit applications which are resource-intensive for little obvious benefit. It was noted that a rewrite of local schedules would help redress this issue.

Amendment C73 therefore is a direct outcome of the Swan Hill Planning Scheme Review Report 2015.

### **Swan Hill Rural Land Use Strategy (2016)**

The *Swan Hill Rural Land Use Strategy (RLUS)* was prepared by RMCG and adopted by Council in October 2016. The report included recommendations including two new categories of the Farming Zone (FZ1 and FZ2) and three new Rural Living Zone (RLZ) areas near Robinvale, Nyah and Swan Hill.

The RLUS also included a detailed implementation section which justified revised minimum lot size provisions for the two different categories of farming land, (FZ1 and FZ2) and alterations to the minimum lot size and siting provisions for Rural Living Zone land.

The RLUS was developed to guide the future of rural land use planning within the municipality with one of the main objectives being the protection of agricultural activity from conflicting land uses.

Agriculture is a key driver of the economy contributing a large percentage of the municipality's total output. The RLUS recognised the importance of agriculture and sought to protect and grow the industry, through supportive planning provisions.

The RLUS also sought to support protection of the rural environment. The strategy considers the impact of flood and fire risk on future rural development. The strategy upholds a sustainable approach to rural land use planning within the municipality.

In summary, the RLUS addressed *environmental, social* and *economic* effects of the study and recommended implementation as follows:

- Agriculture (and the agricultural supply chain) underpins the SHRCC economy and is the largest employer. The municipality contains some horticultural industries and farmland areas that are of Strategic Significance. Protection of these industries (including through protection of farming land from inappropriate use and development) is vital to ongoing and future economic strength in the municipality.
- The RLUS addresses ways for agriculture to maintain a competitive edge within the municipality and recommends facilitating intensification and farm expansion as key drivers to protect agriculture.
- Environmental values (the Murray River and associated riparian land, waterways, wetlands and remnant vegetation) have been identified as assets to be protected for their contribution to liveability and attractiveness for tourism. There is strong existing support for these values within the MSS.
- Environmental hazards (bushfire and flooding) have been identified as key parameters for selecting appropriate areas for rural residential lot provision.
- Social considerations pervade the study, including protection of cultural assets, protection of local industries and greater diversity of housing stock through the rural residential land supply and demand analysis.

In line with the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) and the existing Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF), the Amendment seeks to limit new housing development in rural areas by introducing new schedules to the FZ and identifying mechanisms to 'break the nexus' between small lots in the FZ and development of those lots for housing which is not used in association with agriculture.

The Amendment identifies candidate areas that should be investigated for rezoning to increase the supply of rural living properties as a way to direct housing growth away from the FZ towards appropriate, high amenity areas with good proximity to existing urban areas (Swan Hill, Robinvale and Nyah).

Implementation of the RLUS will facilitate a coordinated approach to the use and development of rural land now and into the future. Amendment C73 is required to address a number of issues relating to current and emerging trends of inappropriate rural residential land use and development occurring within the Farming Zone. Stronger strategic direction is required regarding protection of agriculture within the municipality by better managing rural residential demand.

As a result, two new categories of 'Farming Zone' have been identified which, more or less, coincide with the analysis in the RLUS which (in accordance with Clause 14.01 of the SPPF) identified land as being 'farmland of strategic significance' and other farmland of 'regional significance' (page 34).

The two new Farming Zone are:

Farming Zone 1 (Broad acre farmland and private irrigation diversion areas) being areas to:

- Promote and encourage commercial scale broad acre agriculture such as livestock grazing and cropping, large scale irrigated development and Farmland of Regional Strategic Significance.
- Protect the opportunity for future horticultural development on Farmland of Strategic Significance.

In the FZ1 areas, the following will be key considerations for minimum lot sizes and dwellings:

- Further subdivision will be rarely required given the large supply of lots at a range of sizes and the trend towards increasing scale.
- Lots should be maintained in sizes suited to broad acre agriculture and the creation of small lots will be strongly discouraged.
- There are a small number of very large lots (> 500ha) that due to their size may be less attractive for sale or transfer between farm businesses. Subdivision of very large lots may be appropriate in some circumstances.
- Given that most commercial broad acre holdings comprise multiple lots, construction of a dwelling on every lot can no longer be expected.

Farming Zone 2 (Gazetted irrigation districts) being areas to:

- Promote and encourage commercial scale horticulture and other irrigated agriculture.
- Protect Farmland of State Strategic Significance.

In FZ2 areas, the following will be key considerations for minimum lot sizes and dwellings:

- Further subdivision will be rarely required given the large supply of lots at a range of sizes, particularly small lots sizes and will be strongly discouraged.
- Lots should be maintained in sizes suited to horticulture and other intensive irrigated agriculture
- Given the proximity of the established irrigation districts to urban centres, an emerging organic horticulture industry, the intensive nature of the production systems

and risk of off-site impacts, dwellings not required for agriculture will be strongly discouraged

- Given that most commercial irrigated agriculture holdings comprise multiple lots, construction of a dwelling on every lot can no longer be expected and the nexus between subdivision and dwellings will be broken.

Based on the above key considerations, the RLUS identified (page 11) that the minimum lot size for subdivision in the two categories be:

- Farming Zone 1 100 hectares
- Farming Zone 2 20 hectares

The RLUS also identified (page 11) that the minimum lot size for which no permit is required for a dwelling in the two categories be:

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The amendment provides a limited expansion of the Rural Living Zone based on the outcomes of the Rural Land Use Strategy. The RLUS was very mindful of the limitations imposed by Clause 16.02-1 of the SPPF (Rural residential development) and found that there was state and local policy support for the limited provision of rural lifestyle opportunities as part of an overall housing supply within the municipality.

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A new schedule to the Rural Living Zone (RLZ) will also be introduced. The RLZ schedule will introduce the following:

- Minimum area for subdivision: 2 hectares
- Minimum area for which no permit is required to use land for a dwelling: 2 hectares
- Maximum floor area for which no permit is required to extend or alter or extend an existing building used for agriculture: 250 square metres
- Minimum setback from a boundary: 5 metres
- Minimum setback from a dwelling not in the same ownership: 50 metres.

In addition to these new minimum lot size and dwelling provisions, three new local policies at Clause 22 are included in the amendment to provide guidance on rural subdivision, rural housing and rural land use.

The strategic framework proposed to be implemented via the MSS and LPPF as well as amendments to the Farming Zone and Rural Living Zone schedules will trigger the need to address appropriate uses and subdivision within rural areas on a case-by-case basis. This will ensure productive farmland is not further fragmented, and will encourage consolidation of small lots into larger farms where appropriate, to strengthen the economic viability of those businesses.

The proposed FZ1 and FZ2 schedules aim to support growth and adaptation of agriculture, including intensification and expansion of farms to maintain a competitive edge in the local and broader economies.

Local environmental hazards and values have been considered in preparation of this Amendment and throughout the RLUS in line with the relevant objectives and strategies in the SPPF.

#### **Swan Hill Council Plan (2017-2021)**

Council has prepared the *2017-2021 Council Plan* and it contains the following 'Vision' for the municipality:

*A prosperous and healthy community enjoying quality facilities and services.*

The Council Plan is built on five foundation elements being:

- Economic growth
- Community enhancement
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Amendment C73 is consistent with the Council Plan.

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Council has adopted the *Swan Hill Car Parking Strategy (2016)* which provides the background to, and justification for the introduction of a Parking Overlay into the scheme. The Strategy (and the overlay) provides:

- Guidelines for the application of car parking credits to new use and development;
- Mechanisms for the collection of a financial contribution in lieu of providing physical car parking spaces;
- Guidelines for Council in its execution of its discretion to collect a financial contribution.

#### **Swan Hill Health Precinct Study (2017)**

Council has adopted the *Swan Hill Health Precinct Study (2017)* which provides encouragement for the development of medical centres in the vicinity of the Swan Hill Hospital. The preferred area for expansion is shown on the Swan Hill Framework Plan at Clause 21.02.

### How does the amendment implement the objectives of planning in Victoria?

The amendment implements the following objectives of planning in Victoria:

- (a) to provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use, and development of land;
- (b) to provide for the protection of natural and man-made resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity;
- (c) to secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Victorians and visitors to Victoria.

The amendment will assist to implement these objectives by including a more contemporary local policy framework that is consistent with current local, state and regional policy directions.

### How does the amendment address the environmental effects and any relevant social and economic effects?

The Amendment addresses a range of significant environmental, social and economic issues that are presently inadequately addressed in the Swan Hill Planning Scheme LPPF. These include:

Theme	Issues
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Murray River</li> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Flooding</li> <li>• Bushfire</li> <li>• Catchment and land protection</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Heritage</li> <li>• Sensitive interfaces</li> </ul>
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing diversity</li> <li>• Liveability</li> <li>• Neighbourhood character</li> <li>• Community infrastructure</li> </ul>
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing town growth</li> <li>• Rural residential development</li> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Commercial centres</li> <li>• Industry</li> <li>• Tourism</li> <li>• Development infrastructure</li> <li>• Transport networks</li> <li>• Swan Hill aerodrome</li> </ul>

Consistent with the new Council Plan, the new LPPF is focussed on promoting economic development and investment including the protection of key agricultural assets and the downstream processing of agricultural product. It also supports the promotion of industry particularly in Swan Hill and Robinvale.

The new LPPF continues its strong support for the protection of environmental assets including the Murray River system and biodiversity.

Importantly, the new LPPF strengthens references to the social impacts affecting the municipality including recognition that the population is aging and that this will have land use and development implications for the provision of housing, health and community facilities.

The amendment is not expected to have any negative environmental, social or economic impacts.

#### **Does the amendment address relevant bushfire risk?**

The amendment maintains local directions in relation to bushfire, consistent with the SPPF, but the amendment does not alter any existing planning controls which relate to the management of bushfire risk.

In particular, the RLUS has considered bushfire risk in relation to development in rural areas. Those areas not identified under the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) have been assessed as candidate and investigation areas for rural residential development.

#### **Does the amendment comply with the requirements of any Minister's Direction applicable to the amendment?**

The amendment is consistent with the most recent Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes under section 7 (5) of the Act (April 2017).

The amendment is also consistent with the Ministerial Direction No. 15 on the Planning Scheme Amendment Process.

#### **How does the amendment support or implement the State Planning Policy Framework and any adopted State policy?**

The Amendment is consistent with the objectives and strategies of the State Planning Policy Framework and the incorporated *Loddon Mallee North Regional Growth Plan (2014)*. The SPPF outlines key directions for the growth and development of regional Victoria, including strategies to maintain its competitive edge. These strategies and objectives include protection of agriculture through identification and protection of strategically significant rural areas and by limiting inappropriately dispersed urban activities in rural areas.

The amendment includes a new Municipal Strategic Statement and new Local Planning Policies which have been structured in accordance with the new Ministerial Direction.

It is considered that the amendment now includes an LPPF which is supported by, and generally consistent with the Ministerial Direction.

#### **How does the amendment support or implement the Local Planning Policy Framework, and specifically the Municipal Strategic Statement?**

The Amendment introduces an entirely new Municipal Strategic Statement which addresses the following key themes:

- Settlement and Local Areas
- Environment
- Natural Resource Management
- Built Environment and Heritage
- Economic Development



- Transport and Infrastructure

There are five Maps included in Clause 21 being:

- Map 1 Strategic Framework Plan
- Map 2 Swan Hill Town Structure Plan
- Map 3 Robinvale Town Structure Plan
- Map 4 Lake Boga Town Structure Plan
- Map 5 Nyah and Nyah West Town Structure Plan

The Amendment deletes two existing local policies at Clause 22.01 (Flooding) and Clause 22.02 (Car Parking) and introduces six new Local Policies being:

- Clause 22.01 Heritage
- Clause 22.02 Rural Dwellings
- Clause 22.03 Rural Subdivision
- Clause 22.04 Rural Land Uses
- Clause 22.05 Non-residential uses in residential zones
- Clause 22.06 Development in industrial zones

#### Table of proposed changes

The structure of the exhibited LPPF is proposed to align with the SPPF. The changes are summarised below:

<b>New Clauses</b>	<b>Content and Proposed Change in Amendment C73</b>
21.01 – Municipal Overview	Municipal Overview updates demographic data and key land use issues and a new Vision based on the Council Plan (2017-2021). Revises and reduces four existing framework plans into one rationalised Swan Hill Strategic Framework Plan.
21.02 – Settlement and Local Areas	This Clause provides local content to support Clause 11 (Settlement) and Clause 16 (Housing) of the State Planning Policy Framework and implements key aspects of the Council Plan (2017-2021). Sets strategic directions for managing growth, housing diversity, liveability and social trends. Elements of the existing LPPF including references to specific towns have been carried over from existing Clause 21.09 in the existing LPPF. Specifically, the clause inserts the existing strategic directions for Swan Hill, Robinvale, Lake Boga, Nyah and Nyah West with modifications and edits to improve clarity. Modifies, rationalises and updates existing Town Structure Plans.
21.03 – Environment	This Clause provides local content to support Clause 12 (Environmental and Landscape Values) and Clause 13 (Environmental Risks) of the State Planning Policy Framework and implements key aspects of the Council Plan (2017-2021). Retains existing strategic direction on the Murray River corridor, biodiversity, significant environmental assets, climate change, flood plains and bushfire with minor additions arising from Planning Scheme Review Report and the Regional Growth Plan.
21.04 – Natural	This Clause provides local content to support Clause 14 (Natural

Resource Management	Resource Management) of the State Planning Policy Framework and implements key aspects of the Council Plan (2017-2021). Completely modifies and rewrites the existing strategic directions for Agriculture based on the outcomes of the Rural Land Use Strategy (2016).
21.05 – Built Environment and Heritage	This Clause provides local content to support Clause 15 (Built Environment and Heritage) of the State Planning Policy Framework and implements key aspects of the Council Plan (2017 - 2021). Retains existing strategic directions for Built Environment and Heritage with additions arising from the Planning Scheme Review Report.
21.06 – Economic Development	This Clause provides local content to support Clause 17 (Economic Development) of the State Planning Policy Framework and implements key aspects of the Council Plan (2017 - 2021). Edits existing strategic directions for Commercial, Industrial and Tourism to improve clarity.
21.07 – Transport and Infrastructure	This Clause provides local content to support Clause 18 (Transport) and Clause 19 (Infrastructure) of the State Planning Policy Framework and implements key aspects of the Council Plan (2017 - 2021). Includes new Objectives and Strategies addressing Community Infrastructure and Development Infrastructure arising from the 'Infrastructure Design Manual'.
22.01 – Heritage Policy	Converts existing policy direction from Clause 21.07 into Clause 22.
22.02 – Rural Dwellings Policy	Inserts a new local policy drawn from the RLUS and elsewhere to provide direction for dwellings in the Farming Zone.
22.03 – Rural Subdivision Policy	Inserts a new local policy drawn from the RLUS and elsewhere to provide direction for small lot subdivision in the Farming Zone.
22.04 – Rural Land Use Policy	A new policy drawn from the Planning Scheme Review Report and elsewhere providing direction for the discretion available in the Farming Zone
22.05 – Non - residential uses in the residential zones Policy	A new policy drawn from the Planning Scheme Review Report, the Swan Hill Health Precinct Study and elsewhere providing direction for the discretion available in the new General Residential Zone.
22.06 – Development in industrial zones Policy	Converts existing policy direction from Clause 21.08 into Clause 22.

### Does the amendment make proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions?

The amendment introduces an entirely restructured Clause 21 and a modified Clause 22 based on the 2017 Ministerial Direction on Form and Content of Planning Schemes.

The amendment makes numerous changes to the zoning and overlay maps in the Swan Hill Planning Scheme as follows:

- Insert the Mixed-Use Zone (and schedule) to a site at the entrance to Lake Boga.
- Replace the existing Farming Zone with a new Farming Zone 1 and Farming Zone 2.

- Insert the Rural Living Zone in three locations near Robinvale, Nyah West and Swan Hill.
- Replace ESO1 mapping with an expanded area along the Murray River consistent with neighbouring Councils.
- Delete DDO6 and schedule from land near Lake Boga as it is no longer required.
- Delete DPO2 from land zoned Rural Living near Swan Hill as it is no longer required.
- Insert a new Parking Overlay in Swan Hill Township reflect the outcomes of the Swan Hill Parking Strategy (2016).

The amendment makes modifications to the Schedules to numerous clauses including:

- Replace the existing schedule to the Rural Living Zone (RLZ) with a minimum lot size of 2 hectares to manage subdivision and development in line with the recommendations from the RLUS.
- Delete the existing schedule to the Farming Zone (FZ).
- Insert two new Farming Zone schedules (FZ1 and FZ2) to manage subdivision and development in line with the recommendations of the RLUS.
- Make modifications to the schedules to the General Residential Zone, Industrial 1 Zone and Commercial 1 Zone to make them consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
- Make modifications to Schedules 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Special Use Zone to make them more consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
- Insert a new Schedule 1 to the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO1) to specifically deal with the Murray River corridor consistent with neighbouring municipalities and consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
- Insert a new Schedule 3 to the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO3) to specifically deal with Waterways, Wetlands and Lake Environs (other than affected by ESO1) consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
- Make modifications to Schedule 1 to the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO1) to update references to current regulations and consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
- Make modifications to Schedule 1 to the Design and Development Overlay (DDO1) to clarify referral and notice requirements and to be consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
- Make modifications to Schedule 2 to the Design and Development Overlay (DDO2) to modify design objectives and include references to the *Swan Hill Riverfront Precinct Master Plan (2013)* and to be consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
- Make modifications to Schedules 1, 2 and 3 to the Development Plan Overlay to restructure the schedule consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes and to include reference to the *Infrastructure Design Manual*.
- Insert a new Schedule to the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) to reflect the approach adopted to flood risk in other municipalities and to be consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.

- Insert a new Parking Overlay Schedule at Clause 45.09 to reflect the outcomes of the Swan Hill Parking Strategy (2016).
- Make modifications to the schedule to Clause 61.03 to update map references.
- Make modifications to the schedule to Clause 66.04 to include ESO1 and ESO3 and to introduce a generic reference to Water authorities.

It is considered that the amendment makes proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions.

The Amendment also complies with all the relevant Practice Notes.

### **How does the amendment address the views of any relevant agency?**

Relevant agencies have been involved in the preparation of much of the strategic work adopted by Council.

Relevant agencies were also consulted with during the Swan Hill Planning Scheme Review process and in the preparation of Amendment C73.

These and other agencies will be consulted throughout the exhibition process for Amendment C73.

### **Does the amendment address relevant requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010?**

The amendment will not have any impact on the transport system or on the Transport Integration Act, 2010.

### **Resource and administrative costs**

#### **• What impact will the new planning provisions have on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority?**

The amendment is expected to have minimal impact on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority in that the amendment effectively replaces the existing LPPF with a new and contemporary LPPF; and provides more extensive permit exemptions.

### **Panel hearing dates**

In accordance with clause 4(2) of Ministerial Direction No.15 the following panel hearing dates have been set for this amendment:

- directions hearing: Week commencing ??
- panel hearing: Week commencing ???

### **Where you may inspect this Amendment**

The amendment is available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at the following places:

- Swan Hill Rural City Council,
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, ??? Bendigo.

The Amendment can also be inspected free of charge at the:

Swan Hill Rural City Council website at [www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/](http://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/)

The amendment can also be inspected free of charge at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at <http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/planning/publicinspection>.

## **B.17.132 COMMUNITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION STRATEGY 2017-2021**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Development and Planning  
**File Number:** S05-24-01  
**Attachments:** 1 CAIS Strategy 2017-2021

### **Declarations of Interest:**

Helen Morris - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

### **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to present Council's Community Access and Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021 (CAIS).

The CAIS is Council's commitment to helping reduce barriers for people with disability to access services, programs, facilities and obtaining and maintaining employment for the next four years.

### **Discussion**

The CAIS went through a process to develop which included a literature review and consultation.

From this process five key priorities (along with goals) were established, each of which aligns with the Council Plan 2017-21. These are:

- Economic growth
- Community enrichment
- Infrastructure
- Governance and leadership
- Environment

Feedback was then sought from the community, services providers and internally through Council.

Changes were made to reflect all feedback received.

### **Consultation**

A media campaign was launched to provide the community the opportunity for feedback and input into the development of the CAIS through a range of methods:

- Surveys
- Focus groups and one-to-one-interviews with people with a disability, carers and service providers
- Community consultation sessions
- Listening posts at existing forums (where available)
- Direct contact with the RuralAccess program

Council staff also had the opportunity to provide feedback via staff surveys, team meetings with key units and workshops in Swan Hill and Robinvale.

Sixty-two members of the community provided feedback via a survey. Additionally, 11 service providers and 26 Council staff completed surveys.

A number of consultation activities were scheduled to inform the community and seek community feedback on this new strategy. These activities included:

- An open house at the Swan Hill Region Information Centre
- An editorial in the Swan Hill Guardian
- Information in the Mayoral Column
- Information packs provided for our Town Representative Groups via Council senior managers.
- Provision of information on Council's website and Facebook page

The draft CAIS was released for public comment for the designated 28 day period. Within that time 3 public forums were held, 1 in Robinvale and 2 in Swan Hill. These public forums had no attendance.

The CAIS was also presented to the Swan Hill Specialist School Parent Support Group and the local disability service providers network.

There was also no feedback or submissions received from the public.

### **Financial Implications**

The CAIS does not necessarily demand direct financial commitment. It puts into place strategies to reflect and prioritise the way Council maintains and designs some of its assets. It also provides the opportunity to inform other strategic plans (such as the major projects plan) to ensure the highest level of benefit to the greatest number of residents.

### **Social Implications**

The CAIS addresses attitudinal barriers that prevent people from participating in the community through work, leisure and everyday activities that many people take for granted.

Residents affected by a disability face barriers of disadvantage, such as employment, poverty and discrimination. This means that people with a disability do not have the same opportunities as people without a disability. Employment can contribute to a sense of identity and self-worth and have positive health impacts for some people with a disability.

### **Economic Implications**

Improving employment outcomes for people with a disability will provide significant benefits to workplaces and the economy. Employment can provide people with a

disability with increased income, higher living standards, financial independence and can also reduce demand on welfare systems.

With the roll out of the NDIS, the funding model will change for people with a disability and how they access services. People with a disability may start accessing and purchasing Council services directly in the same manner as traditional customers. Therefore, it will be more important than ever to ensure Council services and facilities are accessible and attractive.

### **Environmental Implications**

Nil

### **Risk Management Implications**

Ensuring Council's infrastructure and services are accessible to all of the community helps negate injury or accident. It also reduces the possibility of a complaint to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

*Community enrichment* - Help all people to find a place in our community.

### **Options**

1. Council adopt the CAIS
2. Council adopt the CAIS with amendments.
3. Council reject the CAIS.

### **Recommendation**

**That Council adopt the Community Access and Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021.**



# Community Access and Inclusion Strategy 2017-21





## Acknowledgements

Council would like to acknowledge and thank members of our community, local service providers and Council staff for providing valuable feedback and input into this document.

Swan Hill Rural City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, and pays its respects to their elders, past and present.

Copies of this document are available in a range of formats, including large print, Plain English and Easy English. Please contact us (details below) for your copy.

For questions relating to this document, please contact

Community Development Unit  
Swan Hill Region Information Centre  
Cnr McCrae and Curlewis Streets  
PO Box 488  
SWAN HILL VIC 3585  
Phone: 5036 2333



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## Mayor's message

Did you know that more than one third of people living in our municipality are affected by disability? Did you know that 5.4 per cent of our residents have a profound or severe disability requiring help with day-to-day activities? And this figure increases if we include people with temporary disabilities due to injury or illness.

Being home to an incredibly diverse population, inclusiveness is something we have always been proud of. We strive to ensure equity and access in providing all of our services and infrastructure. And while Council always aims to provide accessible services and facilities to our residents, the Community Access and Inclusion Strategy (CAIS) goes further into identifying opportunities to improve this for community members who are affected by disability.

Building on Council's previous Disability Action Plan (DAP), the CAIS includes a range of specific priority areas to help eliminate the barriers that might stop people with disabilities accessing and participating in our community.

Importantly, this document also recognises that its success depends on an 'access for all' way of thinking - a unified approach and strong partnerships between Council, service providers, organisations, businesses and individual community members.

The input and feedback received during the development of the CAIS, including contributions from residents with a disability, their carers, service providers and Council staff, is a fantastic example of this. This collaborative approach has resulted in a detailed localised strategy, with achievable outcomes that we know will make an impact.

So on behalf of Council, I'd like to thank everyone who provided input into the CAIS and helped shape this document. And I encourage everyone to join us in helping achieve access and inclusion for all.

## Introduction

The Community Access and Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021 (CAIS) is Council's commitment to helping reduce barriers for people with a disability to access services, programs, facilities and obtaining and maintaining employment.

The inclusion and participation of people with a disability in our community continues to be a challenge. Residents affected by a disability face barriers of disadvantage, such as employment, poverty and discrimination. This means that people with a disability do not have the same opportunities as residents without a disability.

People with a disability are more likely to report poorer health and wellbeing than that of a person without a disability. Of the two million Australians living with disability, 45 per cent live in or near poverty. That's more than 2.5 times the rate of poverty among the nation's general population.

People with a disability also have a higher unemployment rate of 9.4 per cent, compared to 5.8 per cent (March 2017) for those without a disability. And when they do work, they generally earn less compared to employees without a disability.

This CAIS reaffirms Council's commitment to improving the overall quality of life for people with a disability living, working and visiting our region, and ensuring our services and facilities are accessible and equitable.

A certain amount of flexibility has been built into the CAIS's implementation plan. This is in recognition of the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), which is scheduled to be implemented in our region 1 January 2019.

This document was developed with input from our community, including people with a disability, carers, service providers and Council staff. Community feedback was received via surveys, interviews, listening posts, focus group meetings and discussions with Council's RuralAccess Coordinator.

## Disability in our region

In our municipality, 22 per cent of our population (4,489 people), have a disability. In addition to this 12.7 per cent provide unpaid care. Both of these figures increase if people with temporary disabilities due to injury and illness are included.

Older residents (60 years and over) are the largest age group needing assistance, accounting for almost 63 per cent of all people identifying as having a disability.

According to Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data from 2011, of the 20,449 people living in our municipality, 5.4 per cent, (1,100 people), identified as needing assistance for daily activities due to a severe or profound disability. This is an increase of 4.6 per cent (939 people) since 2006. The Victorian state average is 5.7 per cent.

The statistics also show increases in people within the 20 to 59-year age group requiring assistance (2.3 per cent in 2006 to 2.9 per cent), and the number of residents providing unpaid care to a person with a disability, long-term illness or the aged (10.6 per cent in 2006 to 12.4 per cent).

## Council's commitment

Under the Local Government Act (1989), all councils have the responsibility to improve the overall quality of life for people in the local community and ensure services and facilities provided are accessible and equitable.

Swan Hill Rural City Council is committed to reducing the barriers that stop people with a disability from participating in day-to-day activities due to physical, economic and social constraints. As a local government organisation, Council is uniquely placed as a leader in the community to promote, advocate for and increase the access and participation of people with a disability.

Council also acts in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act (1992) by ensuring no discrimination exists based on a disability in any of the functions, infrastructure or services that it provides across our municipality.

Additionally, the CAIS follows on from Council's previous Disability Action Plan 2012-15 (DAP). A number of actions were achieved from the DAP, including:

- Review of parks around their use for people of all abilities.
- Shared walkway and access considerations incorporated into the Swan Hill Riverfront Masterplan.
- Hearing loops installed in the Swan Hill Town Hall PACC, Council's main offices in Swan Hill and Robinvale and the Heartbeat of the Murray laser light show at the Pioneer Settlement.
- A new accessible Council website conforming to W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.
- Accessible information available in alternative formats upon request for print material.
- Inclusive youth programs.
- Employment program support.
- Increased opportunities and support for people with a disability to participate in community events, programs and activities. Identification and actioning of barriers that may prevent them.
- Community events, programs and activities support.
- Continued advocacy for accessible and improved transport services.
- Development of an access appraisal list of priorities for Council infrastructure.
- Ensuring all property maintenance, upgrades and contractors meet AS 1428.1-5 requirements and implement Access to Premises amendments.
- Development of an Active Transport Strategy, including accessible walking networks.
- Identification of improvements needed for existing accessible parking bays and ensuring compliance with AS 2990.0-1.

## Council plans and strategies

This CAIS shares the same key result areas of the Swan Hill Rural City Council Plan 2017-21. The Council Plan articulates the municipality's strategic direction and details its commitments towards achieving its vision for the future. It includes a range of strategic objectives and initiatives that Council intends to undertake during the next four years to achieve this vision.

The five key strategic areas Council is committed to are:

- Economic growth
- Community enrichment
- Infrastructure
- Governance and leadership
- Environment

Council's vision and mission are:

### Our Vision

A prosperous and healthy community enjoying quality facilities and services.

### Our Mission

We will lead, advocate, partner and provide efficient services and opportunities for growth and the wellbeing of our community and environment.

Additionally, the CAIS links to a number of other Council strategies, policies and plans, including:

- Active Transport Strategy
- Charter of Human Rights
- Communication Strategy 2015-18
- Customer Service Strategy and Customer Service Charter
- Diversity Policy
- Footpaths in Road Reserves and Parks Policy
- Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Risk Management Policy
- Swan Hill Car Parking Strategy
- Swan Hill Riverfront Masterplan
- Youth Strategic Plan 2015-19

For more information about these documents, visit [www.swanhill.vic.gov.au](http://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au) or call in to Council's offices in Swan Hill or Robinvale.

## Relevant legislation

### State

A Fairer Victoria (2008)  
 Local Government Act (1989)  
 Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006)  
 Victorian Disability Act (2006)  
 Victorian Equal Opportunity Act (2010)  
 Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2019  
 Victorian State Disability Plan 2017-2020

### Federal

Disability Discrimination Act (1992)  
 National Disability Strategy 2010-2020

### International

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

## Other relevant documents

- Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) *Creating a More Inclusive Community for People with a Disability – A Strategic Framework for Local Government.*

## Working in partnership

Although Council is in a position to help achieve access and inclusiveness for all residents in our community, strong partnerships are needed. This includes partnerships between Council, service providers, community members, business, government and other organisations.

## Objectives

The CAIS details Council's commitment to improve the overall quality of life for people living in and visiting our region, and ensuring that services and facilities Council provides are accessible and equitable. The key objectives of the CAIS are:

- Reduce barriers to Council services, programs and facilities for people with a disability.
- Reduce barriers to people with a disability obtaining and maintaining employment.
- Increase inclusion and participation in the community for people with a disability.
- Improve community attitudes and perceptions that discriminate against people with a disability.

## Development

The information contained in the CAIS was developed through a review of the previous Disability Action Plan and via consultation with community members, service providers and Council staff (detailed below). A literature review was also conducted, including key organisational plans, strategies and documents, plus other documents from a range of other sources, including the MAV framework.

## Consultation

A campaign was launched through print, broadcast and online media, brochures, local newsletters and networks to raise awareness of the consultation process. The community had the opportunity to provide input and feedback into the CAIS development through:

- Surveys
- Focus groups and one-to-one-interviews with people with a disability, carers and service providers
- Community consultation sessions
- Listening posts at existing forums (where available)
- Direct contact with the RuralAccess program

Using a variety of consultation methods gave us maximum audience reach while ensuring all residents had the chance to provide input using a method they felt comfortable with.

Overall common themes from feedback received were:

- Better infrastructure, including:
  - access to and inside buildings and facilities
  - improved footpaths
  - more toilets at parks and accessible toilets inside other council facilities
  - more disabled parking
- Improved transport
- Improved education, awareness and promotion within the community regarding people with a disability and services.
- Improved education and awareness among employers, organisations and clubs regarding people with a disability and their abilities.
- Accessible information in an easy-to-read format
- Council to lead by example (such as employing people with a disability)



## Implementation Plan

Council will develop policies, strategies and plans to ensure best practices and outcomes are achieved for all community members within our local government area. There are five key priorities (along with goals) included in the CAIS, each of which aligns with the Council Plan 2017-21. These are:

### Key priority one: Economic growth

- 1.1 Increase inclusive employment opportunities for the people of Swan Hill
- 1.2 Raise awareness of the economic benefits of accessible businesses

### Key priority two: Community enrichment

- 2.1 Promote greater access and inclusion in our community
- 2.2 Promote awareness of the CAIS and its benefits to the community
- 2.3 Increase opportunities for meaningful inclusive community participation

### Key priority three: Infrastructure

- 3.1 Ensure Council buildings, facilities and infrastructure is accessible for all
- 3.2 Improve and upgrade current Council facilities and infrastructure to meet disability requirements
- 3.3 Promote and create readily available information on accessible infrastructure
- 3.4 Create new inclusive infrastructure

### Key priority four: Governance and leadership

- 4.1 Ensure we are NDIS ready
- 4.2 Take a lead role in increase the awareness, understanding and supports of people with a disability

### Key priority five: Environment

- 5.1 Continue to advocate for improved transport options within the municipality, including outlying areas.
- 5.2 Improve wayfinding and access in the community

# Implementation Plan – Action Plan 2017-2021

## Key priority one: Economic growth

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
<b>Goal 1.1 - Explore inclusive employment opportunities for the people of Swan Hill.</b>					
1. Investigate partnering with local service provider to re-establish animal nursery at the Pioneer Settlement.	Past externally-run program with positive community benefits. Ongoing community requests to reinstate and identified in consultation. Council circumstances have changed and commitment can be re evaluated.	Pioneer Settlement RuralAccess Murray Human Services Risk Management	2019	In kind - staff time	A review document completed with recommendations identified.
2. Investigate opportunities to use products and services from local disability enterprises where available.	Identified in consultation. Might provide better bottom line outcomes.	Procurement Depot Engineering Murray Human Services Task Force	2018 and ongoing	In kind - staff time	Meeting held with local disability enterprises with possible services identified, minutes taken and actions followed up.
3. HR to meet with Disability Employment Services (DES) annually to discuss local issues and possible	Common theme provided by DES in consultation	Human Resources Local DES	Yearly ongoing	In kind - staff time	One meeting held annually with DES, minutes taken and actions followed up.

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
partnership opportunities.					
4. Invite DES to present at managers meeting on the wage subsidy scheme.	Identified in consultation. Equality of opportunity in employment. May provide better bottom line outcomes.	Human Resources Managers Local DES	2017	No cost	DES invited to present on wage subsidy scheme at Managers' meeting.
5. Managers to review procedures within area and identify tasks that may be more suitable to be performed by DES clients.	Identified in consultation. Equality of opportunity in employment. May provide better bottom line outcomes.	Human Resources Managers Local DES	2017	In kind - staff time	Managers have reviewed work areas and reported to Human Resources on potential work tasks.
6. Implement wage subsidy scheme where applicable. Task have been identified.	Identified in consultation. Equality of opportunity in employment. May provide better bottom line outcomes.	Human Resources Local DES		Subject to external funding	Where applicable, wages subsidy program implemented with DES.
<b>Goal 1.2 - Raise awareness of the economic benefits of accessible businesses</b>					
1. Partner with and promote the 'Come in, we're accessible' campaign.	Shop accessibility raised numerous times during consultation. Inaccessibility has a negative effect upon businesses and the economy	RuralAccess Information Centre Robinvale Resource	2018	In kind - staff time	Conduct the campaign's self assessment at Swan Hill Splatt Street office, Information Centre and Robinvale Resource Centre, and action any identified issues.

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
	when customers who could be accessing goods and services cannot.	Centre Media RCS West Loddon Mallee Region Swan Hill Incorporated			Media campaign explaining campaign and its benefits to the community. Present at Swan Hill Incorporated meeting to promote the campaign, self assessments and where they can find help.
2. Brochure to advertise/raise awareness of Council services and venues.	The establishment of the NDIS will change the way people with a disability access Council services and venues.	Director of Community and Cultural Services Community Care Services Media External designer/ printer	2019	In kind – staff time Cost to design and print	Council services determined by 2019/20. Brochures created and updated to reflect Council services.

### Ongoing responsibilities

- Advocate for State Government support for additional funds to provide extra disability services and respite.
- Develop cross-sector partnership opportunities to capitalise on existing resources and services.
- Continue providing supported employment programs and flexible work practices for people with a disability, like voluntary work experience options, traineeship or scholarship opportunities and options to volunteer.

Key priority two: Community enrichment

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
<b>Goal 2.1 - Promote greater access and inclusion in our community</b>					
1. Raise awareness and continue to develop Council scooter charging station program.	There are over 120,000 mobility scooter users Australia-wide, a number that is expected to reach 280,000 within 10 years due to Australia's ageing population.	RuralAccess Media	2019	Budgeted through RuralAccess Program	Increase of available recharge stations within the community. Media campaign highlighting availability of stations and benefit to the community.
2. Promote the visitswanhill website's events page to service and event providers and the community.	When asked about challenges in finding out about services, programs and events in the community, almost half of responses identified troubles in finding information.	Media Swan Hill Incorporated	2018	In kind – staff time	Email sent to local service providers, sporting and community groups with information regarding the events page and its use Media campaign highlighting the events page to the community.
3. Provide more information to people regarding accessible options at the Town Hall.	Increases peoples ability to make informed choices and venue marketability.	PACC Media IT	2018	In kind – staff time	Sign created displaying access options for the Town Hall Sign displayed at Information Centre, Town Hall foyer and booking website. Sign converted to flyer and distributed where appropriate.

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
<b>Goal 2.2 - Promote awareness of the CAIS and its benefits to the community</b>					
1. Ensure the CAIS is available on the Council's website, including progress updates on a regular basis.	Represents Council's commitment to community enrichment.	IT RuralAccess	2017 and ongoing	In kind – staff time	The CAIS is accessible on Council's website. Two progress reports are uploaded annually.
2. Submit the CAIS to the Australian Human Rights Commission for formal registration and actively promote its initiatives to the community.	Represents Council's commitment to community enrichment.	RuralAccess Media	2017	No cost	CAIS is submitted and registered with the Australian Human Rights Commission.
3. Information on the CAIS included in staff newsletter, including updates on key achievements.	Data from staff consultation showed that 54 per cent of staff surveyed were unaware of the DAP.	RuralAccess Human Resources	2017 and ongoing	In kind – staff time	Article included in staff newsletter annually.
4. Develop Plain English and easy English formats of the CAIS.	Once the CAIS has been adopted additional formats will make it accessible to a broader percentage of the community.	RuralAccess External Service	2017	Budgeted through RuralAccess Program	CAIS available on Council's website in Plain English and Easy English formats.

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
5. Repeat original staff survey to help gauge effectiveness of CAIS through Council.	Information from surveys will help identify areas where more awareness or training may be required.	RuralAccess	March 2019	In kind – staff time	Original staff survey repeated and results reflected in CAIS report.
<b>Goal 2.3 - Increase opportunities for meaningful inclusive community participation</b>					
1. Support community events and opportunities that raise the benefits and value of people with a disability in our community.	When community members were asked when they most feel a part of the community, every answer given described actively participating in the community.	RuralAccess Youth Inc PACC External service providers Community groups	Ongoing	Inkind – staff time, venue use Costing dependent on activity and Council involvement	Four activities ran annually or supported through financial or in kind support.
2. Provide subsidised use of Town Hall for disability specific events/performance.	It takes more than physical integration to achieve community connectedness, social integration strengthens individuals quality of life and is essential in addressing attitudinal barriers within the community.	PACC RuralAccess Youth Inc	2018 Ongoing	Internally funded Costing dependent on activity	Minimum of 3 subsidised events per year. One inclusive to the Swan Hill Specialist School.

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
3. Create a project brief and seek funding for the creation of a permanent IT/multimedia lab at library.	The library and its programs were repeatedly identified positively throughout the consultations.	Library RuralAccess Works department Engineering department State/Federal governments	2019	Inkind – staff time Costing to be established as part of project brief	Project brief created. Included in 10 year major project list.
4. Investigate the Establishment of a technology program at our libraries.	This style of program has been requested by community members and has shown great benefits where established in other communities (for example thelab.org.au).	Libraries RuralAccess	2018	Inkind – staff time, equipment, venue Dependent on required costs to purchase additional infrastructure.	Technology program established at the library.
5. Review options for screen reading support on Council website.	Having accessible information online was raised in consultation, current contract will be due for review.	IT RuralAccess	2021	Costs to be determined	Options reviewed and contract renewed or alternative option sourced.
6. Install a communication board at Barry	Communication and education was raised in the consultation as a common	RuralAccess RCS West Loddon	2018	Costs to be determined	Communication board installed.

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Community Access and Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021



Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
Steggall Park.	barrier to community participation.	Mallee Region Engineering department Works department			
7. Investigate feasibility of communication boards at other key community facilities. Costing and funding for additional boards sought.	Communication and education was raised in the consultation as a common barrier to community participation.	RuralAccess RCS West Loddon Mallee Region Community Development Engineering department Works department	2019	Costs to be determined	Meeting held with community groups and service providers, locations and content identified. List of feasible locations created. Funding streams identified.
8. Promote and support local International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) events.	An internationally recognised day and a great opportunity to provide inclusive activities within the community.	RuralAccess Mallee Sports Assembly Progressive Unity Swan Hill (PUSH) network, Community groups	Ongoing	Inkind – staff time, venue use Other costing dependent on partnerships and Council involvement	An annual event held.
9. Facilitate community focused education	Education and awareness was raised in the consultation as one of the two main	RuralAccess Progressive Unity	2018 and ongoing	Inkind – staff time, venue	Provided/supported a minimum of one training session annually.

Community Access and Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021

Actions	Why/Justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
sessions.	barriers to community participation.	Swan Hill (PUSH) network, Community Groups, External training providers		use. Other costing dependent on partnerships and Council involvement	
10. Review current Town Hall programming and promotion with the view to provide more accessible content/performance options.	To ensure that more residents and visitors to Swan Hill can enjoy touring performances.	PACC	2018	Inkind – staff time	Accessible Programs created with PDF's available.

**Ongoing responsibilities**

- Deliver aged and disability services to eligible members of the community by providing adequate and equitable access to services.
- Regularly promote all services available to people with a disability or mental illness.
- Ensure the community planning process incorporates the whole community, including people with a disability.
- Continue to enforce Councils footpath trading policy
- Market and provide alternative options of communication for people with a disability and to Council staff.
- On request, make available Council publications and information in alternate formats.

Community Access and Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021

- Continue to maintain the Council website according to W3C guidelines, including screen reader function.

Community Access and Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021

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## Key priority three: Infrastructure

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
<b>Goal 3.1 - Council buildings, facilities and infrastructure is accessible for all as resources available</b>					
1. Through assets inspection and ongoing building inspections inspect for access.	Infrastructure was one of two main barriers raised by the community during the consultation.	Works department Engineering department	Ongoing	Dependent on required costs to upgrade facilities. Internal and external funding will be needed.	Increase in Council buildings accessible to people of all abilities.
2. Request through budget process that Council commit an annual budget to retro fit existing Council infrastructure that does not meet accessibility standards.	All new buildings and building works need to comply with accessible building standards. But to effectively address accessible infrastructure additional resources need to be committed to retrofitting.	ELT Works department Engineering department RuralAccess	Ongoing	In kind – staff time	Budget request successful.
3. Review lift procedure and use at the Swan Hill Town Hall PACC.	Common theme in consultation.	PACC	2018	In kind – staff time	Lift is available to be used independently when required.
4. Review option to make stage lift	Currently only a service lift is	PACC	2019	In kind – staff	Options sought including costing and

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Community Access and Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
safe for public wheelchair use.	available with no designated wheelchair access to main stage.			time	potential actions.
5. Develop a strategic method to identify and prioritise footpath upgrades within the municipality.	Footpaths were identified in the consultation as a key barrier to access, particularly in outlying communities.	Engineering department Works department Community Planning	Ongoing	Costing to be determined	Missing Links Footpath Strategy developed and actioned.
6. Review accessibility at Riverside Park sound shell.	Currently only wheelchair access from street entry	Engineering department	2020	In kind – staff time	Options sought including costing and potential actions.
<b>3.2 - Improve and upgrade current Council facilities and infrastructure to meet disability requirements as resources available</b>					
1. Investigate providing toilet facilities at all Council parks and reserves where no facilities are available.	Identified in community consultation.	Engineering department	2021	In kind – staff time	Public Toilet Strategy developed.
2. Develop a strategic method to ensure where toilet facilities are available at least	Identified in community consultation.	Works department Engineering department	Review 2017-2018 Strategy	Internal and external funding will	Review of public toilets completed Public Toilet Strategy developed including recommendations.

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
one is an accessible unisex sanitary facility.		State/Federal governments	2018-2019	be needed.	
3. Progressively update toilets to meet accessible requirements for all Council buildings, including the Swan Hill Regional Library and Swan Hill Town Hall.	During community consultation, the Library and Town Hall were identified as needing attention.	Engineering department Works department Library RuralAccess	Ongoing	Internal and external funding will be needed.	Review of public toilets completed Public Toilet Strategy developed including recommendations. Feasible changes are actioned.
4. Provide extra facilities in existing toilets, such as shelving, handrails, etc.	Request for shelving was made during consultation.	Engineering department Works department	2018/19	To be determined	Shelving units supplied in accessible toilets. Handrails retro fitted to create ambulant facilities where feasible.
5. Ensure redevelopment of Council's front counter is access friendly.	Accessibility of Council facilities was raised in consultation.	Works department Engineering department	2018/19	Internally	New accessible front desk at Council Splatt Street office.
6. Address wheelchair access at Robinvale Community Arts Centre.	Identified in staff consultation.	Robinvale Community Arts Centre Works department RuralAccess	2018 Inspection Ongoing dependant on work required	In kind – staff time To be determined	Robinvale Community Arts Centre is accessible to wheelchairs.

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
		Engineering department			
7. Review TGSi usage and ensure installation on both sides of crossing when used.	Identified in consultation.	Engineering department Works department	2019 Ongoing	In kind – staff time To be determined	All intersections with TGSi available have installations on both sides.
8. Investigate alternative mobility options for transport between the ticket booth and the amphitheater for Heartbeat of the Murray.	Identified during staff consultation and OHS concerns raised.	Pioneer Settlement RuralAccess Occupational Therapist	2018/19	In kind – staff time. Internal budget committed	Options sought including costing. Alternative transport option provided.
9. Scope costs and funding to modify Leisure Centre hoist to a H frame.	Community and service provider feedback expressed that the current single beam hoist does not meet user requirements.	Belgravia Leisure Works department	2021	To be determined.	Project scoped. Costing and funding sought.
10. Ensure Disabled Parking is to standard.	Raised consistently throughout consultation.	Engineering department		In kind – staff time.	Ensure all future developments or redevelopment adhere to current Australian Standard 2890.6-2009.

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
<b>3.3 - Promote and create readily available information on accessible infrastructure</b>					
1. Create an accessibility overlay for interactive map available on Council website.	Mobility map requested by the community.	Engineering department IT	2017 Ongoing	In kind – staff time.	Accessible options available for interactive map.
2. PDF version of accessibility map available in hardcopy at Council office front counters and on Council's website.	To ensure the map is more broadly available.	Engineering department IT Customer Service	2018	In kind – staff time.	Map available and accessible for public use.
3. Educate and encourage people on how to lodge service requests when they identify access issues within the community.	Having the community lodge service requests helps identify, prioritise and action issues with Council infrastructure.	Media Engineering department	2018	In kind – staff time.	Media campaign, including examples like the Council's website and third party phone apps.
4. Guide dog stickers on entrances.	Promoting Guide dog acceptance proactively advocates and raises awareness throughout the community.	RuralAccess Customer service	2017-05-22	In kind – staff time	Sticker displayed on Council buildings that provide direct customer service.



Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
5. Create an accessibility map for the Pioneer Settlement.	Improves customer experience and marketability.	Pioneer Settlement	2019	In kind – staff time. Cost to print maps May require external designer	Map available for public use.
<b>Goal 3.4 - Create new inclusive infrastructure</b>					
1. Investigate feasibility of designated scooter parking in key community locations.	There are over 120,000 mobility scooter users Australia-wide, a number that is expected to reach 280,000 within 10 years due to Australia's ageing population.	Engineering department Local Laws RuralAccess Occupational Therapist	2021	In kind – staff time.	Options reviewed and report presented to ELT.
2. Investigate feasibility of a Changing Places sanitary facility.	Considered to be best practice infrastructure. Funding opportunities available.	Works department	Ongoing	\$160,000	Project brief created and funding sought if determined feasible.
3. Construct new accessible bus shelters.	Commitment to accessible infrastructure.	Engineering department	2017	Internal budget committed	Eight new accessible bus shelters constructed.

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
		Works department		and external funding through Transport of Victoria	Investigate feasibility of bus shelter at corner of Campbell and McCallum street

**Ongoing responsibilities**

- Ensure all property maintenance upgrade and contractors commit to meet AS 1428.1-5 requirements.
- Ensure any future planning and development of infrastructure – especially recreation, sporting and playground facilities include ‘Access for All’ principles.
- Prioritise remedial repairs of all footpaths according to footpath hierarchy and ensure all footpath renewals or upgrade are constructed to standards.
- Work with the Works Manager and VicRoads to audit and identify safe pedestrian crossing locations for major arterial routes.

Key priority four: Governance and leadership

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
<b>Goal 4.1 - Ensure we are NDIS ready</b>					
1. Support NDIS associated peak bodies to keep the community and local service providers informed regarding the roll out of NDIS in our municipality.	The NDIS will directly or indirectly effect the lives of all people with a disability.	Federal/State governments RuralAccess Media	Ongoing	In kind – staff time	Information disseminated (when and where appropriate, for example existing networks like PUSH).
2. Investigate Council becoming a service provider under the NDIS.	The NDIS reform will potentially change how Council provides services to the community.	Director of Community and Cultural Services	June 2018	In kind – staff time	Options paper presented to Councillors.
<b>Goal 4.2 - Take a lead role in increasing the awareness, understanding and supports of people with a disability</b>					
1. Work with local service providers and provide support to identify gaps and training opportunities.	Education and awareness was raised in the consultation as one of the main barriers to community participation.	RuralAccess Progressive Unity Swan Hill (PUSH) network Community Groups	Ongoing	In kind – staff time	PUSH meetings attended. Minutes taken with community groups/service providers. Training options and project briefs developed.
2. Facilitate and support local training opportunities on	Education and awareness was raised in the consultation as one of the main barriers to	RuralAccess Progressive Unity	Ongoing	In kind – staff time,	Facilitate a minimum of two training sessions annually.

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Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
identified gaps and issues.	community participation.	Swan Hill (PUSH) network Community Groups External training providers		venue use Other costs dependent on partners and Council involvement	
3. Establish a 'Walk in our shoes' campaign to educate Councillors and management about key disability issues in accessing the community.	Suggested in community and staff consultation.	RuralAccess Management Councillors Community members with disability Local service providers Media	2019	In kind – staff time	'Walk in our shoes' activities undertaken with media promotions.
4. Create communication boards at Council's Swan Hill Splatt Street office front desk and information desk.	Carried over from previous DAP.	RuralAccess Customer Service RCS West Loddon Mallee Region	2018	In kind – staff time Cost budgeted through RuralAccess program	Communication boards available at main office front desk and information desk.
5. Promote alternate options for Council's print	Common theme in consultation	Media	June 2018	In kind – staff time	Article promoting the availability of alternative options included in Council

Community Access and Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
material.		Governance			newsletter. Public document templates adjusted to add statement of availability in the footer.
6. Disability specific training available to staff online as part of e3learning and delivered in person.	Identified in staff survey.	Human Resources RuralAccess	e3learning -2021 In person training 2017 and ongoing	Inkind – staff time Cost dependent on training options	Disability specific training available through e3Learning on staff portal. Minimum of one disability specific training made available to staff annually.
7. Create a disabilities resource with information and links for easy staff access.	Identified in Staff Survey.	Human Resources IT RuralAccess	June 2018 Ongoing	Inkind – staff time	Disabilities resources site made available to staff on Alfresco.
8. Facilitate training on creating inclusive events for staff who plan and facilitate community programs.	The consultation reinforced the importance to people with a disability being able to actively participate in community events.	Human Resources RuralAccess External training provider	2021	Cost to be determined	Training delivered to relevant staff.
9. Investigate applying for the Communication Access symbol.	Program supported by NDIS ILC grant funding.	RuralAccess RCS West Loddon	2021	Cost to be determined	Report created and presented to ELT.

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Estimated cost	Measured by
		Mallee Region SCOPE			
10. Partner with Belgravia Leisure to support the YouMeUs inclusive training package for staff.	A training package that is being developed specifically for Belgravia Leisure.	Belgravia Leisure YouMeUs RuralAccess	2021	Costed through Belgravia Leisure	Training provided.
11. Develop a best practice document about accessibility for live performance.	Everyone benefits when access is better, including performers, attendees, people making deliveries, people with heavy baggage, families with young children and those with prams.	PACC	2018	Inkind – staff time	Document created and available to the public.

**Ongoing responsibilities**

- Promote and enforce Local Laws regulations for compliance with footpath trading and illegal parking in accessible parking bays.
- Continue to ensure all Council Band 3 and below positions descriptions are in easy-to-read English.
- Include 'Access for All' principles when drafting new or reviewing existing strategic plans or policies.

Key priority five: Environment

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/partners	Time frame	Est cost	Measured by
<b>Goal 5.1 - Continue to advocate for improved transport options within the municipality, including outlying areas</b>					
1. Advocate for funding through the Transport Connections Group.	Transport was identified as a major barrier throughout consultations, particularly by service providers trying to cater for outlying communities.	RuralAccess Coordinator Community Development	Ongoing	In kind – staff time	Attended Local Mallee Transport Forums. Participated in appropriate working groups as identified in the options paper currently being developed.
2. Review access at rail crossings in Swan Hill and advocate to VicTrack for accessible pedestrian crossings where appropriate.	Raised in consultation, currently there is no footpath access to the Federal Square area and at the Pioneer Settlement/Art Gallery.	Engineering department	Review 2019 Initial conversati on 2019 Ongoing	In kind – staff time	Report created with recommendations. Date of initial meeting with Victrack, minutes taken and actions followed up.
<b>Goal 5.2 - Improve wayfinding and access in the community</b>					
1. Promote wayfinding signage.	It is generally taken for granted that people are aware of their surroundings and can navigate from one place to another. However, for an	Media	2021	In kind – staff time	Article explaining wayfinding signage included in Council Newsletter.

Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Est cost	Measured by
	individual with a disability, finding your way in often complex surroundings can be difficult.				
2. Review wayfinding, investigate additional options such as braille, tactile and new technology where feasible.	It is generally taken for granted that people are aware of their surroundings and can navigate from one place to another. However, for an individual with a disability finding your way in often complex surroundings can be difficult.	Engineering department IT	2018 ongoing	Inkind – staff time with costs to be determined	Report created and costing sought to replace signage where feasible.
3. Run a media campaign highlighting the importance of accessible footpaths and the public responsibility to keep clear.	Footpath access was raised numerous times throughout consultation.	Local Laws Media Rural/Access	2021	Inkind – staff time	Media release sent to local media outlets and included in Council Newsletter.
4. Investigate options for augmented reality use within the community.	Advances in technology create greater opportunities for inclusive participation and may have positive flow on effects for tourism.	IT Media Rural/Access EDU Youth Inc Library	2021	Cost to be determined	Report delivered to ELT.



Actions	Why/justification	Responsibility/ partners	Time frame	Est cost	Measured by
		Pioneer Settlement Art Gallery			

**Ongoing responsibilities**

- Advocate on behalf of the whole community for an accessible community bus program across the district.
- Ensure new and renewed signage is compliant with standards.

## Implementation and management

Performance against the Community Access and Inclusion Plan will be monitored six-monthly and reported to Council annually.

Council reporting, review and evaluation will take place in accordance with the timeframes listed below.

Requirement	Due date
Adoption by Council	August 2017
Six-monthly review	February 2018
Annual review and report to Council	August 2018
Evaluation and redevelopment of Implementation Plan – Action Plan	February 2019

## Evaluation

Evaluation questions:

1. Has Council achieved what it set out to do?
2. Has there been a notable change in accessibility for all community members?
3. Do people with a disability in our municipality feel more included?
4. What worked and what needs to be improved or changed?

## References

- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Australian Human Rights Commission
- Commonwealth Government, 1992, Disability Discrimination Act (1992)
- Municipal Association of Victoria
- Swan Hill Rural City Council website and profile.id data.
- Victorian Government, 2016, Absolutely Everyone: State Disability Plan 2017-2020
- Victorian Government, 2006, Victorian Disability Act (2006)
- Victorian Government, 2008, A Fairer Victoria
- Victorian Equal Opportunity Act (2010)
- Local Government Act (1989)
- Swan Hill Rural City Council Plan 2017-21
- Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2019
- National Disability Strategy 2010-2020
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

## Glossary

**Alternate formats** – This terminology is about providing information in other formats for people who might have very limited or no vision at all. Alternate formats that need to be considered when catering for all levels of vision impairment include:

- Audio – either audio cassette, DVD or CD with fast forward options to skip each topic that is not of interest.
- Large print – font size minimum 16 points in non-serif fonts as described above.
- Website – organisation’s website needs to be compliant with the international W3C standards for web design and targeted content must be in Word format (screen readers cannot read PDFs).

**Auslan** – Visual-gestural language used by the deaf community.

**Australian Standards** – Building standards legislation that includes ‘Access to Premises’ in the AS 1428.

**Barrier** – The term ‘barrier’ refers to an obstacle that might be encountered that restricts a person with a disability from fully participating in community life.

**Changing Places** - Changing Places Toilets are an improvement on standard accessible toilets. Each Changing Places toilet provides: a height adjustable adult-sized changing table, a tracking hoist system, enough space and a safe and clean environment.

**Come in, we’re accessible** – A program providing information to support businesses to meet the legal and community expectations of fair ‘Access for All’ to goods, services and opportunities.

**Communication board** – Communication boards are picture-based communication aids that help people who have difficulty communicating their needs verbally or have language difficulties. They might have an alphabet, pictures of Council services or tourism venues.

**Communication Access symbol** - A symbol that means that the business or service you are visiting is communication accessible, staff have had relevant training and alternative communication options are available

**DDA** – Disability Discrimination Act (1992) is Commonwealth legislation that protects the rights of people with a disability in the areas of employment, education, access to premises, provision of goods, services and facilities, accommodation, buying land, activities of clubs and associations, sport and administration of Commonwealth Government laws and programs.

**Easy English** - Uses simpler language than plain English, minimal punctuation, images to support headings and key messages, larger font sizes and plenty of white space.

**Hearing loop** – A device installed into a room that allows people who use hearing aids to hear more clearly.

**IDPWD** – International Day of People with a Disability is held annually on 3 December and celebrates people’s abilities.

**NDIS** – National Disability Insurance Scheme – visit [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au) for more information.

**PDF** - Portable Document Format is a file format used to present and exchange documents reliably, independent of software, hardware, or operating system.

**PUSH** - Progressive Unity Swan Hill network is a group of community members, local and outreach disability services with a purpose to work collaboratively to improve the quality of life for people with disability

**RuralAccess** – An initiative of the Department of Human Services with local rural councils that aims to build the capacity of local communities and is inclusive of people with a disability.

**Screen reading support** – A program reads web pages aloud for people who find it difficult to read online content. Reading large amounts of text on screen can be difficult for those with literacy difficulties, dyslexia, mild visual impairments and those who speak English as a second language.

**Simple English** – Documents written to a literacy level equivalent to year eight.

**TGSI** – Tactile Ground Surface Indicators purpose is to provide a tactile surface on public pathways & access routes that can be felt underfoot and recognised as a warning of impending pedestrian hazard, particularly to the vision impaired, but also as an added safety precaution to all pedestrians.

**Visitswanhill** – Tourism website for the Swan Hill region - <https://www.visitswanhill.com.au>

**W3C** – Standards for website accessibility for people with a vision impairment who might use computer technology to access web information.

**Wayfinding** – Refers to all of the ways in which people orient themselves in physical space and navigate from place to place.

**Walk in our shoes** – Refers to experiencing something from someone else's perspective.

**YouMeUs** – Is a staff learning program about inclusion in leisure centres.

### **B.17.133 DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017-2021**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Development and Planning  
**File Number:** S24-24-01  
**Attachments:** 1 Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021

#### **Declarations of Interest:**

Helen Morris - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

#### **Summary**

All Victorian Councils are required by the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to prepare and implement a four year Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) to guide decision making in relation to animal management for dogs and cats.

#### **Discussion**

This four year plan builds on the 2013-2017 DAMP and provides the framework for the planning, development and evaluation of animal management services and programs delivered by Swan Hill Rural City Council and complies with the requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

The aim of the Swan Hill Rural City Council Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021 is to ensure the effective management of domestic animals within the municipality. This includes the establishment of a framework to guide future service programs that are informed and action orientated through to 2021. It sets priorities that are achievable and measurable within current allocated resources.

The format of the DAMP is structured with a template provided by the Department of Agriculture to be completed by each Council. Topics to be covered include:

- Training of authorised officers
- Registration and identification
- Nuisance
- Dog Attacks
- Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs
- Over Population and High Euthanasia
- Domestic Animal Businesses
- Other Animal Matters
- Annual Review of Plan and Annual Reporting

#### **Consultation**

There is no requirement under the Act to undertake consultation for the preparation of a DAMP. However in line with best practice and the community's interest in animal welfare, Council did seek the views of the community.

The Draft DAMP 2017-2021 was made available on Council website for two weeks under „have your say“ for the community to provide feedback. Copies of the Draft DAMP 2017-2021 were also sent to local veterinarians, animal businesses and other service providers to provide feedback.

Council receive one submission from the RSPCA who provided some feedback which resulted in minor changes to appropriate terminology.

### **Financial Implications**

The DAMP has been prepared so that the majority of its actions can be completed within operational budget and resourcing. If additional funding is required, they will be subject to separate budget submissions.

### **Social Implications**

Council recognises that the DAMP must carefully balance the needs of pets, pet owners and those who don't own pets. The plan is designed to respond strategically to the needs of the community as a whole.

### **Economic Implications**

Nil.

### **Environmental Implications**

Nil.

### **Risk Management Implications**

Council is required to prepare and adopt a DAMP. Failure to do so would be in breach of the Domestic Animal Act 1994.

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Community enrichment*** - Provide services and support initiatives that create a Healthy and Safe Community.

### **Options**

- 1) Council adopt the DAMP.
- 2) Council adopt the DAMP with amendments.
- 3) Council reject the DAMP..

**Recommendation**

**That Council adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP).**



# Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-21





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## 1. Introduction

Council is committed to advocating for and working towards achieving positive community and animal welfare outcomes. The welfare and care of all companion animals is important within the municipality. Council will aim to keep the community safe and protecting animal welfare by educating the community on responsible pet ownership and performing legislative functions as required.

### What is a Domestic Animal Management Plan?

All Victorian councils are required by the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to prepare and implement a four year Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) to guide decision making in relation to animal management for dogs and cats. The scope of the DAMP does not include activities for the management of wildlife, horses, livestock or pest animals.

This four year plan builds on the 2013-17 DAMP and provides the framework for the planning, development and evaluation of animal management services and programs delivered by Swan Hill Rural City Council and complies with the requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (DAA).

### Legislation

Section 68A of the DAA requires Council to develop a DAMP at four year intervals that addresses the following:

- Set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the Council in its municipal district are adequate to give effect to the requirements of this Act and the regulations; and
- Outline programs for the training of Authorised Officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council's municipal district; and
- Outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district; and
- To promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats; and
- To ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation; and
- To minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and
- To address any over population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and
- To encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and
- To minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and
- To effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations; and
- Provide for the review of existing orders made under this Act and Local Laws that relate to the Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or Local Laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in municipal district are desirable; and
- Provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it deems necessary; and
- Provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined in this Plan.

Every Council must—

- (a) Review its Domestic Animal Management Plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the Plan;
- (b) Provide the Secretary with a copy of the Plan and any amendments to the Plan; and
- (c) Publish an evaluation of its implementation of the Plan in its annual report.

## Council aims

The aim of Swan Hill Rural City Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021 is to ensure the effective management of domestic animals within the municipality. This includes the establishment of a framework to guide future service programs that are informed and action orientated through to 2021. It sets priorities that are achievable and measurable within current allocated resources.

Council encourages people to manage dogs and cats in ways that protect the health and welfare of these companion animals, and considers needs of the broader community by encouraging responsible pet ownership practices.

## Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to provide Council and the community with a clear and concise statement as to how Council administers animal management by:

- Documenting current processes and practices under the Swan Hill Rural City Council animal management responsibilities.
- Minimising non-compliance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994.
- Increasing pet owner's knowledge of the principles of responsible pet ownership and enhancing community safety and awareness of the benefits of its annual registration.
- Supporting the Regulatory Services team to achieve its stated objectives of reducing the numbers of dogs and cats being impounded and euthanised.
- Maximising the numbers of dogs and cats that are registered.
- Reducing the harmful effect of domestic pets on the population of native birds, mammals and reptiles.
- Take into account the broader community views on animal management matters.
- Comply with the relevant provisions of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

## Development

This plan has been developed based on the outcomes and learning's from the previous Domestic Animal Management Plan, as well as a review of the existing data in areas such as complaints, dog attacks, registrations and impoundments.

Council recognises that the plan must carefully balance the needs of pets, pet owners and those who don't own pets. The plan is designed to respond strategically to the needs of the community as a whole.

Community feedback and consultations with key stakeholders including veterinarians, animal businesses and other service providers have also informed the plan. The predominant issues identified include:

- Increasing compliance with the Act
- Identification of potential off-leash areas
- Reduce the number of stray and wandering cats
- Investigation and introduction of 'on-leash' and other local laws relating to dogs and cats towards responsible pet ownership
- Increased education and enforcement in relation to domestic animal management

## Administration

The Regulatory Services Department is responsible for domestic animal management. By implementing this plan Council will endeavor to provide a service that meets both community expectations and compliance obligations under the DAA.

## 2. Council profile

Swan Hill Rural City has a population of 20,584 people according to the 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data. It is principally an agricultural and horticultural region of 6,116 km<sup>2</sup>, bordered by the Murray River which is the water source for irrigation, domestic, industry, and recreational pursuits.

The municipality consists of two large service centres, being Swan Hill and Robinvale, and a number of smaller towns including Lake Boga, Manangatang, Beverford, Nyah, Nyah West, Piangil, Ultima, Woorinen and Woorinen South. The predominant employment sectors are agriculture, forestry and fishing and retail trade.

### Domestic animal statistics and data

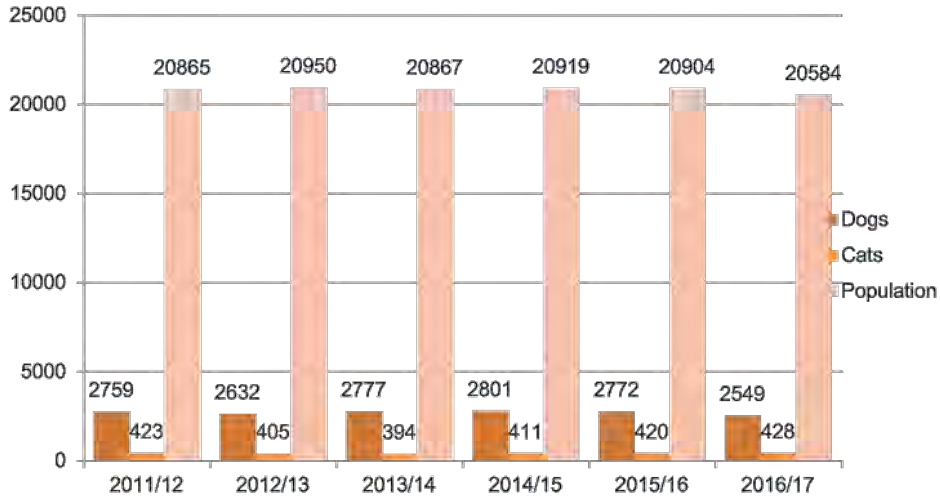
The tables below provide an overview of animal management data from 2013-2017 financial years.

Dogs	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Number of registered dogs	2777	2801	2772	2549
Number of microchipped dogs that were impounded		104	104	84
Number of impounded dogs (excluding surrendered)	338	227	230	165
Number of dogs surrendered		45	59	23
Number of impounded dogs returned to owners	129	101	102	77
Number of dogs re-housed	183	141	154	98
Number of dogs euthanised	26	29	24	13
Number of dangerous dogs in municipality	6	5	6	4
Number of menacing dogs in the municipality	2	4	2	2
Number of restricted breed dogs in municipality	1	0	0	1

Cats	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Number of registered cats	394	411	420	428
Number of microchipped cats that were impounded		7	13	10
Number of cats impounded (including trapping program and excluding surrendered)	267	255	260	110
Number of cats surrendered		18	8	14
Number of cats returned to owners	9	7	20	17
Number of cats re-housed	17	75	68	68
Number of cats euthanised	241	189	180	91
Number of cat traps hired	152	214	137	163
Wild cats trapped			152	66

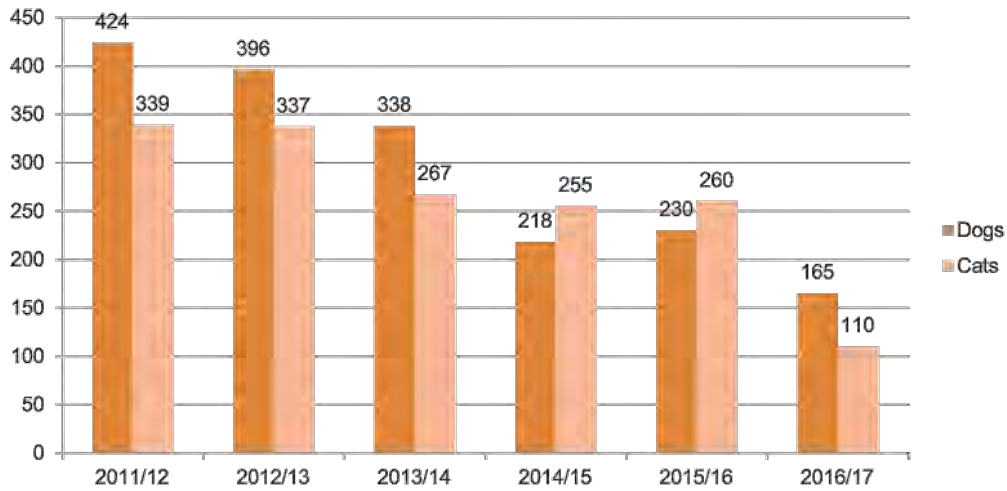
### Animals registration

The graph below indicates that animal registrations have remained constant with population growth over the past few years.



### Animals impounded

The graph below indicates that the number of dogs and cats impounded has continually decreased.



## Animal Management Team profile

There has been a steady increase in residents requesting assistance from Council with animal related issues and an increasing interest in planning for the needs of pet owners. This is not surprising given that around a third of all households own one or more pets as well as pet ownership now being recognised as having health and social benefits.

Animal management services are currently provided by our Regulatory Services Officers who supervise and enforce statutory requirements under a number of acts, regulations, codes of practice and local laws.

Our Officers undertake proactive initiatives to minimise nuisance and risk to safety of the community. This includes education and provision of advice, negotiation with residents and proactive patrols of parks and reserves.

An emergency after hour's service is provided by an external operator for the response to animal emergencies like dog attacks and livestock on roads.

The team currently consists of the following:



### 3. Training of Authorised Officers

#### Context

This section outlines training for authorised officers to ensure that they can administer and enforce the requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 in the Council's municipal district.

Actions in this section address section 68(A)(2)(b) to ensure that all staff involved in animal management have the necessary skills and knowledge to carry out their statutory functions.

#### Current situation

Currently, all of Council's Authorised Officers are trained to the required standards in order to perform the requirements under the legislation. Employees involved in animal management are provided with a mix of on-the-job training, structured courses and industry training in order to ensure that they are competent in their roles.

Duties of all officers include responsibilities under a large variety of legislation. Domestic animal management services forms only a part of each officer's role. These responsibilities includes Local Law administration, livestock control, parking enforcement, production of Local Laws Permits, preparation of infringement and offence prosecutions, administration of fundraising and events and litter control.

Council currently employs the following animal management staff:

EFT	Position	Completed certificate IV in Statutory Compliance	Completed certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation
1 EFT	Senior Authorised Officer	Completed	Completed
1 EFT	Senior Authorised Officer	Completed	Completed
1 EFT	Authorised Officer	Completed	Completed
1 EFT	Authorised Officer	Completed	Completed
1 EFT	Authorised Officer	Completed	Completed
0.6 EFT	Administrative/Compliance Officer	Certificate IV Legal Services	Diploma of Management
1 EFT	Public Health and Regulatory Services Administration Officer		

Additional training for individual Authorised Officers is assessed annually as part of Council's performance review process to ensure ongoing development in their competencies. See appendix A for a full list of current and planned officer training.

## Our plans

One of the key initiatives to facilitate the successful delivery of the Domestic Animal Management Plan is to ensure all employees involved in domestic animal management have the knowledge and skill set necessary to undertake their statutory roles in a safe and professional manner.

### Key objectives:

- Develop a training policy that clearly identifies minimum training requirements
- Be aware of current trends and changes in animal management legislation and best practice
- Conduct a review of internal processes

### Performance measures:

Objective 3.1: Develop a training policy that clearly identifies minimum training requirements		
Activity	When	Evaluation
3.1.1 - Identify minimum training requirements by consultation with management and staff.	30 June 2018	Documentation to be finalised and incorporated into an approved council training policy by 30 June 2018.
3.1.2 - Identify additional training opportunities by consultation with management and staff including issues related to domestic violence.	30 June 2019	To be incorporated into officers' performance reviews 2018/19.

Objective 3.2: Be aware of current trends and changes in animal management legislation and best practice		
Activity	When	Evaluation
3.2.1 - Officers to attend a relevant conference conducted by peak bodies per annum.	Annually	Attendance at conference and feedback to Regulatory Services Unit.
3.2.2 - Officers to utilise social media and websites to ensure they are up to date with current information.	Monthly	Demonstrated improved knowledge of current trends and changes in legislation reflected in practice.

Objective 3.3: Conduct a review of internal processes		
Activity	When	Evaluation
3.3.1 Review internal policies and procedures relating to investigation, compliance and enforcement processes to accommodate legal and other changes and ensure consistent application by Authorised Officers.	Annually	Procedures and other related documents are updated and approved, officers are trained and competent.
3.3.2 - Officers to utilise social media and websites to ensure they are up to date with current information.	Annually	Demonstrated improved knowledge of current trends and changes in legislation are reflected and updated in procedures.



## 4. Registration and identification

### Context

To outline programs, services and strategies to encourage registration and identification of dogs and cats.

Actions in this section address section 68A(2)(c)(v) and 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the Domestic Animal Management Act.

### Current situation

The most effective way to improve animal management is to maximise the number of domestic animals that are registered and identifiable to help return animals home.

Current identification and registration activities implemented by Council include:

- Animal registration renewal notices sent out in February each year.
- Annual registration renewal follow up including:
  - Reminder notices sent out after 10 April
  - Telephone audit
  - Door knock
- All animals released from the pound facilities must be microchipped and registered.
- Council's website is used to help reunite lost pets with their owners as there is a dedicated lost pet's page.
- Staff regularly maintain and update the animal registration database.
- New animal registrations applications received from 1 January until 10 April each year will be registered until 10 April the following year.
- At least one free animal microchipping day is run each year.

Current number of animals currently registered with Council:

Animal Registration	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Dogs	2777	2801	2772	2549
Cats	394	411	420	428
Number of declared dogs in municipality	6	5	6	4

Officers actively undertake compliance activities to ensure the appropriate registration and identification of animals throughout the municipality. These activities include:

- Conducting follow up of owners who have not renewed their animal registration.
- Conducting patrols of the municipality.
- The investigation of unregistered animal complaints.
- Monitoring of advertisements in local papers and newsletters relating to animals for sale to ensure microchip numbers are provided as per the Act.
- Ensuring all animals impounded are identified, registered and microchipped before release.
- Conducting follow up on registration for animals notified as sold by domestic animal businesses.
- Regularly updating and auditing Council's registration database to ensure data is correct (for example ensure notification of deceased animal, change of owner or change of address).
- If an animal is found to be unregistered, the owner is given time to register animal and information is recorded in the Animal Registration Notification Book to ensure follow up is conducted and animal is registered.

## Our plans

To increase the numbers of dogs and cats registrations within the municipality and to educate the community regarding the requirement for Council registration.

### Key objectives:

- Increase the number of animal registrations
- To promote community understanding of Responsible Pet Ownership

### Performance measures:

Objective 4.1: To increase animal registration numbers		
Activity	When	Evaluation
4.1.1 - Ensure all seized and impounded animals are registered to their owner prior to release.	Prior to every release	Review annual increase in registration numbers. Review number of dogs and cats being seized and impounded that are not registered to their owner.
4.1.2 - Continue to provide at least one annual free micro-chipping day.	Annually for life of plan	Undertake a cost benefit analysis to ascertain if the income generated is reflective of the cost output.

Objective 4.2: To promote community understanding of Responsible Pet Ownership		
Activity	When	Evaluation
4.2.1 - Improve the use of existing community networks to distribute and share information.	Annually	List of networks identified, contacted and engaged.
4.2.2 - Increase the distribution of information on Responsible Pet Ownership through media releases, social media and availability of pamphlets at key locations throughout the municipality.	Ongoing	Ensure information packs distributed to a number of locations i.e. Vets, pet stores.

## 5. Nuisance

### Context

Actions in this section address section 68A(2)(c)(vi) and 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) by outlining programs, services and strategies to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance

### Current situation

The most common complaints received by Council's Regulatory Services Department are roaming animals and barking dogs. Dogs roaming or dogs not adequately confined to their premises are also a nuisance to the general public and a hazard to motorists. Council's Authorised Officers utilise the DAA and Local Laws to resolve these matters.

Wandering cats continue to be a concern. There is a lack of containment with owners allowing their cats to be outside during the day and night, wandering neighborhoods and having an impact on flora and fauna. Council Officers are collecting almost half as many stray cats as the number of registered cats each year. Unowned domestic or wild cats are a nuisance in the community and create a risk for domesticated cats. Council have provided the following numbers of cat traps to the community in the past three years:

Year	Number of traps
2014/2015	214
2015/2016	138
2016/2017	164

Council and the community continue to experience a real problem with roaming wild cats. This creates a serious problem with nuisance behavior such as spraying, fighting, home invasion and spreading diseases. Wild cats also have a large impact on the number of native birds. Through education, animal owners will be made aware of the need to de-sex their cats, confine domestic cats to their property, report wild cats and be involved in trapping programs to reduce wild cat numbers.

In the past three years the following number of roaming animal complaints have been received:

Year	Number of complaints
2014	293
2015	272
2016	238

The number of complaints received has decreased each year. This may be attributed to activities listed below under taken by Council as well as the promotion of responsible pet ownership.

Current Council activities in place to minimise the number of nuisance complaints:

- Provide barking dog information booklets and barking dog diaries to those affected;
- Information regarding nuisance animals made available on Council's website;
- Encouraging de-sexing of cats and dogs to reduce the number of wandering incidences;
- Providing information on cat enclosures;
- Providing advice to owners of pets with behavioral issues;
- Authorised Officers available to present to schools and community groups on responsible pet ownership;

- Implementing the cat trapping program and provision of cat traps to local residents for trapping trespassing cats on their property;
- Patrols of the municipality;
- Recording all animal nuisance and wandering complaints allowing Authorised Officers to detect repeat offenders;
- Issuing Notices to Comply and infringement notices where applicable, and;
- Investigating nuisance complaints in a prompt manner.

## Our plans

To support and encourage animal owners to manage their domestic animals in a responsible way which minimises the potential for nuisance complaints:

### Key objectives:

- Reduce the number of animals at large in particular cats/wild cats
- Educate the community about animal nuisances

### Performance measures:

Objective 5.1: To reduce the number of animals at large in particular cats/wildcats		
Activity	When	Evaluation
5.1.1 - Purchase additional cat traps.	June 2019	Review number of current cat traps and number of cat trap requests. Purchase additional cat traps to meet demand.
5.1.2 – Investigate (and initiate if feasible) cat desexing funding.	August 2018	Applications for funding submitted if available.
5.1.3 - Explore new partnerships with local veterinarians and community groups to address cat nuisance issues and another animal welfare matters in the region.	June 2018	Establish community networks and collaboration with local veterinary practices, pet businesses, community groups and neighboring Councils.

Objective 5.2: Educate community about animal nuisances		
Activity	When	Evaluation
5.2.1. Review and update educational material regarding Dog and Cat nuisance issues on Council's website	Annually	Material to be reviewed and updated annually.
5.2.2 – Update links on website to provide information about wildcats including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• destruction of native fauna</li> <li>• spread of disease through domestic cat population</li> <li>• injuries to domestic cats from fighting</li> <li>• excrement and spraying</li> <li>• home invasions by wildcats</li> <li>• unwanted pregnancies / overpopulation</li> </ul>	March 2018	Information available on website.

## 6. Dog attacks

### Context

Actions in this section outlines programs and strategies to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals and is consistent with Section 68A(2)(c)(iii) and Sections 68A (2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the Act.

### Current situation

Confinement of dogs is a priority as wandering dogs increase the risk to other pets, humans and livestock, and consumes time and resources of Authorised officers. Reports of dog attacks on both people and animals are increasing. This is possibly due to public awareness of the need to report this issue to Council.

Often when a dog attack is reported, officers find that it is a recurrence of an offence that went unreported previously. Had initial attacks been reported, subsequent attacks may have been averted. Education is still required to encourage community members to report dogs at large, dogs rushing and dog attacks of all types (minor or serious).

In the past three years, Council has investigated and managed the following numbers of dog attacks:

Year	Attacks on people	Attacks on livestock	Attacks on other animals
2013/2014	9	7	4
2014/2015	13	19	21
2015/2016	11	15	17
2016/2017	8	19	16

Council strives to minimise the risks of dog attacks to the community and animals from menacing, dangerous or restricted breed dogs. Council regularly implements measures to ensure that risk to the community is controlled, reduced or removed completely.

Council provides the following activities to minimise the number of dog attacks within the municipality:

- Conducting thorough investigations of all dog attacks reported.
- Issuing of infringement notices where relevant, including for non-serious dog attacks.
- Seizing and impounding of dogs in circumstances where the owners properties are believed to be unsecure to ensure dogs can be secured prior to release of the dog back to owner.
- Proactive patrols of parks and streets for wandering dogs.
- Declarations of dogs deemed to be dangerous, menacing or restricted breeds.
- Issuing infringement notices for dogs at large.
- Prosecuting matters pursuant to the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Further compliance and enforcement measures include:

- Responding to all wandering dogs reports.
- Attending after hours emergency dog complaints.
- Attending to all reports of dogs showing aggressive behavior as a matter of urgency.
- Investigating all alleged dog attacks and instigating legal action as required.
- Declaring animals as menacing or dangerous as required.
- Ensuring the effective enforcement of controls that are put in place under state legislation, local laws and council orders.
- Investigation of reported attacks, and follow up on compliance.

Council has an internal procedure in relation to dog attacks on people or other animals. Following an investigation a prosecution brief is prepared. Each brief is reviewed by the Co-ordinator of Public Health and Regulatory Services, who then makes further recommendations to the Director of Development and Planning who determines appropriate course of action and final approval.

## Our plans

To minimise the risk of dog attacks on people and animals.

### Key objectives:

- To reduce the number of dog attacks across the municipality
- Education regarding responsible pet ownership in particular dogs at large

### Performance measures

Objective 6.1: To reduce the number of dog attacks across the municipality		
Activity	When	Evaluation
6.1.1 - Undertake routine patrols across the municipality with a focus on dogs at large.	Daily	Record to be kept of location of patrols in Sysaid when investigating complaints.
6.1.2- Publicise key dog attack prevention messages (e.g. confinement of dogs to property, such as a checklist to ensure your backyard is safe and secure for containing your dog with regular community reminders including fence heights for rural residential blocks, through media and updated website information.	Ongoing	Backyard containment material produced. Checklist developed and available on website, through mailouts and Customer Service Centres.
6.1.3 - Awareness campaign for both property/stock owner and animal owner re: potential destruction of dog found in paddock with stock.	Ongoing	Record number of media releases.

Objective 6.2: Education regarding responsible pet ownership in particular dogs at large		
Activity	When	Evaluation
6.2.1 - Media release (newspaper, Facebook), Website.	School Holiday periods	Record number of media releases .

## 7. Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs

### Context

Actions in this section address 68A(2)(c)(vi) and 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) – by outlining programs, services and strategies to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with the DAA and the regulations.

### Current situation

Swan Hill Rural City Council has the following declared dogs currently registered within the municipality:

Declared Dogs 2017	
Restricted breed dogs	1 (deceased)
Registered declared dangerous dogs	4
Registered declared menacing dogs	2

The DAA defines restricted breed dogs as any one of the following breeds:

- Japanese Tosa
- Fila Brasileiro
- Dogo Argentino
- Perro de Prasa Canario (or Presa Canario)
- American Pit Bull Terrier (or Pit Bull Terrier)

Council's Animal Management Officers are trained in identifying restricted breed dogs and respond to reports or sightings of possible restricted breed dogs.

Council undertake the following activities to monitor restricted breed, dangerous and menacing dogs within the municipality:

- Attend all complaints relating to suspected restricted breed, dangerous and menacing dogs.
- Conduct annual inspections and random audits of all declared dangerous dog sites to ensure compliance.
- Seize dogs suspected of being a Restricted Breed Dog.
- Declaration included on all registration renewal forms as to the status of the animal under restricted breed legislation.
- Infringement notices issued for detected breaches.
- Prosecution instigated where required.
- Council provides information and links on Council's website.
- Issuing media releases relating to legislative changes and updates.

## Our plans

To minimise the risks of dog attacks to the community and animals from menacing, dangerous or restricted breed dogs.

### Key objectives:

- To obtain a high level of compliance from the owners of dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dogs
- Increase Officer awareness of location of declared dangerous or menacing dogs to improve safety when attending premises

### Performance measures:

Objective 7.1: To obtain a high level of compliance from the owners of dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dogs		
Activity	When	Evaluation
7.1.1 - Undertake inspections of all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs with zero tolerance for non-compliance as detailed in the Domestic Animals Regulations 2005.	Annually	All properties audited and owners compliant with requirements.
7.1.2 - Continue community messaging with regard to dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs. Includes scheduled and ad-hoc topics across the year via social media, media releases, website.	Ongoing	Record number of media releases.

Objective 7.2: Increase Officer awareness of location of declared dangerous or menacing dogs to improve safety when attending premises		
Activity	When	Evaluation
7.2.1 - All locations where declared dangerous dogs are kept will be identified on Council's Exponare mapping system.	As required	Council's Exponare mapping system to be updated to record the properties where declared dangerous dogs are kept.



## 8. Overpopulation and high euthanasia

### Context

Actions in this section address Sections 68A(2)(c)(iv) and 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f)- by outlining programs, services and strategies to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.

### Current situation

Council is committed to ensuring that all unclaimed animals are given the opportunity to find a new home. Council strives for positive community and animal welfare based outcomes wherever possible and works hard to reunite animals with owners at first point, without taking animals to the pound.

Council's pound and euthanasia procedures are guided by the Domestic Animals Act 1994. Council aims to wherever possible return any lost or seized at-large animal to its owner. However, an animal must be identifiable (ID tag or microchip) to enable Council to do this. All unidentifiable animals are advertised on Council's website for eight days.

After eight days, animals unclaimed from the pound, and are suitable for rehousing, are relocated through an 84y agreement with a rehousing organisation. It is important to note that a large number of impounded and euthanised cats are wild cats.

There is a large unchecked wild cat population which creates a serious problem of uncontrolled breeding and attacks on native wildlife. It is important that community members differentiate owned from unowned cats, and take responsibility for owned animals by registering, micro-chipping, desexing and securely confining them to their property.

Council assists property owners with cat trapping to remove unwanted and unowned animals. In meeting this commitment, Council continues to advocate and work closely with animal welfare groups under a Section 84y agreement to ensure stray animals are re-homed.

Below provides an overview of impounded animals that were rehomed, rehoused and euthanased:

Impounded animals	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
<b>Dogs</b>				
Returned to Owner	129	101	102	77
Rehomed	183	141	154	98
Euthanased	26	29	24	13
<b>Cats</b>				
Returned to owner	9	7	20	17
Rehomed	17	75	68	68
Euthanased	241	189	180	91

In 2016/17 188 dogs were impounded. 40% of those dogs were reclaimed by their owner, 52% were adopted and 8% were euthanased as they were unsuitable to be re-homed.

In 2016/17 176 cats were impounded. 10% of cats were reclaimed by their owner, 39% were adopted and 51% were euthanased as they were wild and uncontrollable feral cats.

Council currently provides compliance activities are provided for the management of overpopulation and high euthanasia rates within the municipality:

- Ensuring all unregistered cats and dogs are micro-chipped and registered prior to being released to owner;
- Investigating all alleged breeding establishments;
- Enforcing Council Local Laws pertaining to the prescribed number of animal allowed on a property, and;
- Providing humane trigger plate traps under strict guidelines to residents to trap wild and trespassing domestic cats.

## Our plans

To increase levels of responsible pet ownership of cats, reduce unwanted and uncontrolled breeding in domestic animals and retain low euthanasia rates for impounded animals.

### Key objectives:

- To continue encouraging de-sexing of animals within the municipality
- Continuance of Section 84Y agreement/s with approved animal rescue organisation/s

### Performance Measures:

Objective 8.1: To continue encouraging de-sexing of animals within the municipality		
Activity	When	Evaluation
8.1.1 - Discount registration fees for cats and dogs that are both de-sexed and micro-chipped.	Annually	Number of new animals registered in this category yearly.
8.1.2- Media campaigns promoting the benefits of de-sexing.	Ongoing	Record number of media releases.
8.1.3 - Seek funding opportunities at a regional level to support reducing the costs of desexing programs.	July 2018	Identification of opportunities for a regional desexing program with neighboring Councils and seek funding opportunities with State Government bodies.

Objective 8.2: Continuance of Section 84Y agreement/s with approved animal rescue organisations		
Activity	When	Evaluation
8.2.1 - Maintain current 84Y agreements.	Annually	Agreement renewed.
8.2.2 - Investigate and instigate additional 84Y agreements.	Ongoing	Suitable agreements implemented.

## 9. Domestic Animal Businesses

### Context

This section address 68A(2)(c)(ii) and 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(d),(f) – by outlining programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation.

### Current situation

There are six Domestic Animal Businesses within the municipality. This includes two Council pound facilities, with one located in Swan Hill and the second in Robinvale. There is one pet shop and three pet boarding establishments.

Council's provides the following activities in working with domestic animal breeding businesses include:

- Annual registration and renewal of Domestic Animal Business permits.
- Conduct regular audits of the Domestic Animal Businesses to ensure compliance with regulations.
- Supply and distribution of information related to domestic animal businesses and the relevant codes of practice.
- Inspection of suspected animal business activity.
- Investigation of reports/complaints.

### Our plans

Council to work in partnership with Domestic Animal Businesses to ensure compliance with relevant standards and to protect the welfare of animals.

### Key objectives:

- Identify unregistered domestic animal business owners and operators
- Identified Domestic Animal Businesses to be compliant with legislation

### Performance Measures:

Objective 9.1: Identify unregistered domestic animal business owners and operators		
Activity	When	Evaluation
9.1.1 - Follow up possible DAB's identified during property inspections and complaint/notifications from public.	Ongoing	Identified DAB's registered with Council.
9.1.2 - Check media sources / social media for advertisements.	Ongoing	Data entered to sysaid & reviewed quarterly.

Objective 9.2: Identified Domestic Animal Businesses to be compliant with legislation		
Activity	When	Evaluation
9.2 .1 - Conduct an annual inspection to ensure all identified Domestic Animal Businesses (DAB) within the shire are registered and comply with applicable legislation and Codes of Practice.	Ongoing	100% of all DAB's inspected prior to renewal and action taken for any non-compliance. Annual permit renewals sent.
9.2.2 – Ensure Council pounds are fit for purpose and can meet current and increase animal management demands.	July 2018	Undertake a feasibility study to determine if current pounds are adequate for current and future trend activities.
9.2.3 – Ensure Council pound processes reflect best practice standards.	Annually	Review current pound policy and procedures.

## 10. Other matters animals

### Context

This section provides for the review of other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district.

The actions in the section address 68A(2)(e) Provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary.

### Municipal Emergency Management - Current situation

Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan briefly includes response and relief of animal management in an emergency. The Municipal Emergency Management Plan MEMP was endorsed by Council on 17 October 2017.

### Our plans

Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan to contain current and relevant information for the relief and recovery functions of animal management in an emergency.

### Key objective:

- To conduct an annual review of Animal Management in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan

### Performance measure:

Objective 10.1: To conduct an annual review of Emergency Animal Management Plan (EAMP)		
Activity	When	Evaluation
10.1.1 – Review Animal Management functions in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan to ensure current and up to date.	Annually	Reviewed animal management section submitted to Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.

## 11. Annual review of Plan and annual reporting

### Context

This section provides for the annual review of the plan and annual reporting. Under section 68A(3) of the Domestic Animals Act, every Council must:

- a) Review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan.
- b) Provide the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan.
- c) Publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

### Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Process

The monitoring of the performance of the plan will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the DAA. In addition, Council will continue to conduct its monthly monitoring of the performance of the Animal Management Unit.

The key performance measures within this Domestic Animal Management Plan are to be monitored on a monthly basis by the Co-ordinator of Public Health and Regulatory Services in conjunction with the Regulatory Services Team.

The results of this monthly monitoring will enable Council to adjust the Plan ahead of the annual review. The results are also reported to Council's Executive Management Team meetings, which are conducted on a weekly basis.

A review of performance under the DAMP is required to be included in Council's Annual Report. Measurements should relate to activities and targets in this Plan and should include educational programs, increased registration of domestic animals, reduction of animal's at large, decreased numbers of dog attacks, and increases in compliance and levels of community satisfaction as a measure of success.

It should be noted that if performance under the DAMP is not sufficient, further revision of the Action Plan and its methods may be required and should be recommended.

### Review cycle/date for this Plan

This plan will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Co-ordinator of Public Health and Regulatory Services. The Plan will be reviewed and a new Domestic Animal Management Plan will be completed on or before 30 June 2021.

## Appendix A

### Current and planned training for Authorised Officers

Authorised officer training – basic	Current	Planned
<b>Industry training:</b>	Completed by all Authorised Officers.	Refresher courses as required.
Animal handling		
Breed identification		
Animal assessment		
Statement taking and brief preparation		
Evidence presentation and prosecution skills		
Loading and unloading animals		
Emergency first aid for domestic animals		
Court etiquette training		
Court warrants, issue and filing		
Conflict resolution		
Aggressive dog handling		
<b>Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) training</b>	Completed by all Authorised Officers.	Refresher courses as required.
Animal control equipment use and care		
Animal handling induction		
Animal handling practical skills and practice		
Manual handling		
Emergency evacuation procedures		
Dealing with aggressive customers		
Conflict resolution		
Council policies and procedures		
<b>Bureau of Animal Welfare – Training and information seminars, for example dangerous, restricted breed and menacing dogs</b>	Officers to attend on a rotational basis	As offered.
<b>Municipal Association of Victoria and local government professionals – training and information days</b>		
<b>Induction Program for new staff</b>	As required	As required
Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation		
Certificate IV Government statutory and compliance		

## **B.17.134 10 YEAR MAJOR PROJECTS PLAN 2018/19 TO 2027/28**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Corporate Services  
**File Number:** S15-06-04  
**Attachments:** 1 10 Year Major Projects Plan

### **Declarations of Interest:**

David Lenton - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

### **Summary**

A Major Projects Plan covering the financial years 2018/19 to 2027/28 has been prepared and is being presented for Council adoption.

### **Discussion**

The 2018/19 to 2027/26 Major Projects Plan includes projects covering the entire municipality as well as ongoing programs of works to replace and maintain key infrastructure.

Continued development of the Swan Hill Riverfront remains as a key aspect of the Plan. Works in and around Robinvale over the next ten years include establishing a Public Library, Town Levee banks, Bromley Road beautification, drainage improvements, Robinvale Caravan Park works and project scoping for the extension of the Robinvale Leisure Centre.

Community planning funding of \$2.9 million over 10 years includes projects across all the smaller townships in the Municipality. Many of these projects will also attract matching grant funding. The plan allocates \$54 million in capital funding for roads over ten years including expected ongoing Roads to Recovery funding. This funding is in addition to ongoing maintenance expenditure. A number of projects focus on improving efficiency through IT initiatives, solar power and improved asset management.

Priorities within the plan have been assessed on a number of factors, including whether the project maintains existing service levels, or increases them, statutory or regulatory imperatives, compliance with existing Council plans and strategies, the availability of external funding sources to help cover the cost of each project and the expected overall ability of Council to fund the items within the plan, based on the current Long-Term Financial Plan.

The final list of projects submitted for the 2018/19 year will be subject to the financial constraints determined through the 2018/19 budget process. Projects in future years will be similarly constrained. In addition, it is possible that some of the projects may change priority in the future due to a number of factors including availability of external funding, community demand, legislative changes etc.

### **Consultation**

Council regularly receives suggestions, both formally and informally, for items to be considered for funding. Many of the projects in the plan have been subject to a specific consultation and/or community planning process.

### **Financial Implications**

Given funding constraints, it is inevitable that many worthwhile projects cannot be included in the Plan. Several projects are included on the basis that the required external funding will be forthcoming. These projects will not proceed otherwise.

### **Social Implications**

Various projects within the plan will assist Council in improving community wellbeing.

### **Economic Implications**

As well as the direct economic benefit from project expenditure within the Municipality many of the projects will assist business through better transport links or increased tourist visitation.

### **Environmental Implications**

Many of the projects within the plan will improve environmental outcomes through improved drainage systems, reduced green-house gas emissions or improved landfill operations.

### **Risk Management Implications**

The Risk Management implications for each project are assessed individually as part of the project scope.

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Effective and efficient utilisation of resources.*** - Effective and efficient utilisation of resources.

### **Options**

1. These were considered during the review of the draft plan.

### **Recommendations**

#### **That Council:**

1. **Adopt the 10 Year Major Projects Plan 2018/19 to 2027/28 as presented.**
2. **Refer the projects identified for the financial year 2018/19 to the budget process.**





10 Year  
**MAJOR PROJECTS PLAN**  
2018-19 to 2027-28

## **Asset Expenditure Types**

### **Capital Renewal**

Expenditure on an existing asset or a portion of an infrastructure network, that returns the service potential or the life of the asset up to its original level, e.g. resurfacing a sealed road, renewing a section of a drainage system.

### **Capital Upgrade**

Expenditure on an existing asset or infrastructure network that provides a higher level of service to users, e.g. widening the pavement and sealed area of an existing road, replacing drainage pipes with pipes of greater capacity.

### **Capital Expansion**

Expenditure on extending an infrastructure network to a new group of users, e.g. extending a drainage or road network, etc at the same standard as currently enjoyed by other residents.

### **New Assets**

Expenditure in providing new infrastructure to an existing or new group of users, e.g. construction of roads, drains, recreational facilities at a new residential subdivision.

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28											
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
31	Preliminary Design - Municipal Office Replacement	Acquisition & Disposal of Council Properties	Operational	3195	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Preliminary Design - Municipal Office replacement or extension.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Unallocated	200,000	(200,000)	0	0	0	
32	Construction Municipal Office Replacement	Acquisition & Disposal of Council Properties	Capital - New Asset	7195	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Potential long term project to relocate to a new municipal office in Swan Hill.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Unallocated	20,000,000	(14,000,000)	0	0	(6,000,000)	
59	Strategic Land Purchases	Acquisition & Disposal of Council Properties	Capital - New Asset	7195	Year 1 (2018-19)	102,500	(102,500)	0	0	0	Establish funding pool to enable Council to pursue strategic land purchases as opportunities arise.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	52,500	(52,500)	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	52,500	(52,500)	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	55,000	(55,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	55,000	(55,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	55,000	(55,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	58,000	(58,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	58,000	(58,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	60,000	(60,000)	0	0	0	
					Unallocated	62,000	(62,000)	0	0	0	

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28											
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
212	Swan Hill Aerodrome - Installation of Jet Fuel	Aerodrome	Capital - New Asset	7510	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Provision of Jet Fuel.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0	
Unallocated	100,000	(100,000)	0	0	0						
56	Art Gallery Extensions	Art Gallery	Capital - Upgrade	7880	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Alterations and extensions to the Art Gallery. Location and nature of building to be determined following completion of Riverfront Commercial Development Strategy.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	1,410,000	(490,000)	(920,000)	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	4,460,000	(960,000)	(3,500,000)	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0	
Unallocated	0	0	0	0	0						
117	Print & Drawing Awards	Art Gallery	Operational	3880	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Biannual Awards.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	30,000	(14,000)	0	(16,000)	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	31,000	(14,500)	0	(16,500)	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	32,000	(15,000)	0	(17,000)	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	33,000	(15,500)	0	(17,500)	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	34,000	(16,000)	0	(18,000)	0	
Unallocated	34,680	(16,300)	0	(18,380)	0						

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28												
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost			Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources			
185	Upgrade Asset Management System	Asset Management	Operational	3460	Year 1 (2018-19)	5,000	(5,000)	0	0	Upgrade Predictor model (SAM Components) to be able to calculate Renewal Demand and Data Validation.		
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	5,000	(5,000)	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	5,000	(5,000)	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	5,000	(5,000)	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	5,000	(5,000)	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
Unallocated	5,000	(5,000)	0	0								
186	Asset Condition Survey	Asset Management	Operational	3460	Year 1 (2018-19)	75,000	(75,000)	0	0	Develop Asset Management Strategy for ongoing condition assessment of all asset classes. Year 1 focus is on Buildings and funding will get data for approx 75% of them.		
					Year 2 (2019-20)	75,000	(75,000)	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	75,000	(75,000)	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
Unallocated	0	0	0	0								
187	Upgrade of Authority - Asset Management	Asset Management	Operational	3460	Year 1 (2018-19)	55,000	(55,000)	0	0	Purchase additional Civica (Authority) modules and reconfigure to allow for remote data collection and work order allocation.		
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
Unallocated	0	0	0	0								

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28											
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
4	Pritchard St - Upgrade Drainage Main	Drainage	Capital - New Asset	7400	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Flooding problems - Wonnon, Thurlia & Dunstone Streets - recommended by PPK in storm water drainage strategy. Continuation of previous upgrade works in this area. Stage 4 = the section between Dunstone & Thurlia Streets and Stage 5 = the section along Thurlia Street & Wonnon Court.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	220,000	0	0	(220,000)		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	220,000	0	0	(220,000)		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
	Unallocated	0	0	0	0						
22	Drainage Improvements Murray Valley Hwy R'vale	Drainage	Capital - Upgrade	7400	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Construction of Culvert under the Murray Valley Highway near the Latje Road intersection. Seek VicRoads funding.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
	Unallocated	125,000	0	0	(125,000)						
23	Main Drain Extension - East/West Williams Road Swan Hill	Drainage	Capital - Upgrade	7400	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Extend concrete lining of Main Drain 150 lineal metres east of Williams Road and install concrete headwall and beaching west of Williams Road, Swan Hill.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	130,000	(130,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	90,000	(90,000)	0	0		
	Unallocated	0	0	0	0						

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28												
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost			Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources			
49	Replacement of Breen Street Drain, Ultima	Drainage	Capital - Renewal	7400	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Replacement of old, open, brick lined drain in Breen St, Ultima with underground drainage.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	160,000	(160,000)	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
Unallocated						0	0	0	0			
123	Robinvale Drainage stormwater pipeline continuation and pump station	Drainage	Capital - New Asset	7400	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Complete construction of 1200mm diameter underground drain in the Ronald/Rowe Street area and construction of a pump station at the Williams Road Outfall.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	770,000	(370,000)	0	(400,000)			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
Unallocated						0	0	0	0			
163	Drainage Improvements - MVH and Tol Intersection Robinvale	Drainage	Capital - Upgrade	7400	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Murray Valley Highway and Tol Intersection expanding and profiling the stormwater open drain. VicRoads funding required.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
Unallocated						227,000	0	(227,000)	0			

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28												
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost			Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources			
169	Charlie Gray Close Drainage Scheme	Drainage	Capital - New Asset	7400	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	0	Construction of pump station and rising main to Wilkins Grove drainage network. \$10,000 allowed for power connection. Private Scheme required. For project to proceed landowners will need to contribute at least 50% of cost.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0		
	Unallocated			220,000	(110,000)	(110,000)						
103	Swan Hill CBD Drainage Upgrade Stage 3	Drainage	Capital - New Asset	7400	Year 1 (2018-19)	237,000	0	0	0	0	(237,000)	Swan Hill CBD Drainage Upgrade in McCallum Street. Stage 2 from Campbell Street to Murray River and Stage 3 from Beveridge Street to Splatt Street.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0		
	Unallocated			0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
1	Chapman Street Drainage Upgrade, Swan Hill	Drainage	Capital - New Asset	7400	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	0	Works links in with proposed improvements to Nyah Road Drainage Stage 2 (2017-18). It resolves a pipe diameter restriction, existing pipe under building, and improves drainage that backs up especially West of Nyah Road on Prichard Street.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	227,000	0	0	0	(227,000)		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0		
	Unallocated			0	0	0	0	0	0	0		



SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28											
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
206	Pit Lid Replacement Program (OH&S issue)	Drainage	Capital - Renewal	7400	Year 1 (2018-19)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0	0	Replace heavy pit lids with lighter lids to address OH&S issue.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	20,500	(20,500)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	21,015	(21,015)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	21,540	(21,540)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	22,075	(22,075)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	22,630	(22,630)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	23,195	(23,195)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	23,775	(23,775)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	24,370	(24,370)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	24,975	(24,975)	0	0		
	Unallocated		0	0	0	0	0	0			
209	Robinvale Drainage Stage 2 including Pump Station	Drainage	Capital - New Asset	7400	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Lattice Road to River & Pump Station with additional pumping pits at Lawrence Road.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	964,000	(964,000)	0	0		
	Unallocated		0	0	0	0	0	0			
167	Drainage Improvement Catchment - 26 Railway Avenue Swan Hill surcharge problem	Drainage	Capital - Upgrade	7400	Year 1 (2018-19)	25,000	(25,000)	0	0	0	Alter piping and pits in the corner of Railway Avenue in Swan Hill to improve the hydraulics of the drain in an attempt to avoid flooding during minor storms.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
	Unallocated		0	0	0	0	0	0			

**SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28**

MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
210	Nyah Church Street Drainage Catchment 39 Replacement	Drainage	Capital - Renewal	7400	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Replacement of drainage pipes and reinstatement of road and kerb to alleviate flooding in lower section.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0	
	Unallocated			467,000	(467,000)	0	0	0			
15	Yamagata Student Exchange	Elected Members	Operational	3020	Year 1 (2018-19)	3,000	(3,000)	0	0	Bi-annual exchange of secondary students from Swan Hill region with Yamagata schools. Project is run in conjunction with Swan Hill Yamagata Club. Exchange occurs biannually in March through to June.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	22,000	(22,000)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	3,000	(3,000)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	23,000	(23,000)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	3,100	(3,100)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	24,000	(24,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	3,100	(3,100)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	25,000	(25,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	3,200	(3,200)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	26,000	(26,000)	0	0		
	Unallocated			3,300	(3,300)	0	0	0			
6	Bicycle Paths construction program	Footpaths	Capital - New Asset	7300	Year 1 (2018-19)	31,000	(31,000)	0	0	Ongoing Program to implement recommendations of the Active Transportation Strategy and reviewed through Healthy Communities Initiative.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	31,500	(31,500)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	32,000	(32,000)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	32,500	(32,500)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	33,000	(33,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	33,500	(33,500)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	33,500	(33,500)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	34,000	(34,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	34,000	(34,000)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	35,000	(35,000)	0	0		
	Unallocated			36,000	(36,000)	0	0	0			

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28										
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost				
						Total Cost				
						Funding Source				
						Rates (including Loans)				
						Grants & Contributions				
						Other Sources				
						Project Scope				
43	Footpath Scheme - Leonora - Park St to Latje Rd, Robinvale	Footpaths	Capital - New Asset	7300	Year 1 (2018-19) Year 2 (2019-20) Year 3 (2020-21) Year 4 (2021-22) Year 5 (2022-23) Year 6 (2023-24) Year 7 (2024-25) Year 8 (2025-26) Year 9 (2026-27) Year 10 (2027-28) Unallocated	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 94,000 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 (64,000) 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 (30,000) 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Footpath from corner of George Street East along Leonora Street - Park Street to Latje Road to service western part of township, to Catholic Church and School plus Hospital and TAFE College. (Expand the width of footpath from 1.2m to 1.5m minimum according to IDM docs - change the thickness of concrete to 100-150mm as per IDM docs). Private Scheme contribution required.
50	Robinvale - Watkin Street Footpath construction Scheme	Footpaths	Capital - New Asset	7300	Year 1 (2018-19) Year 2 (2019-20) Year 3 (2020-21) Year 4 (2021-22) Year 5 (2022-23) Year 6 (2023-24) Year 7 (2024-25) Year 8 (2025-26) Year 9 (2026-27) Year 10 (2027-28) Unallocated	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Construction of new footpath in Robinvale - Watkin Street linking the school with the Leisure Centre. Possible 1/3 contribution from Special Charges Scheme. (Expand width and thickness of footpath from 1.2m & 75w to 1.5m & 100w as per IDM docs). Private Scheme contribution required.
219	Construct Events / Performing Stage and Public Toilets in Nyah West township.	Halls & Other Public Facilities	Capital - Renewal	7746	Year 1 (2018-19) Year 2 (2019-20) Year 3 (2020-21) Year 4 (2021-22) Year 5 (2022-23) Year 6 (2023-24) Year 7 (2024-25) Year 8 (2025-26) Year 9 (2026-27) Year 10 (2027-28) Unallocated	20,000 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	(80,000) (20,000) 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	(40,000) 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Stage 1 = Project scope and design. Stage 2 = Works to demolish old Nyah West Maternal & Child Health building and adjacent toilets; and replace with new open events / performing stage and public toilets.

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28											
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
11	Replace Swan Hill's Outdoor Pool	Indoor Sports Facilities - Swan Hill	Capital - New Asset	7730	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Replace Swan Hill Outdoor Swimming Pool with a modern alternative. Stage 1 is a business case and design, and stage 2 is the construction.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	75,000	(75,000)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	1,450,000	(450,000)	(1,000,000)	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	1,500,000	(500,000)	(1,000,000)	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
	Unallocated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
12	Swan Hill Leisure Centre - Relocate Show Pavilions	Indoor Sports Facilities - Swan Hill	Capital - Renewal	7730	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Future works required if Outdoor Swimming Pool is relocated adjacent to Swan Hill Leisure Centre.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	150,000	(150,000)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
	Unallocated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
152	Construct Group Fitness Room at Swan Hill Leisure Centre	Indoor Sports Facilities - Swan Hill	Capital - New Asset	7730	Year 1 (2018-19)	400,000	(200,000)	(200,000)	0	Develop a group fitness facility at Swan Hill Leisure Centre.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	200,000	(200,000)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
	Unallocated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28												
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost			Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources			
216	Refurbishment of the Swan Hill Stadium	Indoor Sports Facilities - Swan Hill	Capital - Renewal	7730	Year 1 (2018-19)	30,000	(30,000)	0	0	0	0	Stage 1 = Building inspection and recommended schedule of works. Stage 2 = Physical works to undertake major maintenance and renewal of The Stadium in Swan Hill. Drainage, stormwater, painting, toilets, change-rooms and entry. Urgent works to stormwater drainage system will be undertaken in 2017/18.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0		
Unallocated	630,000	(630,000)	0	0	0							
120	Scanning of Building & Planning Files	Information Management	Operational	3130	Year 1 (2018-19)	38,190	(38,190)	0	0	0	The Building & Planning files have been determined to have an indefinite retention period. They currently represent approximately 162 shelf metres of space between the Library and Splatt Street archives. Available space in the archives is diminishing rapidly and changes within the Evidence Act have now taken away the need to retain these records in a paper format.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	61,530	(61,530)	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	61,530	(61,530)	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0		
Unallocated	0	0	0	0	0							
165	Preliminary Design - New Library Building	Libraries	Operational	3710	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Business case and design of new library building for Swan Hill.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0		
Unallocated	271,855	(271,855)	0	0	0							

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28												
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost			Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources			
166	Construction New Library Building	Libraries	Capital - New Asset	7710	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	0	Construction of new library building for Swan Hill.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0		
	Unallocated	2,870,350	(2,370,350)	(500,000)	0							
170	Contribution Toward Establishing a Robinvale Library on Education Dept Land	Libraries	Operational	3710	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Council contribution toward construction of library facilities (including fitout) on Education Department land in Robinvale.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	200,000	(200,000)	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
	Unallocated	200,000	(200,000)	0	0							
122	Livestock Exchange Redevelopment	Livestock Exchange	Capital - Renewal	7160	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Redevelopment of the Regional Livestock Exchange (reconfiguration of sheep yards).	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
	Unallocated	0	0	0	0							

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28											
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
130	Solar Energy for Council Buildings	Municipal Offices	Capital - Upgrade	7490	Year 1 (2018-19)	200,000	(100,000)	(100,000)	0	0	Energy saving measures including installation of solar energy on Council buildings.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
Unallocated	0	0	0	0							
216	Internal Native Vegetation Offset Program	Natural Resources Management	Operational	360	Year 1 (2018-19)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0	Investigate and setup internal native vegetation offsets against internal projects. This will save Council money as there is no longer a requirement to go to the open market to secure offsets. Sites setup as offsets include existing vegetated sites and parcels of land in Council ownership that can be rehabilitated and setup as offsets.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
Unallocated	150,000	(150,000)	0	0							
93	PIOSET - Heartbeat of the Murray Laser Light Show	PIOSET Redevelopment	Capital - Renewal	7980	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	Improving entry and exit experience for Heartbeat of the Murray multi-media show and develop additional stories for enhancement of visitor experiences.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	150,000	(150,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	150,000	(150,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
Unallocated	500,000	(500,000)	0	0							

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28											
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
111	PIOSET - New Entry/Focus Gallery	PIOSET Redevelopment	Capital - New Asset	7980	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	New Entry/Exit Building and Focus Gallery.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
					Unallocated	5,000,000	(1,000,000)	(4,000,000)	0		
113	PIOSET - Large Object Display Facility	PIOSET Redevelopment	Capital - Upgrade	7980	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Large Object Display Facility works to house 'Black Bess' 1920 Steam Ploughing Engine.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
					Unallocated	300,000	(250,000)	(50,000)	0		
183	Pioneer Settlement Day Product Upgrade	PIOSET Redevelopment	Operational	3980	Year 1 (2018-19)	150,000	(150,000)	0	0	0	Implement work from Sally Hirst Day Product Review. Focus on commercial and business improvement opportunities.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
					Unallocated	0	0	0	0		



SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28												
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost			Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources			
24	Purchase Building and Planning Software	Planning Department	Capital - Renewal	7010	Year 1 (2018-19)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0	0	New Planning/Building software to replace Authority subject to an independent review of existing system.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
					Unallocated	0	0	0	0			
2	Lake Boga Preschool Project - Stage 1	Preschools	Operational	3790	Year 1 (2018-19)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0	Business case and design of redevelopment of Lake Boga Pre School		
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
					Unallocated	0	0	0	0			
224	Lake Boga Preschool Project - Stage 2	Preschools	Operational	3790	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	The project is to significantly renovate and update the Lake Boga Pre-school. Works will increase floor space and build a consultation room for early years services and meet increased demand for preschool enrolments. Grant \$350,000, Pre-School \$80,000.		
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
					Unallocated	430,000	0	(430,000)	0			

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28												
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost			Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources			
41	Toilet Block near Robinvale Skatepark	Public Conveniences & Rest Centres	Capital - Renewal	7450	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Replace the existing toilet block with a new one, pending review of all toilet facilities.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
	Unallocated	105,000	(105,000)	0	0							
85	Chisholm Reserve Upgrade, Swan Hill	Recreation - General Reserves	Capital - New Asset	7245	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Provide funds to upgrade facilities in accordance with masterplan. Contribution towards the cost to construct multi-purpose shared building, including public toilets and construction of sealed carparks.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	400,000	(200,000)	(200,000)	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	400,000	(200,000)	(200,000)	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	400,000	(200,000)	(200,000)	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	565,000	(200,000)	(365,000)	0			
	Unallocated	0	0	0	0							
208	Maintain Drag Strip Surface	Recreation - General Reserves	Operational	3245	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Funds set aside for maintenance of concrete surface (grinding and/or concrete replacement).	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0			
	Unallocated	0	0	0	0							

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28											
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
226	Implement Recreation Reserve Masterplan	Recreation - General Reserves	Capital - New Asset	7245	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Earlier years of Masterplan will be funded from existing projects in 10 year Major Projects Plan. This allocation is additional seed funding.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	130,000	(130,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
	Unallocated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
29	Riverfront Masterplan - Swan Hill	Recreation - Parks and Gardens	Capital - New Asset	7230	Year 1 (2018-19)	700,000	(350,000)	(350,000)	0	Staged implementation of Masterplan.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	650,000	(400,000)	(250,000)	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	650,000	(250,000)	(400,000)	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	850,000	(425,000)	(425,000)	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	950,000	(550,000)	(400,000)	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	1,000,000	(500,000)	(500,000)	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	1,000,000	(500,000)	(500,000)	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	1,020,000	(660,000)	(360,000)	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	200,000	(100,000)	(100,000)	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	450,000	(325,000)	(125,000)	0		
	Unallocated	2,500,000	(1,250,000)	(1,250,000)	0	0	0				
52	Turtle Lagoon Environment Walk	Recreation - Parks and Gardens	Capital - New Asset	7230	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	Bridge construction.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
	Unallocated	530,000	(265,000)	(265,000)	0	0	0				

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28

MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
58	Robinvale Riverfront Development	Recreation - Parks and Gardens	Capital - New Asset	7230	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Improvements to moorings on Victorian waters area known as "The Cut" and associated beautification works.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	515,000	(257,500)	(257,500)	0		
Unallocated	0	0	0	0							
71	Lake Boga Foreshore Works	Recreation - Parks and Gardens	Capital - New Asset	7230	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Develop carpark at Yacht Club Park, Bollards, BBQ and shelter.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	295,000	(295,000)	0	0		
Unallocated	0	0	0	0							
171	GMW Decommissioned #9 Irrigation Channel Improvements	Recreation - Parks and Gardens	Capital - Upgrade	7230	Year 1 (2018-19)	150,000	(150,000)	0	0	0	Undertake improvement works following decommissioning of GMW #9 Irrigation Channel to create walking paths and other beautification works to improve the built environment. Stage 1 McCallum Street channel from Stradbroke Avenue to Woorinen Road initial works to grassed area and also to develop a landscape plan to use for pricing future years.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	1,500,000	(1,500,000)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	250,000	(250,000)	0	0		
Unallocated	0	0	0	0							

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28											
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
13	Swan Hill CBD Carpark	Road Furniture, Line Markings & Carparks	Capital - New Asset	7320	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Yrs 5&6 = Purchase land & construct car park. Funded from car-parking reserve, where money is collected as contributions from developers in lieu of providing on-site parking, and needs to be converted to parking spaces on the ground. Includes possible improvements in High Street.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	300,000	(130,000)	0	(170,000)	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	400,000	(400,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0	
Unallocated	0	0	0	0	0						
129	Bus Shelters	Road Furniture, Line Markings & Carparks	Capital - New Asset	7320	Year 1 (2018-19)	41,000	(41,000)	0	0	0	Staged program to install Bus Shelters within Swan Hill.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	22,000	(22,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0	
Unallocated	0	0	0	0	0						
14	McCallum / Murlong Street Road Realignment	Roads - Sealed	Capital - New Asset	7350	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Council contribution to VicRoads for its share of re-alignment of Murlong Street (south side) of intersection.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0	
Unallocated	310,000	(310,000)	0	0	0						

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28

MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
69	Intersection works - Dillon St/Sea Lake Ultima Rd	Roads - Sealed	Capital - Upgrade	7350	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Upgrade intersection of Dillon Street & Sea Lake Road including approaches and other affected local roads to make the turn to/from Dillon Street safer and easier. Requires VicRoads involvement & funding.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	430,000	(180,000)	(250,000)	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0	
	Unallocated	0	0	0	0						
104	Shared Pathway Lake Boga to Swan Hill	Roads - Sealed	Capital - New Asset	7350	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	To construct a bitumen shared pathway linking Lake Boga to Swan Hill.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0	
	Unallocated	2,500,000	(1,000,000)	(1,500,000)	0						
10	Indented parking - Yana St / Special School.	Roads - Sealed	Capital - New Asset	7350	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	The construction of 5 drop-off parking bays on Yana St (spray seal) for the use of Swan Hill Specialist school, improving the safety of school drop offs.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0	
	Unallocated	12,000	(12,000)	0	0						

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28												
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost			Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources			
218	High Street Parking between McCallum and McCrae Streets	Roads - Sealed	Capital - Renewal	7350	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Remove concrete kerb and trees from centre median and return area to sealed road surface with line-marking and angle parking.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
Unallocated	200,000	(200,000)	0	0								
225	River Road & Palaroo Street Speed Reduction	Roads - Sealed	Capital - Upgrade	7350	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	Construction of three T-intersection Traffic Islands at Ellwood Court, Adams Road and Parnee Street; and construction of two Speed Humps at selected locations on Palaroo Street.		
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
Unallocated	165,000	(165,000)	0	0								
75	Extend Robinvale Leisure Centre	Robinvale Sports & Aquatic Centre	Capital - New Asset	7731	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	Extend Robinvale Leisure Centre Gym area (Stage 1) and Pavilion (Stage 2).		
					Year 2 (2019-20)	50,000	(50,000)	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
Unallocated	750,000	(750,000)	0	0								

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28												
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost			Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources			
217	Shade Structure over Robinvale Pool	Robinvale Sports & Aquatic Centre	Capital - New Asset	7731	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	0	Construct permanent shade over swimming pool. Investigate, scope and design internally in year 1 or 2.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0		
					Unallocated	200,000	(200,000)	0	0			
220	Swan Hill Town Hall - Building Renewal Works	SH Town Hall PACC	Capital - Renewal	7890	Year 1 (2018-19)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0	0	Program of works to undertake major building maintenance works.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0			
					Unallocated	1,000,000	(1,000,000)	0	0			
226	SH CBD works	Street Beautification	Capital - Renewal	7235	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Upgrade works in CBD area boarded generally by Pye, Beveridge, Rutherford and Curlew Streets in Swan Hill.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	500,000	(250,000)	(250,000)	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	500,000	(250,000)	(250,000)	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	500,000	(250,000)	(250,000)	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	500,000	(250,000)	(250,000)	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
					Unallocated	0	0	0	0			



SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28											
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
84	Bromley Road Beautification - Robinvale	Street Beautification	Operational	3235	Year 1 (2018-19)	260,000	(260,000)	0	0	0	Implement recommendations of Bromley Road masterplan.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
					Unallocated	0	0	0	0		
205	Tree Planting Program	Tree Maintenance	Operational	3210	Year 1 (2018-19)	15,000	(15,000)	0	0	0	Program of planting new street trees to address replacement of trees removed.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	15,375	(15,375)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	15,760	(15,760)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	16,155	(16,155)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	16,555	(16,555)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	16,970	(16,970)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	17,395	(17,395)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	17,830	(17,830)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	18,275	(18,275)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	18,735	(18,735)	0	0		
					Unallocated	0	0	0	0		
189	Additional Bays for Transfer Station - Swan Hill Landfill	Waste Management	Capital - New Asset	7410	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Construct two additional bays at north end of transfer station at the Swan Hill landfill.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
					Unallocated	75,000	0	0	(75,000)		

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28

MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
191	Asphalt/Concrete Pad at Transfer Station and Service Roads, Swan Hill Landfill	Waste Management	Capital - New Asset	7410	Year 1 (2018-19)	150,000	0	0	(150,000)	Lay new concrete/asphalt on the hard-standing area & service roads at the Swan Hill Landfill.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
					Unallocated	0	0	0	0		
193	New Recycling Shed - Swan Hill Landfill	Waste Management	Capital - New Asset	7410	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	Construct a new recycling and cardboard bailing plant at the Swan Hill Landfill, to replace the existing facility at Gray Street.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
					Unallocated	500,000	0	0	(500,000)		
194	New Monitoring Bores - Swan Hill Landfill	Waste Management	Capital - New Asset	7410	Year 1 (2018-19)	30,000	0	0	(30,000)	Construct two new ground water monitoring bores as set out in the Landfill audit report.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
					Unallocated	0	0	0	0		

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28												
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost			Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources			
195	Retaining Wall Swan Hill Landfill	Waste Management	Capital - New Asset	7410	Year 1 (2018-19)	15,000	0	0	(15,000)	Construct a 0.5 metre retaining wall approximately 230 metres long on southern boundary of the Swan Hill landfill site.		
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
Unallocated	0	0	0	0								
196	Install Rainwater Tanks Swan Hill Landfill	Waste Management	Capital - New Asset	7410	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	Install rainwater tanks at the new weighbridge and detox shelter at the Swan Hill Landfill.		
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
Unallocated	15,000	0	0	(15,000)								
197	Upgrade Water service Swan Hill Landfill	Waste Management	Capital - New Asset	7410	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	Upgrade the existing water service line to the landfill buildings and storage tanks, and realign the water service at the Swan Hill Landfill.		
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0			
Unallocated	20,000	0	0	(20,000)								

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28												
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost			Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources			
198	Replace boundary fence at Swan Hill Landfill	Waste Management	Capital - Upgrade	7410	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0	0	Progressively replace & extend the boundary fencing around the Swan Hill Landfill.
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Unallocated	217,000	0	0	0	(217,000)	0	
201	Construct a Reuse Shed - Robinvale Landfill	Waste Management	Capital - New Asset	7410	Year 1 (2018-19)	75,000	0	0	0	0	(75,000)	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0	0	Construct a 12 x 8 metre reuse shed at the Robinvale Landfill to be used to store resalable items taken to the landfill. Works to include concrete floor and service roads.
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Unallocated	0	0	0	0	0	0	

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28

MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
160	Swan Hill Aerodrome - Aerodrome Lighting and Runway Reconstruction Stage 2	Capital - Upgrade	7510		Year 1 (2018-19)	230,000	(230,000)	0	0	Year 1 - Design for lighting of runway, Year 2 - Install lighting to comply with CASA standards, and Year 3 - Runway Reconstruction (value subject to design outcome).	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	365,000	(365,000)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	1,300,000	(1,300,000)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
					Unallocated	0	0	0	0		
114	Building Maintenance - Capital	Building & Property Management	7205		Year 1 (2018-19)	345,000	(345,000)	0	0	Building maintenance of a capital nature. Prioritised based on asset condition.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	455,000	(455,000)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	365,000	(365,000)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	375,000	(375,000)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	485,000	(485,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	500,000	(500,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	615,000	(615,000)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	635,000	(635,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	647,700	(647,700)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	650,000	(650,000)	0	0		
					Unallocated	663,000	(663,000)	0	0		
110	Lake Boga Caravan Park Assets Renewal	Caravan Park - Lake Boga	7150		Year 1 (2018-19)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0	Rolling program to renew infrastructure at Lake Boga Caravan Park.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0		
					Unallocated	200,000	(200,000)	0	0		

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28													
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost			Funding Source			Project Scope	
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources				
109	Robinvale Caravan Park Assets Renewal	Caravan Park - Robinvale	Capital - Renewal	7151	Year 1 (2018-19)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0				
					Year 2 (2019-20)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0				
					Year 3 (2020-21)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0				
					Year 4 (2021-22)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0				
					Year 5 (2022-23)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0				
					Year 6 (2023-24)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0				
					Year 7 (2024-25)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0				
					Year 8 (2025-26)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0				
					Year 9 (2026-27)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0				
					Year 10 (2027-28)	20,000	(20,000)	0	0				
	Unallocated	200,000	(200,000)	0	0								
98	SH Caravan Park Assets Renewal	Caravan Park - Swan Hill	Capital - Renewal	7152	Year 1 (2018-19)	80,000	(80,000)	0	0				
					Year 2 (2019-20)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0				
					Year 3 (2020-21)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0				
					Year 4 (2021-22)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0				
					Year 5 (2022-23)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0				
					Year 6 (2023-24)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0				
					Year 7 (2024-25)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0				
					Year 8 (2025-26)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0				
					Year 9 (2026-27)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0				
					Year 10 (2027-28)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0				
	Unallocated	400,000	(400,000)	0	0								
51	Minor Facilities Grant (SRV)	Community Development Unit	Operational	3080	Year 1 (2018-19)	143,000	(43,000)	(100,000)	0				
					Year 2 (2019-20)	144,000	(44,000)	(100,000)	0				
					Year 3 (2020-21)	145,000	(45,000)	(100,000)	0				
					Year 4 (2021-22)	146,000	(46,000)	(100,000)	0				
					Year 5 (2022-23)	147,000	(47,000)	(100,000)	0				
					Year 6 (2023-24)	148,000	(48,000)	(100,000)	0				
					Year 7 (2024-25)	149,000	(49,000)	(100,000)	0				
					Year 8 (2025-26)	150,000	(50,000)	(100,000)	0				
					Year 9 (2026-27)	150,000	(50,000)	(100,000)	0				
					Year 10 (2027-28)	153,000	(53,000)	(100,000)	0				
	Unallocated	156,000	(56,000)	(100,000)	0								

**SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28**

MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
54	Implementation of the Community Plans	Community Plan	Capital - New Asset	7675	Year 1 (2018-19)	480,000	(280,000)	(200,000)	0	Implementation of the Community Plans.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	530,000	(280,000)	(250,000)	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	730,000	(280,000)	(450,000)	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	630,000	(280,000)	(350,000)	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	630,000	(280,000)	(350,000)	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	630,000	(280,000)	(350,000)	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	580,000	(280,000)	(300,000)	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	580,000	(280,000)	(300,000)	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	380,000	(280,000)	(100,000)	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	390,000	(290,000)	(100,000)	0		
	Unallocated	400,000	(300,000)	(100,000)	0						
17	General Revaluations	Customer Service & Revenue Control	Operational	3135	Year 1 (2018-19)	14,000	(8,000)	0	(6,000)	Bi-annual General Revaluation of the municipality. Statutory requirement for property revaluations to be conducted every two years.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	130,000	(65,000)	0	(65,000)		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	14,000	(8,000)	0	(6,000)		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	130,000	(65,000)	0	(65,000)		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	15,000	(9,000)	0	(6,000)		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	140,000	(70,000)	0	(70,000)		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	16,000	(10,000)	0	(6,000)		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	150,000	(75,000)	0	(75,000)		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	17,000	(11,000)	0	(6,000)		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	160,000	(80,000)	0	(80,000)		
	Unallocated	18,000	(18,000)	0	0						
67	Economic Development Initiatives	Economic Development Unit	Operational	3170	Year 1 (2018-19)	105,000	(80,000)	(25,000)	0	Implement strategies as detailed in Council's Economic Development Strategy.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	106,000	(81,000)	(25,000)	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	107,000	(82,000)	(25,000)	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	108,000	(83,000)	(25,000)	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	109,000	(84,000)	(25,000)	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	110,000	(85,000)	(25,000)	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	111,000	(86,000)	(25,000)	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	112,000	(87,000)	(25,000)	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	112,000	(87,000)	(25,000)	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	112,000	(87,000)	(25,000)	0		
	Unallocated	114,000	(89,000)	(25,000)	0						

**SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28**

MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
16	Municipal Elections	Elected Members	Operational	3020	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	140,000	(140,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	160,000	(160,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Unallocated	180,000	(180,000)	0	0	0	
20	Kerb Crossings for Disabled in Swan Hill & Robinvale	Footpaths	Capital - Upgrade	7300	Year 1 (2018-19)	31,000	(31,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	31,000	(31,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	32,000	(32,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	32,000	(32,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	33,000	(33,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	33,000	(33,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	34,000	(34,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	34,000	(34,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	35,000	(35,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	36,000	(36,000)	0	0	0	
					Unallocated	36,000	(36,000)	0	0	0	
64	Footpath replacement program	Footpaths	Capital - Renewal	7300	Year 1 (2018-19)	170,000	(170,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	175,000	(175,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	180,000	(180,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	185,000	(185,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	190,000	(190,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	195,000	(195,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	200,000	(200,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	205,000	(205,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	210,000	(210,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	214,000	(214,000)	0	0	0	
					Unallocated	220,000	(220,000)	0	0	0	

Councillor elections every four years. Timing, including specific dates set by the Local Government Act 1989.

Install footpath kerb crossings for the disabled along strategic routes in Swan Hill and Robinvale as recommended in Road Safety Plan.

Rolling program of footpath replacement.



SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28											
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
27	IT Equipment Replacement	Information Technology	Capital - Renewal	7125	Year 1 (2018-19)	122,500	(122,500)	0	0	Replacement program for PCs, Printers, Network Server, CD Writers, UPS, Scanners, Internal Data Communications, Tape Unit, Data Projector - ongoing program.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	125,000	(125,000)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	127,500	(127,500)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	130,000	(130,000)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	132,500	(132,500)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	135,000	(135,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	135,000	(135,000)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	138,000	(138,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	140,000	(140,000)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	142,800	(142,800)	0	0		
					Unallocated	145,700	(145,700)	0	0		
28	IT Software Replacement	Information Technology	Operational	3125	Year 1 (2018-19)	24,000	(24,000)	0	0	Replacement program for Data Communication Software, Local Vision, Webb Gate Server, Network Server Novell, PC Applications, Library System etc - ongoing program, generally one annually.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	24,000	(24,000)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	26,000	(26,000)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	26,000	(26,000)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	28,000	(28,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	28,000	(28,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	28,000	(28,000)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	30,000	(30,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	31,000	(31,000)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	31,000	(31,000)	0	0		
					Unallocated	33,000	(33,000)	0	0		
40	Implement Recommendations of the IT Strategy	Information Technology	Capital - Renewal	7125	Year 1 (2018-19)	125,000	(125,000)	0	0	Program of works to implement the recommendations of the I.T. Strategy involving the upgrade and development of Council's systems in a staged manner.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	125,000	(125,000)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	130,000	(130,000)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	130,000	(130,000)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	130,000	(130,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	130,000	(130,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	130,000	(130,000)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	130,000	(130,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	135,000	(135,000)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	135,000	(135,000)	0	0		
					Unallocated	137,700	(137,700)	0	0		

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28

MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
94	IT Steering Committee Operational Improvements	Information Technology	Operational	3125	Year 1 (2018-19)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0	Annual budget to undertake IT projects as determined by IT Steering Committee.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	40,000	(40,000)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	42,000	(42,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	42,000	(42,000)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	43,000	(43,000)	0	0		
	Unallocated		43,000	(43,000)	0	0					
35	Library Collection Purchase	Libraries	Capital - Renewal	7710	Year 1 (2018-19)	130,000	(130,000)	0	0	Purchase of Books, DVD's and Electronic Resources to maintain an up-to-date collection and replace existing items.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	135,000	(135,000)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	140,000	(140,000)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	145,000	(145,000)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	150,000	(150,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	155,000	(155,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	155,000	(155,000)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	160,000	(160,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	165,000	(165,000)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	170,000	(170,000)	0	0		
	Unallocated		175,000	(175,000)	0	0					
142	Public Libraries Book Bonanza - Book Purchases	Libraries	Capital - Renewal	7710	Year 1 (2018-19)	7,330	0	(7,330)	0	Purchase of children's and young adult books from grant funds.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	7,330	0	(7,330)	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	7,330	0	(7,330)	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	7,330	0	(7,330)	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	7,330	0	(7,330)	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	7,330	0	(7,330)	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	7,330	0	(7,330)	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	7,330	0	(7,330)	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	7,330	0	(7,330)	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	7,330	0	(7,330)	0		
	Unallocated		7,330	0	(7,330)	0					

**SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28**

MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
143	Murray River Local Libraries Priorities Grant Purchases	Capital - Renewal	7710		Year 1 (2018-19)	6,000	0	(6,000)	0	Purchase of library items and equipment for Barham and Moulamein libraries on behalf of Murray River Council as part of Library Service Agreement (from grant funds).	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	6,000	0	(6,000)	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	6,100	0	(6,100)	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	6,100	0	(6,100)	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	6,250	0	(6,250)	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	6,250	0	(6,250)	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	6,500	0	(6,500)	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	6,500	0	(6,500)	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	6,500	0	(6,500)	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	6,750	0	(6,750)	0		
	Unallocated		6,885	0	(6,885)	0					
19	Parking Ticket Machine Replacement & Additional Machines	Capital - Renewal	7030		Year 1 (2018-19)	22,000	(22,000)	0	0	Annual allocation for the installation and replacement (as required) of ticket machines.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	22,000	(22,000)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	22,500	(22,500)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	22,500	(22,500)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	23,000	(23,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	23,000	(23,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	23,500	(23,500)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	23,500	(23,500)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	24,000	(24,000)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	24,500	(24,500)	0	0		
	Unallocated		25,000	(25,000)	0	0					
18	Plant & Fleet Purchases	Plant Management	Capital - Renewal	7550	Year 1 (2018-19)	1,133,475	0	0	(1,133,475)	Routine replacement program of Council Plant and Fleet vehicles.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	1,030,960	0	0	(1,030,960)		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	1,227,065	0	0	(1,227,065)		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	1,224,045	0	0	(1,224,045)		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	1,305,665	0	0	(1,305,665)		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	1,563,810	0	0	(1,563,810)		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	1,816,945	0	0	(1,816,945)		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	1,645,765	0	0	(1,645,765)		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	1,727,535	0	0	(1,727,535)		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	1,245,610	0	0	(1,245,610)		
	Unallocated		0	0	0	0					

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28											
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
8	Upgrade Street Lighting	Public Lighting	Operational	3390	Year 1 (2018-19)	33,900	(33,900)	0	0	0	Annual rolling program to install additional street and park lighting across the municipality.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	34,900	(34,900)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	36,000	(36,000)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	37,100	(37,100)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	38,200	(38,200)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	39,400	(39,400)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	40,600	(40,600)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	91,800	(91,800)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	42,600	(42,600)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	44,000	(44,000)	0	0		
	Unallocated	44,880	(44,880)	0	0						
37	Renewal Irrigation Systems	Recreation - Parks and Gardens	Capital - Renewal	7230	Year 1 (2018-19)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0	Rolling program to replace Council's irrigation systems.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	110,000	(110,000)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	110,000	(110,000)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	120,000	(120,000)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	120,000	(120,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	120,000	(120,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	130,000	(130,000)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	130,000	(130,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	135,000	(135,000)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	137,700	(137,700)	0	0		
	Unallocated	140,500	(140,500)	0	0						
30	Playground Equipment Renewal	Recreation - Playgrounds	Capital - Renewal	7215	Year 1 (2018-19)	82,500	(82,500)	0	0	Program of works to renew and upgrade playgrounds throughout the municipality based on Playgrounds Asset Management Plan.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	82,500	(82,500)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	85,000	(85,000)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	85,000	(85,000)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	87,500	(87,500)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	87,500	(87,500)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	110,000	(110,000)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	110,000	(110,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	112,500	(112,500)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	114,500	(114,500)	0	0		
	Unallocated	117,000	(117,000)	0	0						

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28								
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		
						Total Cost		
						Funding Source		
						Rates (including Loans)		
						Grants & Contributions		
						Other Sources		
						Project Scope		
36	Install shade sails over Playground Equipment	Recreation - Playgrounds	Capital - Renewal	7215	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	47,500	(47,500)	0
					Year 3 (2020-21)	50,000	(50,000)	0
					Year 4 (2021-22)	50,000	(50,000)	0
					Year 5 (2022-23)	52,500	(52,500)	0
					Year 6 (2023-24)	52,500	(52,500)	0
					Year 7 (2024-25)	55,000	(55,000)	0
					Year 8 (2025-26)	55,000	(55,000)	0
					Year 9 (2026-27)	56,000	(56,000)	0
					Year 10 (2027-28)	57,000	(57,000)	0
					Unallocated	58,000	(58,000)	0
56	Playground Fencing program	Recreation - Playgrounds	Capital - New Asset	7215	Year 1 (2018-19)	22,500	0	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0
					Year 3 (2020-21)	22,500	(22,500)	0
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0
					Year 5 (2022-23)	25,000	(25,000)	0
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0
					Year 7 (2024-25)	27,500	(27,500)	0
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0
					Year 9 (2026-27)	27,500	(27,500)	0
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0
					Unallocated	28,500	(28,500)	0
9	Swan Hill Showgrounds - Replace Male & Female Toilets - Pritchard St, Swan Hill	Recreation - Sportsfields	Capital - Renewal	7240	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0
					Year 4 (2021-22)	220,000	(220,000)	0
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0
					Unallocated	0	0	0

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28											
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
88	Alan Garden Reserve Oval Surface Upgrade	Recreation - Sportsfields	Capital - Renewal	7240	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Includes new subsurface drainage (agricrain), irrigation and earthworks to provide a new soil profile and to form a crown to enable run off. Project may need to be reassessed in light of Recreation Reserve masterplan.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	400,000	(400,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0	
Unallocated	0	0	0	0	0						
33	Sealed road construction	Roads - Sealed	Capital - Renewal	7350	Year 1 (2018-19)	930,000	(930,000)	0	0	0	Annual rolling program of sealed road reconstruction.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	1,032,000	(1,032,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	1,085,300	(1,085,300)	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	1,138,685	(1,138,685)	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	1,192,150	(1,192,150)	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	1,265,705	(1,265,705)	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	1,359,850	(1,359,850)	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	1,399,595	(1,399,595)	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	1,429,460	(1,429,460)	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	1,459,000	(1,459,000)	0	0	0	
Unallocated	1,488,000	(1,488,000)	0	0	0						
80	Sealed road shoulder resheeting	Roads - Sealed	Capital - Renewal	7350	Year 1 (2018-19)	205,000	(205,000)	0	0	0	Rolling program to resheet the shoulders of sealed roads. Program developed based on condition assessments.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	205,000	(205,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	205,000	(205,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	210,000	(210,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	210,000	(210,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	210,000	(210,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	215,000	(215,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	215,000	(215,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	220,000	(220,000)	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	224,400	(224,400)	0	0	0	
Unallocated	230,000	(230,000)	0	0	0						

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28											
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
61	Sealed roads resealing program	Roads - Sealed	Capital - Renewal	7350	Year 1 (2018-19)	1,120,000	(1,120,000)	0	0	0	Rolling program of resealing of sealed roads.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	1,350,000	(1,350,000)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	1,183,000	(1,183,000)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	1,217,000	(1,217,000)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	1,250,000	(1,250,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	1,286,000	(1,286,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	1,522,000	(1,522,000)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	1,590,000	(1,590,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	1,770,800	(1,770,800)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	1,652,215	(1,652,215)	0	0		
	Unallocated	1,685,000	(1,685,000)	0	0						
62	Kerb and Channel replacement	Roads - Sealed	Capital - Renewal	7350	Year 1 (2018-19)	67,000	(67,000)	0	0	0	Rolling program of kerb and channel replacement. (Proposed increase from 2024-25 to 2027-28 funded following the finishing of the 'Sealed Roads Guide Posts' program). Needs based on condition and review of guide post replacement program.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	68,000	(68,000)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	69,000	(69,000)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	70,000	(70,000)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	71,000	(71,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	72,000	(72,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	128,000	(128,000)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	130,000	(130,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	132,000	(132,000)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	134,650	(134,650)	0	0		
	Unallocated	139,000	(139,000)	0	0						
63	Gravel road resheeting program	Roads - Unsealed	Capital - Renewal	7360	Year 1 (2018-19)	700,000	(700,000)	0	0	0	Rolling program to resheet gravel roads.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	730,750	(730,750)	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	742,020	(742,020)	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	753,320	(753,320)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	764,650	(764,650)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	801,020	(801,020)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	813,045	(813,045)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	825,120	(825,120)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	842,250	(842,250)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	859,530	(859,530)	0	0		
	Unallocated	876,750	(876,750)	0	0						

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28												
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost			Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources			
65	Sealed road shoulder resheeting program	Roads to Recovery	Capital - Renewal	7330	Year 1 (2018-19)	210,000	0	(210,000)	0	Roads to Recovery rolling program of sealed road shoulder resheeting. (No funding allocation notification from Year 2 onwards).		
					Year 2 (2019-20)	220,000	0	(220,000)	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	225,000	0	(225,000)	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	230,000	0	(230,000)	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	235,000	0	(235,000)	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	240,000	0	(240,000)	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	245,000	0	(245,000)	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	250,000	0	(250,000)	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	255,000	0	(255,000)	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	260,000	0	(260,000)	0			
	Unallocated	265,200	0	(265,200)	0							
66	Gravel road resheeting program	Roads to Recovery	Capital - Renewal	7330	Year 1 (2018-19)	278,210	0	(278,210)	0	Roads to Recovery rolling program for resheeting of gravel roads. (No funding allocation notification from Year 2 onwards).		
					Year 2 (2019-20)	285,000	0	(285,000)	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	290,000	0	(290,000)	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	295,000	0	(295,000)	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	300,000	0	(300,000)	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	305,000	0	(305,000)	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	310,000	0	(310,000)	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	315,000	0	(315,000)	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	333,000	0	(333,000)	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	340,000	0	(340,000)	0			
	Unallocated	347,000	0	(347,000)	0							
34	Sealed road reconstruction	Roads to Recovery	Capital - Renewal	7330	Year 1 (2018-19)	400,000	0	(400,000)	0	Roads to Recovery rolling program. Figures beyond 2019 assume that Council will continue to receive the same grant as currently. Program has been secured to 2019. (No funding allocation notification from Year 2 onwards).		
					Year 2 (2019-20)	520,000	0	(520,000)	0			
					Year 3 (2020-21)	525,000	0	(525,000)	0			
					Year 4 (2021-22)	530,000	0	(530,000)	0			
					Year 5 (2022-23)	535,000	0	(535,000)	0			
					Year 6 (2023-24)	540,000	0	(540,000)	0			
					Year 7 (2024-25)	545,000	0	(545,000)	0			
					Year 8 (2025-26)	550,000	0	(550,000)	0			
					Year 9 (2026-27)	560,000	0	(560,000)	0			
					Year 10 (2027-28)	571,200	0	(571,200)	0			
	Unallocated	582,600	0	(582,600)	0							



SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28

MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
180	Spoon drain intersection of Palmer & Monday Streets, Woorinen	Roads to Recovery	Capital - Upgrade	7330	Year 1 (2018-19)	28,000	0	(28,000)	0	Concrete spoon drain intersection Palmer & Monday Streets, Woorinen. Culvert unnamed road, shape Monday Street, table drain shape along Monday St. Request households to place culverts for driveways. Funded from Roads to Recovery.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
	Unallocated	0	0	0	0						
3	Koorab Road Annuello, Intersection Upgrade Lake Powell & Lake Carpul Roads	Roads to Recovery	Capital - Upgrade	7330	Year 1 (2018-19)	120,000	0	(120,000)	0	Proposed works resulting from complaints about dangerous intersection. Temporary give way signs have been added but to meet regulations (provide line of sight & limit cross fall). The minor roads need to be reconfigured in turn requiring reconstruction of major roads.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
	Unallocated	0	0	0	0						
204	Replace water heating system at Nyah Swimming Pool	Swimming Pool - Nyah District	Capital - Renewal	7721	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	Committee of Management is seeking a capital contribution toward Solar Panels as an alternative to existing sump-oil heating of the pool.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
	Unallocated	150,000	(150,000)	0	0						

**SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28**

MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
137	Tower Hill Development Stages 12	Tower Hill Estate Development	Capital - New Asset	7190	Year 1 (2018-19)	1,450,000	0	0	(1,450,000)	Construct 25 house blocks.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
Unallocated	0	0	0	0							
154	Tower Hill Development Stages 13 Onwards	Tower Hill Estate Development	Capital - New Asset	7190	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	Construct infrastructure to provide future residential house blocks.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	1,600,000	0	0	(1,600,000)		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	1,650,000	0	0	(1,650,000)		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	1,700,000	0	0	(1,700,000)		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	1,750,000	0	0	(1,750,000)		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	1,800,000	0	0	(1,800,000)		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	1,850,000	0	0	(1,850,000)		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	1,900,000	0	0	(1,900,000)		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	1,950,000	0	0	(1,950,000)		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	2,000,000	0	0	(2,000,000)		
Unallocated	30,000,000	0	0	(30,000,000)							
42	Waste Management Strategy Projects	Waste Management	Operational	3410	Year 1 (2018-19)	200,000	0	0	(200,000)	Implement Waste Management Strategy Projects. Strategy will identify projects annually for capping and maintenance.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	200,000	0	0	(200,000)		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	150,000	0	0	(150,000)		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	150,000	0	0	(150,000)		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	150,000	0	0	(150,000)		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	150,000	0	0	(150,000)		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	150,000	0	0	(150,000)		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	100,000	0	0	(100,000)		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	100,000	0	0	(100,000)		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	96,000	0	0	(96,000)		
Unallocated	98,000	0	0	(98,000)							

**SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28**

MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
95	Construction of New Cells	Waste Management	Capital - New Asset	7410	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Construction of new Cells for Swan Hill Landfill - funded from Waste Management Reserve.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	925,000	0	0	(925,000)	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	1,000,000	0	0	(1,000,000)	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	0	0	0	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0	0	
	Unallocated				1,000,000	0	0	(1,000,000)			
147	Robinvale Landfill - Service Roads & Stormwater Management	Waste Management	Operational	3410	Year 1 (2018-19)	10,750	0	0	0	(10,750)	Improve service roads and stormwater management at Robinvale landfill.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	10,900	0	0	(10,900)	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	11,100	0	0	(11,100)	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	11,350	0	0	(11,350)	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	11,600	0	0	(11,600)	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	11,850	0	0	(11,850)	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	12,000	0	0	(12,000)	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	12,300	0	0	(12,300)	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	12,500	0	0	(12,500)	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	12,750	0	0	(12,750)	0	
	Unallocated				13,000	0	0	(13,000)			
148	Swan Hill Landfill - Service Roads & Stormwater Management	Waste Management	Operational	3410	Year 1 (2018-19)	26,750	0	0	0	(26,750)	Improve service roads and stormwater management at Swan Hill landfill.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	27,350	0	0	(27,350)	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	27,900	0	0	(27,900)	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	28,500	0	0	(28,500)	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	29,000	0	0	(29,000)	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	29,600	0	0	(29,600)	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	30,200	0	0	(30,200)	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	30,800	0	0	(30,800)	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	31,500	0	0	(31,500)	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	32,100	0	0	(32,100)	0	
	Unallocated				32,750	0	0	(32,750)			

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28									
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost			
						Total Cost			
						Funding Source			
						Rates (including Loans)			
						Grants & Contributions			
						Other Sources			
149	Waste Management - Operational Daily Cover	Waste Management	Operational	3410	Year 1 (2018-19)	39,300	0	0	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	(40,000)	0	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	(40,900)	0	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	(41,700)	0	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	(42,500)	0	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	(43,400)	0	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	(44,250)	0	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	(45,100)	0	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	(46,000)	0	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	(47,000)	0	0	
					Unallocated	(48,000)	0	0	

Provision of earthen cover over waste for open landfill cell on a daily basis.

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28

MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
172	LTFP - Additional Buildings	Building and Property Management	Capital - Renewal	7205	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Long Term Financial Plan - indicative additional funds for building renewal (to be confirmed through the budget process).
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	200,000	(200,000)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	200,000	(200,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	700,000	(700,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	600,000	(600,000)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	450,000	(450,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	150,000	(150,000)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	150,000	(150,000)	0	0		
	Unallocated	0	0	0	0						
176	LTFP - Additional Drainage (Reserve Funded)	Drainage	Capital - Renewal	7400	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Long Term Financial Plan - Swan Hill and Robinvale drainage works funded from additional rates raised through Urban Differential Rate.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	250,000	0	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	250,000	0	0	(250,000)		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	250,000	0	0	(250,000)		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
	Unallocated	0	0	0	0						
173	LTFP - Additional Footpaths	Footpaths	Capital - Renewal	7300	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Long Term Financial Plan - indicative additional funding available for footpath works (to be confirmed through the budget process).
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	55,000	(55,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	190,000	(190,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0		
	Unallocated	0	0	0	0						

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28

MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
177	LTFP - Parks & Gardens (Parks & Open Spaces)	Recreation - Parks and Gardens	Capital - Renewal	7230	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	0	Long Term Financial Plan - potential grant funds to be confirmed and then allocated to projects.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	100,000	0	(100,000)	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	200,000	0	(200,000)	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	100,000	0	(100,000)	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	100,000	0	(100,000)	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	100,000	0	(100,000)	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	0	0	0	0		
					Unallocated	0	0	0	0		
174	LTFP - Additional Sealed Roads	Roads - Sealed	Capital - Renewal	7350	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	Long Term Financial Plan - indicative additional funding available for sealed road works (to be confirmed through the budget process).	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	400,000	(400,000)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	400,000	(400,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	400,000	(400,000)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	375,000	(375,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	275,000	(275,000)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	300,000	(300,000)	0	0		
					Unallocated	0	0	0	0		
175	LTFP - Additional Unsealed Roads	Roads - Unsealed	Capital - Renewal	7360	Year 1 (2018-19)	0	0	0	0	Long Term Financial Plan - indicative additional funds available for unsealed road works (to be confirmed through the budget process).	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	0	0	0	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	360,000	(360,000)	0	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	200,000	(200,000)	0	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	300,000	(300,000)	0	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	770,000	(770,000)	0	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	550,000	(550,000)	0	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	100,000	(100,000)	0	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	500,000	(500,000)	0	0		
					Unallocated	0	0	0	0		

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28

MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost		Funding Source			Project Scope
						Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources		
87	Fairfax Youth Initiative	Performing Arts	Operational	3690	Year 1 (2018-19)	72,200	(23,700)	(45,000)	(3,500)	Fairfax Youth Initiative annual event for 12 to 17 year olds.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	78,400	(24,400)	(50,000)	(4,000)		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	84,600	(25,100)	(55,000)	(4,500)		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	91,400	(25,900)	(60,000)	(5,500)		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	97,700	(26,700)	(65,000)	(6,000)		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	104,000	(27,500)	(70,000)	(6,500)		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	110,300	(28,300)	(75,000)	(7,000)		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	116,650	(29,150)	(80,000)	(7,500)		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	122,800	(29,800)	(85,000)	(8,000)		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	128,500	(30,000)	(90,000)	(8,500)		
	Unallocated	128,500	(30,000)	(90,000)	(8,500)						
138	Seniors Week	Community Care - Operational (HACC) Social Support Planned	Operational	3660	Year 1 (2018-19)	6,800	(2,000)	(2,200)	(2,600)	Seniors Week provides an opportunity to bring together all community members, through events and activities, to celebrate the contributions seniors make within the community. Seniors Week aims to facilitate community participation and activity by older people.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	7,000	(2,100)	(2,200)	(2,700)		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	7,200	(4,400)	0	(2,600)		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	7,400	(4,500)	0	(2,900)		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	7,600	(4,600)	0	(3,000)		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	7,800	(4,700)	0	(3,100)		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	8,000	(4,800)	0	(3,200)		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	8,200	(5,000)	0	(3,200)		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	8,400	(5,125)	0	(3,275)		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	8,600	(5,250)	0	(3,350)		
	Unallocated	8,800	(5,325)	0	(3,475)						
139	L2P Program Swan Hill	Community Development Unit	Operational	3060	Year 1 (2018-19)	54,500	0	(54,500)	0	Learner to Probationary driver program - funding not confirmed past year 3.	
					Year 2 (2019-20)	54,000	0	(54,000)	0		
					Year 3 (2020-21)	55,000	0	(55,000)	0		
					Year 4 (2021-22)	56,000	0	(56,000)	0		
					Year 5 (2022-23)	57,250	0	(57,250)	0		
					Year 6 (2023-24)	58,500	0	(58,500)	0		
					Year 7 (2024-25)	60,000	0	(60,000)	0		
					Year 8 (2025-26)	61,500	0	(61,500)	0		
					Year 9 (2026-27)	62,730	0	(62,730)	0		
					Year 10 (2027-28)	63,250	0	(63,250)	0		
	Unallocated	64,500	0	(64,500)	0						

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28										
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost				
						Total Cost				
						Funding Source				
						Rates (including Loans)				
						Grants & Contributions				
						Other Sources				
						Project Scope				
140	Rural Access Coordinator Community Development Unit	Operational	3080		Year 1 (2018-19)	113,000	0	(113,000)	0	Project funding not confirmed past year 1.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	115,250	0	(115,250)	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	117,500	0	(117,500)	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	120,000	0	(120,000)	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	122,500	0	(122,500)	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	125,000	0	(125,000)	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	127,500	0	(127,500)	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	130,000	0	(130,000)	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	132,600	0	(132,600)	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	132,750	0	(132,750)	0	
	Unallocated				135,400	0	(135,400)	0		
145	Annual Harmony Day Libraries Community Event	Operational	3710		Year 1 (2018-19)	16,000	(13,500)	(2,500)	0	Harmony Day celebrations. Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	16,500	(14,000)	(2,500)	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	17,000	(14,500)	(2,500)	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	17,500	(14,500)	(3,000)	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	18,000	(15,000)	(3,000)	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	18,500	(15,500)	(3,000)	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	19,000	(16,000)	(3,000)	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	19,500	(16,000)	(3,500)	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	19,500	(16,000)	(3,500)	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	20,000	(16,500)	(3,500)	0	
	Unallocated				20,500	(16,800)	(3,700)	0		
141	Roadside Weeds and Pests Management Program	Operational	3060		Year 1 (2018-19)	75,000	0	(75,000)	0	The roadside weeds and pests management program is dependent on State funding.
					Year 2 (2019-20)	75,000	0	(75,000)	0	
					Year 3 (2020-21)	55,000	0	(55,000)	0	
					Year 4 (2021-22)	55,000	0	(55,000)	0	
					Year 5 (2022-23)	57,500	0	(57,500)	0	
					Year 6 (2023-24)	57,500	0	(57,500)	0	
					Year 7 (2024-25)	60,000	0	(60,000)	0	
					Year 8 (2025-26)	60,000	0	(60,000)	0	
					Year 9 (2026-27)	60,000	0	(60,000)	0	
					Year 10 (2027-28)	75,000	0	(75,000)	0	
	Unallocated				76,500	0	(76,500)	0		



SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28									
MP Job #	Project Description	Program Name	Op / Cap	Master Account	Year	Project Cost			
						Total Cost			
						Funding Source			
						Rates (including Loans)			
						Grants & Contributions			
						Other Sources			
132	Purchase Christmas Decorations	Street Beautification	Operational	3235	Year 1 (2018-19)	10,000	(10,000)	0	0
					Year 2 (2019-20)	10,000	(10,000)	0	0
					Year 3 (2020-21)	10,000	(10,000)	0	0
					Year 4 (2021-22)	10,000	(10,000)	0	0
					Year 5 (2022-23)	10,000	(10,000)	0	0
					Year 6 (2023-24)	10,000	(10,000)	0	0
					Year 7 (2024-25)	10,000	(10,000)	0	0
					Year 8 (2025-26)	10,000	(10,000)	0	0
					Year 9 (2026-27)	10,000	(10,000)	0	0
					Year 10 (2027-28)	10,000	(10,000)	0	0
					Unallocated	10,000	(10,000)	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>240,644,535</b>	<b>(122,560,125)</b>	<b>(41,548,505)</b>	<b>(76,535,905)</b>

Purchase of new and replacement Christmas decorations for use across the municipality.

**SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL - 10 Year Major Projects Plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28**

	Total Cost	Rates (including Loans)	Grants & Contributions	Other Sources
Year 1 (2018-19)	12,867,405	(7,210,590)	(2,316,740)	(3,340,075)
Year 2 (2019-20)	14,234,245	(7,925,055)	(3,132,280)	(3,176,910)
Year 3 (2020-21)	18,544,320	(8,406,525)	(5,913,430)	(4,224,365)
Year 4 (2021-22)	15,085,625	(8,142,400)	(3,512,430)	(3,430,795)
Year 5 (2022-23)	15,166,125	(8,221,030)	(3,513,830)	(3,431,265)
Year 6 (2023-24)	15,523,765	(9,034,325)	(2,837,580)	(3,651,860)
Year 7 (2024-25)	17,128,710	(9,337,035)	(2,664,330)	(5,127,345)
Year 8 (2025-26)	16,311,265	(9,720,370)	(2,548,830)	(4,042,065)
Year 9 (2026-27)	16,900,050	(10,030,580)	(2,380,660)	(4,488,810)
Year 10 (2027-28)	16,457,845	(10,409,255)	(2,552,280)	(3,496,310)
Unallocated	82,425,180	(34,122,960)	(10,176,115)	(38,126,105)
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>240,644,535</b>	<b>(122,560,125)</b>	<b>(41,548,505)</b>	<b>(76,535,905)</b>

	Capital - New Asset	Capital - Renewal	Capital - Upgrade	Operational	Grand Total
Year 1 (2018-19)	3,734,000	6,704,015	784,000	1,645,390	12,867,405
Year 2 (2019-20)	3,378,500	7,432,540	1,906,000	1,517,205	14,234,245
Year 3 (2020-21)	4,282,000	7,225,830	5,792,000	1,244,490	18,544,320
Year 4 (2021-22)	4,942,000	8,965,520	32,000	1,146,105	15,085,625
Year 5 (2022-23)	5,243,000	8,654,620	163,000	1,105,505	15,166,125
Year 6 (2023-24)	4,048,500	10,247,745	33,000	1,194,520	15,523,765
Year 7 (2024-25)	4,946,000	10,947,365	34,000	1,201,345	17,128,710
Year 8 (2025-26)	3,992,000	11,039,585	34,000	1,245,680	16,311,265
Year 9 (2026-27)	3,819,500	10,088,445	1,965,000	1,027,105	16,900,050
Year 10 (2027-28)	5,073,000	9,661,160	376,000	1,347,685	16,457,845
Unallocated	67,543,850	11,491,665	1,070,000	2,319,665	82,425,180
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>111,002,350</b>	<b>102,458,490</b>	<b>12,189,000</b>	<b>14,994,695</b>	<b>240,644,535</b>

## **B.17.135 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Development and Planning  
**File Number:** S01-25-04  
**Attachments:** 1 Public Participation Policy

### **Declarations of Interest:**

Helen Morris - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

### **Summary**

This report presents the reviewed Public Participation Policy for adoption.

### **Discussion**

Public participation is the act of seeking community input to assist with the decision making process. The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines for when public participation should be undertaken in Council decision making processes.

This policy applies to all decisions of Council that have a significant impact on the built, social, economic and natural environment within Council's control which affect people within our municipality.

It canvases possible options in relation to situations where a significant change in the levels, standards or mode of delivery services being contemplated, or where a decision of Council, significantly impacts on the built, social, economic or environment within Council's control.

Examples of when Council may undertake public participation practices include:

- Provision of a new service or facility.
- Development of Community Plans.
- Implementation of Planning Scheme overlays.
- Traffic Management.
- Changes to service standards, frequency or mode of delivery.
- Amendments to strategic documents such as the Council Plan, Planning Scheme and Local Laws.
- Development of any strategies that may impact on services or community amenity.
- Issues that affect a property owner, such as any item that requires a planning permit.

There are two procedures within the Public Participation Policy. They are Public Participation and Involving Communities in Council's Decision Making Process.

Minor wording changes have been made to the policy and a post consultation process is now included.

### **Consultation**

Internal consultation.

### **Financial Implications**

Evaluating the effectiveness of public participation activities will enable funds to be allocated to the more effective methods of engagement.

### **Social Implications**

By feeding information back to the community about how their input was used creates transparent lines of communication and builds trust among the community. Showing community members the impact their feedback had in Councils decision making process empowers stakeholders and encourages further engagement.

### **Economic Implications**

Not applicable.

### **Environmental Implications**

Not applicable.

### **Risk Management Implications**

Not applicable.

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Governance and leadership*** - Positive community engagement through appropriate and constructive consultation.

### **Options**

1. Council adopt the updated Public Participation Policy
2. Council adopt the updated Public Participation Policy with amendments
3. Council reject the updated Public Participation Policy

**Recommendation**

**That Council adopt the updated Public Participation Policy.**

**POLICY TITLE            PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY**

**POLICY NUMBER        POL/GOV002**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines for when public participation should be undertaken in Council decision making processes.

**SCOPE**

This policy applies to all decisions of Council that have a significant impact on the built, social, economic and natural environment within Council's control which affect people within our municipality.

**POLICY**

Public participation will be undertaken where required by legislation or when significant changes in the levels, standards or modes of delivery of services is being contemplated, or where a decision of Council significantly impacts on the built, social, economic and natural environment within our municipality. This includes where a consultation process is required by legislation.

The extent of public participation will depend on the importance of the issue under consideration, and the diversity and accessibility of the sector(s) of the community affected by the proposed decision.

Council will respond to changes in technology and to a community that is responsive to different mediums of engagement when seeking public participation in Council decision making processes.

Public participation should maximise the use of existing networks.

Public participation will, as far as practicable, ensure that the affected members of the community are:

- Clearly, accurately and appropriately informed.
- Offered appropriate opportunities for feedback.
- Treated with respect and their contribution valued.

The information gained from public participation shall be prepared, and presented to the decision-makers in a way that accounts for all views.

**RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS**

Involving Communities in Council's Decision Making Processes PRO/GOV002

**RELATED LEGISLATION**

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

Planning Scheme (MMS)

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mayor**                      **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PROCEDURE TITLE        PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURE**

**PROCEDURE NUMBER        PRO/GOV002A**

**ENABLING POLICY/DIRECTIVE**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY POL/GOV002

**ENABLING LEGISLATION**

Local Government Act 1989

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

Planning Scheme (MMS)

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this procedure is:

- To develop stronger partnerships with communities and Council across the municipality.
- To strengthen communication between residents, community town representative groups and Council.
- To connect members of our community and to provide leadership to bring people together to find solutions to community problems.
- To develop and strengthen Council's internal structures to support communities to achieve their aspirations and initiatives as set out in community plans and other strategic documents.

**SCOPE**

This procedure applies to all decisions of Council that have a significant impact on the built, social, economic and environment within Council's control which affects people within our municipality in accordance with the Public Participation Policy.

**PROCEDURE****General**

Public participation is the act of seeking community input to assist with the decision making process.

It canvases all possible options in relation to all situations where a significant change in the levels, standards or mode of delivery services being contemplated, or where a decision of Council, significantly impacts on the built, social, economic or environment within Council's control.

Council will respond to changes in technology and to a community that is responsive to different mediums of engagement when seeking public participation in Council decision making processes.

Public participation of the community on service levels, standards and methods of delivery is one of the six Best Value Principles as identified in Section 208B of the Local Government Act 1989.

Examples of issues in relation to which Council will undertake a public participation include:

- Provision of a new service or facility.
- Development of Community Plans.
- Implementation of Planning Scheme overlays.
- Traffic Management.
- Changes to service standards, frequency or mode of delivery.

- Amendments to strategic documents such as the Council Plan, Planning Scheme and Local Laws.
- Development of any strategies that may impact on services or community amenity.
- Issues that affect a property owner, such as any item that requires a planning permit.

The need to involve the public in the decision making process and methodology to be utilised is often incorporated in legislation, such as Section 223 of the Local Government Act, and in Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act. Where legislation identifies the level and method of consultation, Council will ensure that public participation undertaken meets the legislative requirements.

Public participation in Council's decision making processes is one of the key principles underlying Council's governance role, which is performed by Council and Council employees on a daily basis. Involving the public in Council's decision making processes may be performed by Councillors, Council employees, members of the community; community based committees, or by third parties specifically engaged to undertake a consultation process.

Increasing Level of Community Engagement ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	<b>LEVELS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>
	<b>INFORM</b> To provide the community with information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives and/or solutions; to keep the community informed of the issue and decision.	Fact sheets Newsletters Website Open houses
	<b>CONSULT</b> To obtain input on issues, draft documents and/or decisions; to acknowledge and consider public concerns.	Public comment Focus group Survey Comment form
	<b>INVOLVE</b> To work directly with the community to determine public concerns and opinions and ensure that these are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and decision made.	Workshops World Cafe Deliberate polling
	<b>COLLABORATE</b> To work in partnership with the community on each aspect of the decision making process, including understanding of the issues, developing alternatives and identifying the solution.	Communities Advisory group Participatory Decision making
	<b>EMPOWER</b> To fully delegate control of the decision making process to the community; Council participates in this process as one of the stakeholders and works with the community to implement the decision.	Citizen Juries Ballots Town representative groups

### Development of a Public Participation Plan

While the extent of public participation will depend upon the circumstances of the situation under consideration, the diversity of the affected community, the level to which affected community members are engaged and levels of consultation have been developed using the IAP2 (Public Participation Spectrum), as shown in the above table.

Timing of public participation shall be appropriate to achieving maximum participation, input of stakeholders, and have due consideration of issues such as school and public holidays.

Prior to commencing a decision making process, a public participation plan shall be developed and approved by the relevant director, in conjunction with the Community Development Unit and Media departments (or where the issue affects multiple directorates Executive Leadership Team shall provide approval). The public participation plan shall include:

- Timetable for public participation



- Purpose of the public participation and level of community engagement and consultation to be undertaken, whether it is to inform, to seek alternative points of view, to seek a solution, or empower) – See above table.
- Sectors of the community affected
- How each sector will be engaged (method of communication)
- How feedback will be compiled
- How outcomes of the public participation will be communicated to stakeholders.

### **Evaluation**

*A comprehensive evaluation plan will be included early in the public participation process. This evaluation plan will include:*

- *How information will be feedback to stakeholders about how their input will be used*
- *What relevant stakeholder satisfaction data will be collected, and how this data will be used to assess the effectiveness of public participation activities and to identify areas for improvement.*
- *Evaluate whether public participation activities met their purpose and fulfilled their promise to engage effectively*

### **Public Participation Tools**

Further information on writing a public participation plan can be obtained from the Community Development and Media departments.

### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Swan Hill Rural City Council Communication Strategy

Media Policy POL/GOV003

Regional Development Victoria Transitional Towns Toolkit

Public Participation in Government Decision-Making: Victorian Auditor-General's report May 2017

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CEO** **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PROCEDURE TITLE**            **INVOLVING COMMUNITIES IN COUNCIL'S DECISION  
MAKING PROCESSES**

**PROCEDURE NUMBER**    **PRO/GOV002B**

**ENABLING POLICY/DIRECTIVE**  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY POL/GOV002

**ENABLING LEGISLATION**  
Local Government Act 1989  
Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006  
Planning Scheme (MMS)

**PURPOSE**  
The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that Council employees are aware of Council's practice to enable members of the community to have a voice, to be heard and that their thoughts, ideas and aspirations for the future are considered by Council and the wider community through the community planning process.

**SCOPE**  
This procedure applies to Council and Council employees who are approached by community members seeking Council's support for a thought, idea, aspiration or project relating to a town or district within the municipality.

**PROCEUDRE**  
Council and Council employees will:

- Refer community members who approach Council in regards to an aspiration or project that the community member considers to be important to the future of a town/district within the municipality to the appropriate Town Representative Group (TRG).
- Inform the Community Development Unit of the referral.

It will be the responsibility of the Community Planning Officer to:

- Inform the Council employee who is the first point of contact for the relevant TRG.
- Inform the CEO and Councillors, or relevant Ward Councillor, of the advice provided.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**  
Swan Hill Rural City Council Communication Strategy  
Media Policy POL/GOV003  
Regional Development Victoria Transitional Towns Toolkit  
Public Participation in Government Decision-Making: Victorian Auditor-General's report May 2017

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CEO**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **B.17.136 COMMUNITY GARDEN POLICY**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Development and Planning  
**File Number:** S01-25-03  
**Attachments:** 1 Community Garden Policy

**Declarations of Interest:** Officer

Helen Morris - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

### **Summary**

This report presents the reviewed Community Garden Policy for adoption.

### **Discussion**

Community gardens are gardens created and maintained on public or private land by residents who come together to learn about and participate in gardening; and share the community benefits of localised food production and socialisation.

The Community Garden policy provides a framework to support and encourage the development of community gardens within the Swan Hill municipality. This policy applies to all community garden projects undertaken by, or in partnership with Council.

Council will encourage, support and offer assistance to any individual or group interested in creating a community garden within the municipality. Advice and support can include identifying appropriate sites, insurance requirements, weed management, asset management, community engagement, dispute resolution and health and safety.

Council recognise that community gardens are a valuable public recreational asset that can contribute to the improved health and well being of the community through environmental, social and health education.

The following amendments to the policy are put forward for consideration:

1. Various formatting changes have taken place to improve readability of the document.
2. Add the Engineering Assistant as an employee that may provide assistance with the design of a community garden.

## **Consultation**

Internal consultation.

## **Financial Implications**

The inclusion of assessing garden design with disability access in mind could result in increased costs to construct new gardens and/or retrofit existing gardens to provide access for all abilities.

## **Social Implications**

Developing and retrofitting gardens to ensure they are inclusive for all abilities will provide greater opportunities for people with a disability to participate in community gardens.

## **Economic Implications**

Not applicable

## **Environmental Implications**

Not applicable

## **Risk Management Implications**

Not applicable

## **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Community enrichment*** - Provide services and support initiatives that create a Healthy and Safe Community.

## **Options**

1. Council accept the updates to the Community Garden Policy.
2. Council accept the updates with amendments to the Community Garden Policy
3. Council reject the updates to the Community Garden Policy.

## **Recommendation**

**That Council adopt the updated Community Garden Policy.**

**POLICY TITLE**            **COMMUNITY GARDEN POLICY**

**POLICY NUMBER**       **COMM/POL813**

**PURPOSE**

To provide a framework to support and encourage the development of community gardens within the Swan Hill municipality.

**SCOPE**

This policy applies to all community garden projects undertaken by, or in partnership with, Council.

**DEFINITION**

Community Gardens - are gardens created and maintained on public or private land by residents who come together to learn about and participate in gardening; and share the community benefits of localised food production and socialisation.

**POLICY**

Council will encourage, support and offer assistance to any individual or group that approach Council with the intention of creating a community garden within the Swan Hill municipality. Council recognises community gardens as a valuable public recreational asset that can contribute to the improved health and well being of the community through environmental, social and health education.

The management and function of community gardens should rest with engaged residents, however Council advice and support is available to ensure sustainable and consistent development of community gardens.

Advice and support can include identifying appropriate sites, insurance requirements, weed management, asset management, community engagement, dispute resolution, health and safety.

**RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS**

Public Participation - POL/GOV010

Sustainable Living Strategy

Resilience Action Strategy

**RELATED LEGISLATION**

Local Government Act 1989

Planning and Environment Act 1987

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mayor**                      **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PROCEDURE TITLE      COMMUNITY GARDENS PROCEDURE****PROCEDURE NUMBER    COMM/PRO813****PURPOSE**

To ensure that a uniform and transparent approach is taken in the approval and planning of community gardens in the Swan Hill municipality and to define the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.

**SCOPE**

This procedure applies to all community garden projects undertaken by, or in partnership with, Council.

**DEFINITION**

Community Gardens - are gardens created and maintained on public or private land by residents who come together to learn about and participate in gardening; and share the community benefits of localised food production and socialisation.

**PROCEDURE**

All enquiries with respect to community gardens are to be directed to the Community Planning Officer, within the Economic and Community Development department.

Based on a case-by-case assessment, other Council employees and departments may be requested to provide expertise relevant to the application.

Employees and departments that may provide assistance will include:

<b>Task</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Position</b>
Community liaison	Economic and Community Development	Community Planning Officer
Ensure inclusive and accessible	Engineering	Engineering Assistant
Land use information	Development and Planning	Planning Officer
Environmental advice	Planning	Environment Officer
Assessment of assets and ongoing use of Council land	Infrastructure	Assets Engineer
Risk assessment	Commercial Services	Risk Management Officer

Council will endeavour to support all community-driven projects, provided that all conditions of approval are met to the satisfaction of Council.

**Conditions of approval on Council owned or managed land:**

Each application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Permission to establish a garden on Council land is at the discretion of Council.

If permission is granted, the following conditions must be agreed to:

- All cost of establishment, maintenance and renewal is borne by the applicant.
- Council and service authorities reserve the right to access pre-existing assets and future assets. Disturbance resulting from access works will be reinstated to a neat finish, plants will not be reinstated.
- Applicants will be asked by Council to remove any gardens that are inappropriate or not adequately maintained. Failure to comply will result in Council removing the garden at the applicants cost.
- 

#### **Council's role:**

In regard to the establishment of a community garden within the Swan Hill municipality, Council will:

- Assist applicant to identify suitable sites
- Assist applicants in applying for funding
- Offer expertise and advise relevant to creating a successful community garden
- Provide a copy of Council's *Community Garden Guidelines* and refer applicants to the *Community Gardens Manual – Helen Macpherson Smith Trust*.
- Ensure assets are maintained by the gardening group on Council owned or managed land for the benefit of the community
- Assess proposals to establish community gardens on a case-by-case basis.

Supporting community gardens to be self-managed ensures community ownership and will assist in the sustainability and success of a community garden.

Council will provide the following support to community garden groups:

- Ongoing advice and expertise in regard to the establishment and maintenance of the garden, including assistance in the development of management plans, and in obtaining grants and resources.
- Assist with community engagement activities.

#### **RELATED DIRECTIVE/POLICY**

Public Participation POL/GOV010

Sustainable Living Strategy

Resilience Action Strategy

Community Garden Guidelines



Community Gardens Manual – Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

**RELATED LEGISLATION**

Local Government Act (1989)

Planning and Environment Act (1987)

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CEO**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **B.17.137    EVENTS POLICY**

**Responsible Officer:**            Director Development and Planning  
**File Number:**                    S12-25-01  
**Attachments:**                    1    Events Policy

#### **Declarations of Interest:**

Helen Morris - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

#### **Summary**

This report presents the revised Events Policy for adoption.

#### **Discussion**

Events and festivals are an important function of the Swan Hill Rural City Council (Council). In addition to Council-run or supported events, there are many events that are held on Council managed or owned land that are run by community groups or organisations.

Council recognises the role events play in building social capital, encouraging community participation and enhancing tourism opportunities. The events policy has been created to further encourage and facilitate the range of events held throughout the municipality.

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines for Council's role in approving, supporting and delivering events. The policy aligns with the information provided in Swan Hill Rural City Council's Events Management Guide, developed to assist event organisers to deliver safe, well-managed and documented events.

The policy applies to events held by individuals, groups or committees on Council-owned or managed land, which is not currently approved activities within Council's Recreation Reserve and Pavilion User Agreement.

The Events Policy is accompanied by an Events Procedure, which provides a clear framework to guide the roles and responsibilities of the event organiser and Council Officers through the approval process required to organise events on Council owned or managed property.

The policy highlights the role of the Economic Development & Events Support Officer in coordinating the internal events process, arranging appropriate approvals and managing external event enquiries

## **Consultation**

Council officers from Public Health, Engineering, Economic Development Unit, Commercial Service and Customer Service have been consulted.

## **Financial Implications**

Nil

## **Social Implications**

Supporting community events encourages:

- Enhanced quality of life for our communities;
- A sense of community identity and pride;
- Increased social cohesiveness;
- Wider community participation in events.

## **Economic Implications**

Nil

## **Environmental Implications**

Nil

## **Risk Management Implications**

Event organisers have an obligation to ensure that all potential risks associated with an event are identified and managed, organisers must provide details of risk management for their event prior to approval being granted by Council.

## **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Community enrichment*** - Develop a community with a sense of pride and responsibility/ownership that strives to achieve its aspirations.

## **Options**

1. Council adopt the Events Policy
2. Council adopt the Events Policy with amendments
3. Council reject the Events Policy

## **Recommendation**

**That Council adopt the Events Policy.**

Date Adopted November 2016  
 Date Reviewed-current as at  
 To be Reviewed November 2018

Fully compliant with Victorian  
 Charter of Human Rights and  
 Responsibilities Act 2006



**POLICY TITLE**      **EVENTS**  
**POLICY NUMBER**   **POL/STAFF128**

**PURPOSE**

Events and festivals are an important function of the Swan Hill Rural City Council (Council). In addition to Council-run or supported events, there are many events that are held on Council managed or owned land that are run by community groups or organisations.

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines for Council’s role in approving, supporting and delivering events.

**SCOPE**

The policy applies to events held by individuals, groups or committees on Council-owned or managed land which are not currently approved activities within Council’s Recreation Reserve and Pavilion User Agreement.

A documented Event Management Guide has been developed to assist event organisers to deliver safe, well-managed and documented events.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Event** is an organised promoted public gathering on Council owned or managed property, not including normal business operations.

**Managed property** Crown land of which Council has been appointed a Committee of Management and is responsible for the hire of the property.

**POLICY**

Events will not be approved by Council until all event management requirements are satisfied in accordance with the Event Management Guide and evidence of the necessary documentation is provided.

**RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS**

- Events Procedure – PRO/STAFF
- Risk Management Policy – POL/CORP216
- Occupational Health and Safety Policy – POL/STAFF107
- Events Management – A Guide for Organisers of Events

**RELATED LEGISLATION**

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CEO**                      **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **B.17.138 CHILD SAFE STANDARDS POLICY**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Community & Cultural Services  
**File Number:** S23.01.01  
**Attachments:** 1 Child Safe Standards Policy

### **Declarations of Interest:**

Bruce Myers - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

### **Summary**

This report provides Council with the revised Child Safe Standards Policy following a review, and presents the Policy adoption.

### **Discussion**

Council's Child Safe Policy was adopted in August 2016, as a crucial first step towards organisational compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards.

Following the once-year anniversary of the adoption, the Policy has been reviewed with the only change being the inclusion of a point highlighting the recent requirement for mandatory reporting of incidents for all people and services.

### **Consultation**

Not applicable.

### **Financial Implications**

Not applicable.

### **Social Implications**

The Child Safe Standards were introduced by the Victorian Government in response to the Royal Commission into child abuse. The intent of this Policy is part of the local response to the Standards and greater protection for children.

### **Economic Implications**

Not applicable.

### **Environmental Implications**

Not applicable.

### **Risk Management Implications**

Council is required to have an adopted Policy relating to the Child Safe Standards in place within the 2016 calendar year. As a Category 1 organisation, the adoption of a Policy was necessary to begin formal compliance with the new legislation.

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Community enrichment*** - Provide services and support initiatives that create a Healthy and Safe Community.

### **Options**

- 1. Make changes to the reviewed Policy and adopt the Policy.**
- 2. Adopt the Policy as presented.**

### **Recommendation**

**That Council adopts the Child Safe Standards Policy as presented.**

**POLICY TITLE**      **CHILD SAFE STANDARDS POLICY**

**POLICY NUMBER**    **POL/HUMAN 615**

### **PURPOSE**

Council is committed to promoting and protecting the interests and safety of children. We have zero tolerance for child abuse.

### **SCOPE**

This Policy applies to Councillors, staff, contractors and volunteers engaged by Council.

### **POLICY**

1. To prevent child abuse within Council.
2. To work towards an organisational culture of child safety.
3. To ensure that all parties are aware of their responsibilities for identifying possible occasions for child abuse and for establishing controls and procedures for preventing such abuse and/or detecting such abuse when it occurs.
4. To provide guidance to employees/volunteers/contractors as to action that should be taken where they suspect any abuse within or outside of the organisation.
5. To provide a clear statement to employees/volunteers/contractors forbidding any such abuse.
6. To provide assurance that any and all suspected abuse will be fully investigated.
7. To provide assurance that any and all suspected abuse must be reported.

### **RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS**

- Police and Working with Children Check DIR PRO STAFF119

### **RELATED LEGISLATION**

- Crimes Act 1958 (Vic)
- Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment Act 2015 (Vic)

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mayor**      **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **B.17.139 DEBT COLLECTION POLICY**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Corporate Services  
**File Number:** S15-14-03  
**Attachments:** 1 Debt Collection Policy

#### **Declarations of Interest:**

David Lenton - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

#### **Summary**

The Debt Collection Policy has been reviewed and is presented for the approval of Council. The review has resulted in some minor alterations to the policy.

#### **Discussion**

Council has a range of policies that guide how Council operates to deliver services and its dealings with the community. These policies are periodically reviewed to ensure that they are still appropriate. The review has resulted in some minor changes.

For Rates, Service Charges and Levies, an additional step has now been included before we issue a Summons of Complaint. The extra step is the issue of a Notice of Impending Summons.

We will now also be considering properties for Rate Recovery Sale on an annual basis rather than a biannual basis. This change reflects the extended period of time it is taking to prepare properties for rate recovery, from a legal standpoint.

For Loans/Lease Agreements, additional correspondence will now be forwarded as part of the final notice process.

For Sundry Debtors - Child Care Services, the use of SMS text messages as part of usual telephone contact has proved most effective.

The policy should be read in conjunction with the Financial Hardship policy.

#### **Consultation**

No community consultation has been undertaken in relation to this policy. All members of the Executive Leadership Team, together with relevant staff, have reviewed the policy. The policy was also presented at a Councillor Assembly.



### **Financial Implications**

The policy ensures monies owed to Council are collected in a timely manner.

### **Social Implications**

The policy acknowledges that on occasion some flexibility is required to enable customers to pay amounts owed to Council.

### **Economic Implications**

Nil

### **Environmental Implications**

Nil

### **Risk Management Implications**

Mitigates against potential non-collection of debts.

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Governance and leadership*** - Effective and efficient utilisation of resources.

### **Options**

1. That Council adopt the Debt Collection Policy
2. That Council adopt the Debt Collection Policy with amendments
3. That Council reject the Debt Collection Policy

### **Recommendation**

**That Council adopt the reviewed Debt Collection Policy.**

Date Adopted	February 2001
Date Reviewed	December 2017
To be Reviewed	December 2020

Fully compliant with Victorian  
Charter of Human Rights and  
Responsibilities Act 2006



**POLICY TITLE**      **DEBT COLLECTION**

**POLICY NUMBER**    **POL/CORP204**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear and concise framework in which to pursue outstanding debts owed to Council, thereby ensuring reliability of revenue collection.

### **SCOPE**

This policy applies to all Council employees with responsibility to ensure collection of monies on behalf of Council.

### **POLICY**

Council will collect outstanding monies owed to it, using all possible legal means and having due regard to genuine applications for financial hardship.

Council will undertake legal action only once all other collection avenues have been exhausted.

Council will develop and implement procedures to ensure reliable revenue collection. Outstanding debts owed to Council shall be followed up in accordance with the Debt Collection Procedure – PRO/CORP204.

The Debt Collection Procedure will:

- (a) Identify the debt collection methods to be utilised when collecting amounts owed to Council
- (b) Establish and confirm timeframes and associated actions in pursuit of outstanding debts owed to Council
- (c) Provide defined protocols when negotiating with Council clients on debt collection issues.

### **RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS**

Financial Hardship Policy POL/CORP227

### **RELATED LEGISLATION**

The Local Government Act 1989

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mayor**      **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date Adopted	February 2001
Date Reviewed	December 2017
To be Reviewed	December 2020

Fully compliant with Victorian  
Charter of Human Rights and  
Responsibilities Act 2006



**PROCEDURE TITLE          DEBT COLLECTION**

**PROCEDURE NUMBER      PRO/CORP204**

**ENABLING POLICY/DIRECTIVE**

DEBT COLLECTION POLICY – DIR/CORP204

**ENABLING LEGISLATION**

The Local Government Act 1989

**PROCEDURE PURPOSE**

The purpose of this procedure is to establish a clear and concise framework by which collection of outstanding debts owed to Council can be maximised.

**SCOPE**

This procedure applies to all Council employees with responsibility to ensure collection of monies on behalf of Council.

**PROCEDURE**

**Employee Responsibilities**

This procedure seeks to maintain and enhance Council's integrity and standing in its dealings with its debtors. Therefore, in all dealings that Council employees have with Council's debtors it is expected that:

- All debtors are shown respect, courtesy, and diligence in all dealings.
- Maximum possible collection targets are sought by Council.
- Any negotiated arrangements conform to the documented guidelines stipulated in this procedure.
- High levels of ethics are adhered to, particularly when dealing with those clients regarded as in financial hardship.
- All debt collection arrangements are treated as strictly confidential.

**Debt Groupings**

Amounts owed to Council can be categorised into several broad based groups. The groupings are designated as follows:

- Rates, Service Charges and Levies.
- Special Rates and Charges (e.g., Private Schemes).
- Loans/Lease Agreements.
- Sundry Debtors – Community Care Services.
- Sundry Debtors – Child Care Services.
- Sundry Debtors – Other.

Date Adopted	February 2001
Date Reviewed	December 2017
To be Reviewed	December 2020

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Each grouping, by its particular nature, requires distinct methods of debt collection. Each grouping is considered below.

## 1. RATES, SERVICE CHARGES AND LEVIES

### 1.1 Standard Collection Procedure

#### Issue of an Annual Notice

As per section 158 (4)(d) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council must allow a minimum of 14 days from the issue of an Annual Rate Notice to the first payment due date.

#### Council Payment Dates

Council currently offers instalment payments by 30 September, 30 November, 28 February and 31 May each year. Council also provides a discount on rates and service charges for payments made in full by 30 September. Statutory interest charges are raised in accordance with Section 172 of the Local Government Act for payments made after the specified dates. The rate of Penalty Interest is reviewed regularly by the Victorian Government and any changes to the rate are published in the Victorian Government Gazette.

#### Payment Methods

##### (a) Negotiated Payment Arrangements

Ratepayers may negotiate a suitable repayment arrangement to clear their indebtedness. Any such arrangement must clear the debt within a maximum 12 month period, while taking into account any current amounts that accrue during the repayment period. The repayment period may be lengthened on the approval of the Customer Services and Revenue Co-ordinator or the Director Corporate Services.

Failure to adhere to an agreed repayment arrangement will result in a reminder letter being issued. Subsequently, if no contact is made within 10 clear business days, the next stage of collection procedures will be initiated.

Adherence to an agreed repayment arrangement, at this or any stage in the collection process, will immediately stay any collection legal proceedings. However, a stay of collection will only be allowed once for properties that are scheduled for rate recovery sale.

The Debt Collection Contractor, on a weekly basis or, as repayment arrangement dictates, monitors the arrangement negotiated until the account is paid in full.

##### (b) Centrelink Arrangements

At the initiation of the ratepayer, Council will accept Centrelink Centrepay deductions into its General Bank Account for those ratepayers whom are in arrears.

##### (c) Direct Debit

Fortnightly, monthly, and quarterly direct debit payments are available to all ratepayers.

#### Reminder Notices

Reminder Notices for all unpaid rates accounts to be forwarded by 15 June each year. Forwarding of Reminder Notices will not be considered for ratepayers in arrears of their first, second or third instalments.

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### Final Notices

Preparation and forwarding, by Council's Debt Collection Contractor, of Final Notices to all ratepayers with an outstanding rates balance of \$50.00 or above. Final Notices to be sent by 7 July each year.

Statutory interest charges will continue to be raised despite any repayment arrangement negotiated unless otherwise determined by the Director of Corporate Services.

### Magistrates Court Actions

Ratepayers who do not respond to a Final Notice are subject to the following formal collection processes:

- Attempted phone contact by Council's Debt Collection Contractor. If no resolution is achieved a Solicitors Demand letter will be issued. Dependent upon the history and nature of the debt, additional phone contacts, and/or SMS contacts are made.
- If debt is not resolved, then a final attempted telephone contact is made by Council's Debt Collection Contractor. If no resolution is achieved after 14 days, a Notice of Impending summons is issued. If no resolution is achieved, a formal Summons of Complaint is issued.
- For Pension Concession holders, before a Summons of Complaint is issued, Council's Debt Collection contractors 'Extended Services' option should be used. This option incorporates intensive telephone follow-ups, negotiations of an automated repayment arrangement or field calls. This option should prevent the necessity to issue a summons in some instances.
- If the debt is still not settled or negotiated, an Issue of Judgement Order is made.
- Issue of Rent Orders, Summons for Oral Examination, Attachment of Earnings Application, Bank Garnishee Report and/or Warrant to Seize Property.

The majority of the above actions incur the Magistrates Court Civil Procedures – Scale of Costs, all of which are recoverable from the debtor.

Due to the cost of issuing a Summons of Complaint, debts of less than \$1,000.00 will not be pursued through the courts without prior approval from the Director Corporate Services.

Discretion by the Customer Services and Revenue Co-ordinator is exercised in proceeding with any of the above actions, dependent upon size of debt, length of debt accrual and past history of debtor. This discretion incorporates the formal resolution of Council of 8 February 2000, wherein:

*“that in the event of a sole proprietor of a property in Council's municipal district dying in the rate year prior to the due date for payment of rates for that rating year, with rates owing on the property for that year, the estate of the deceased ratepayer will have an extension of up to 3 months from the due date for payment of rates for that rating year without penalty”.*

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## 1.2 Rate Recovery Sales

By the March Council meeting each year, the Customer Services and Revenue Co-ordinator will prepare for the Chief Executive Officer's approval, a report of properties proposed for sale to recover unpaid rates and charges.

Council will be kept informed by the Chief Executive Officer of any potential damage to its public image. This may include sensitive, contentious, staff owned or Councillor owned properties.

The report is to reflect those properties where all other measures to collect the debt have been unsuccessful and employees believe proceeding to a Rate Recovery Sale process is justified and worthwhile.

The report will be supported by a confidential listing of all required details for Council to make an informed determination on each individual debtor, including the debtor's financial circumstances if known, debt history, debt collection costs, sale costs, expected proceeds and any other relevant matters.

Where the Capital Improved Value is below \$6,000.00, the Director Corporate Services may choose to abandon the outstanding rates as the cost of recovery may make a Rate Recovery Sale not worthwhile.

In addition, the Customer Services and Revenue Co-ordinator is to prepare a report for Council's determination of those properties which are of such low value as to warrant consolidation with adjoining landowners. Such properties would usually have owners that have been deceased for a number of years, are not required by the owners or their beneficiaries, or are un-contactable.

## 2. SPECIAL RATES AND CHARGES

### 2.1 Council Payment Dates

Initial accounts, for special rates and charges, are forwarded once the special rate or charge has been formally declared. For those debtors whom choose to pay the special rate or charge by instalments, accounts for such instalments are issued at the end of each quarter, being 30 September, 31 December, 31 March and 30 June.

### 2.2 Reminder Notices

Reminder notices are forwarded via subsequent quarterly instalment notices whereon arrears amounts are shown.

### 2.3 Telephone Contact

After 14 days, prior to issue of a Final Notice, debtor telephoned by Revenue Department employees to negotiate payment arrangement.

### 2.4 Final Notices

Preparation and forwarding, by Debt Collection Contractor, of Final Notices for special rates and charges debtors following non-payment of any arrears, is performed on a quarterly basis.

### 2.5 Payment Methods

Negotiated payment arrangements, Centrelink arrangements and direct debits apply in the same manner as Rates, Service Charges and Levies.

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## 2.6 Formal Collection Procedures

Follow-up call after Final Notice, Magistrates Court Actions, Financial Hardship Provisions and Rate Recovery Sales are applicable to Special Rates and Charges in the same manner as the Rates, Service Charges and Levies.

## 3. LOANS/LEASE AGREEMENTS

### 3.1 Council Payment Dates

Council has loans or lease agreements with community organisations and businesses. Repayments are identified in the agreement and a repayment schedule is provided. Notices for these debts are forwarded one month prior to the due dates.

### 3.2 Reminder Notices

Due to the relatively small number of accounts of this type of debt, reminders to debtors are effected by correspondence.

### 3.3 Final Notices

To be prepared and forwarded by Council's Debt Collection Contractor at the direction of the Director Corporate Services. Where the outstanding debt rests with a community organisation, further correspondence is sent, sometimes with the option that access to facilities be refused until the debt has been cleared.

### 3.4 Telephone Contact

Attempted telephone contact made by Finance Department employees.

### 3.5 Formal Collection Procedures

Collection of payments for these types of debts will be enforced by application of a negotiated agreement between Council and the respective debtors followed by such action through the courts system as required. This action will be consistent with the form of security held by Council. Where a loan/lease is with a not-for-profit or community group, the matter will be referred to Council prior to legal action.

## 4. SUNDRY DEBTORS – COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

### 4.1 Council Payment Dates

Statement accounts are forwarded on a monthly basis, accounts are due 30 days from statement date.

### 4.2 Reminder Accounts

Statement account incorporating arrears outstanding will be sent in following month.

### 4.3 Telephone Contact

After 14 days from issue of reminder statement account, the debtor will be telephoned by Community Care Services Department employees to negotiate payment arrangement.

### 4.4 Payment Methods

Negotiated payment arrangements, Centrelink Centrepay arrangements and direct debits apply in the same manner as Rates, Service Charges and Levies.

### 4.5 Final Notices

Correspondence will be sent accompanying statement account if in arrears of greater than 60 days.

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#### 4.6 Formal Collection Procedures

- Recommendation to the Director Corporate Services that the debt be written off as uncollectible or formal collection processes commenced.
- Solicitors letter of demand sent from Council's Debt Collection Contractor.
- Attempted telephone contact by Council's Debt Collection Contractor.

#### 4.7 Magistrate Court actions

- Issue a Summons of Complaint.
- Contact made by Debt Collection Contractor on a weekly basis, or as repayment arrangements dictate.
- Issue of Judgement Order.
- Issue of Summons for Oral Examination, Attachment of Earnings Application or Warrant to Seize Property.

Discretion by the Director Corporate Services is to be exercised in proceeding with any of the above actions, dependent upon size of debt, length of debt accrual and past history of debtor. Discretion is also exercised by the Director Corporate Services in any repayment arrangement negotiated.

### 5. SUNDRY DEBTORS – CHILD CARE SERVICES

#### 5.1 Council Payment Dates

Statement accounts are forwarded on a fortnightly basis and are due for payment 7 days after issue.

#### 5.2 Reminder Accounts

Statement accounts, incorporating arrears outstanding, will be sent in the following fortnight. Initial notification of cancellation of service will occur, if not paid within 7 days.

#### 5.3 Telephone contact

Debtor telephoned and/or sent an SMS text by Revenue Department employees if account is 28 days overdue.

#### 5.4 Final Notices

Endorsed statement account sent, if in arrears of greater than 30 days. This endorsement also notifies service withdrawal if not paid within 7 days.

#### 5.5 Formal Collection Procedures

- Recommendation by the Director Corporate Services that the debt be written off as uncollectible or that formal collection processes commence.
- Solicitor's letter of demand sent from Council's Debt Collection contractor.
- Attempted telephone contact by Council's Debt Collection Contractor.

#### 5.6 Magistrate Court Actions

- Issue of a Summons of Complaint.
- Contact made by Debt Collection Contractor on a weekly basis, or as repayment arrangement dictates.



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- Issue of Judgement Order.
- Issue of Summons for Oral Examination, Attachment of Earnings Application or Warrant to Seize Property.

Discretion by the Director Corporate Services is to be exercised in proceeding with any of the above actions, dependent upon size of debt, length of debt accrual and past history of debtor. Discretion is also exercised by the Director Corporate Services in any repayment arrangement negotiated.

## 6. SUNDRY DEBTORS – OTHER

### 6.1 Council Payment Dates

Statement accounts are forwarded on a monthly basis and are due and payable at issue. Debtors are allowed 30 days for payment to be made.

### 6.2 Reminder Accounts

Statement accounts incorporating arrears outstanding will be sent in following month, accompanied by correspondence.

### 6.3 Final Notices

If in arrears of greater than 60 days, a second item of correspondence accompanying statement account will be sent.

### 6.4 Telephone Contact

After 14 days from issue of final statement accounts, selected debtors telephoned by Revenue Department, or other associated department employees, to negotiate payment arrangements.

### 6.5 Formal Collection Procedures

- Recommendation to the Director Corporate Services that debt be written off as uncollectible or that formal collection processes commence.
- Solicitor's letter of demand sent from Council's Debt Collection contractor.
- Attempted telephone contact by Council's Debt Collection Contractor.

### 6.6 Magistrate Court Actions

- Issue of a Summons of Complaint.
- Contact made by Debt collection Contractor on a weekly basis, or as repayment arrangement dictates.
- Issue of Judgement Order.
- Issue of Summons for Oral Examination, Attachment of Earnings Application or Warrant to Seize Property.

Discretion by the Director Corporate Services is to be exercised in proceeding with any of the above actions, dependent upon size of debt, length of debt accrual and past history of debtor. Discretion is also exercised in any repayment arrangement negotiated.

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**7. FINANCIAL HARDSHIP PROVISION**

Council is able to waive or defer any debt, which upon application by a ratepayer, would cause financial hardship to the applicant.

Applications of this nature are processed under the provisions of Council's Financial Hardship Policy.

**RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS**

Financial Hardship Policy POL/CORP227

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ CEO Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **B.17.140 FRAUD CONTROL POLICY**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Corporate Services  
**File Number:** S15-25-06  
**Attachments:** 1 Fraud Control Policy

#### **Declarations of Interest:**

David Lenton - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

#### **Summary**

The Fraud Control Policy has been reviewed and is presented for adoption.

#### **Discussion**

The Fraud Control Policy and associated Procedure have been reviewed and updated to reflect the role of the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC), changes in Australian Standards and changes in Organisational Structure.

#### **Consultation**

Various Council departments have had input into the review of the Policy and Procedure.

#### **Financial Implications**

The cost of implementing the Policy is covered from within existing resources.

#### **Social Implications**

Not applicable for this item.

#### **Economic Implications**

Not applicable for this item.

#### **Environmental Implications**

Not applicable for this item.

#### **Risk Management Implications**

The Fraud Control Policy and Procedure are important documents that guide Council's attitude, control measures and response to Fraud.

## **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Governance and leadership*** - Effective and efficient utilisation of resources.

### **Options**

1. Council adopt the Fraud Control Policy
2. Council adopt the Fraud Control Policy with amendments
3. Council reject the Fraud Control Policy

### **Recommendation**

**That Council adopt the Fraud Control Policy as presented.**

**POLICY TITLE        FRAUD CONTROL POLICY****POLICY NUMBER    POL/CORP226****PURPOSE**

This policy requires the organisation to identify procedures and programs to protect Council's assets, integrity and security in order to maintain a high level of service to, and reputation with, the community.

Council is committed to protecting its revenue, expenditure and assets from any attempt by members of the public, contractors, agents, intermediaries, volunteers, Councillors or its own employees to gain financial or other benefits by deceit, bias or dishonest conduct.

**SCOPE**

This policy applies to all contractors, Councillors, committee members, volunteers and employees of Council and should be read in conjunction with Council's Codes of Conduct.

**DEFINITIONS**

Fraud	is defined as a dishonest activity causing actual or potential financial loss to any person or entity including theft of moneys or other property by employees or persons external to the entity and whether or not deception is used at the time, immediately before or immediately following the activity. This also includes the deliberate falsification, concealment, destruction or use of falsified documentation used or intended for use for a normal business purpose or the improper use of information or position. <i>Standards Australia 2008, Fraud and Corruption Control (AS 8001–2008)</i>
Gift	is defined as any item or service which could be perceived to influence decision-making.
Reasonable grounds for suspicion	means there is a real possibility of corrupt conduct. Suspicion is something less than belief, but requires more than idle speculation. It must be based on facts and circumstances that would be sufficient to make a reasonable person suspect corrupt conduct had occurred or was occurring. However, proof is not necessary, nor is it required that an individual or individuals be identified.

**POLICY**

Council will:

- Promote and guide Council's commitment to protecting itself against any form of fraudulent behaviour which could lead to a financial or property loss, or loss of public confidence.
- Establish control measures to prevent, detect, investigate and manage fraudulent activity or suspected fraudulent activity.
- Create and promote a culture of strong and consistent ethical organisational behaviour which effectively reduces Council's fraud risks.
- Provide clear responsibilities at all levels.
- Develop and enforce procedures to:
  - Prevent, detect and respond to fraud in a systematic and timely manner.
  - Ensure appropriate investigation of all suspected acts of fraud.
  - Protect Council's assets and reputation.
  - Establish a culture of sound ethics and integrity at Council.
  - Support Council's Codes of Conduct.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has principal responsibility for ensuring there are adequate controls and structures in place to ensure compliance with the Policy.

The CEO is subject to mandatory reporting requirements under the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) Act. The CEO will report suspected or apparent fraud to the IBAC which he/she believes on reasonable grounds is occurring or has occurred.

The Executive Leadership Team (ELT), Internal Audit and the Audit Committee will support the CEO in identifying, implementing and managing fraud controls.

**RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS**

- Protected Disclosures Directive – DIR/GOV018
- Staff Code of Conduct - POL/STAFF100
- Attractive Assets Directive - DIR/CORP221
- Tendering Directive - DIR/CORP217
- Procurement Policy - POL/CORP229
- Police Checks – PRO/STAFF 141
- Serious Misconduct, Negligence and Fraud Directive – DIR/STAFF123
- Recruitment Directive – DIR/STAFF 110
- Councillor Code of Conduct

**RELATED LEGISLATION**

- Protected Disclosure Act 2012 (replaces Whistle Blowers Act 2001)
- Local Government Act 1989
- Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Act 2011
- Standards Australia 2008, Fraud and Corruption Control (AS 8001–2008)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROCEDURE TITLE      FRAUD CONTROL**

**PROCEDURE NUMBER      PRO/CORP226**

**ENABLING POLICY/DIRECTIVE**  
FRAUD CONTROL POLICY – POL/CORP226

**ENABLING LEGISLATION**  
Nil

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this procedure is to protect Council's assets, integrity and security in order to maintain a high level of service to, and reputation with, the community.

**SCOPE**

This procedure applies to all contractors, Councillors, Committee members, volunteers and employees of Council and should be read in conjunction with Council's Staff Code of Conduct.

**DEFINITION**

- Fraud:** is defined as a dishonest activity causing actual or potential financial loss to any person or entity including theft of moneys or other property by employees or persons external to the entity and whether or not deception is used at the time, immediately before or immediately following the activity. This also includes the deliberate falsification, concealment, destruction or use of falsified documentation used or intended for use for a normal business purpose or the improper use of information or position. Standards Australia 2008, *Fraud and Corruption Control* (AS 8001–2008)
- Gift:** is defined as any item or service which could be perceived to influence decision-making.
- Senior Officer:** is defined in section 3 of the Local Government Act 1989.
- Responsible Officer:** is an officer with budgetary responsibility for an area or department of Council or an officer with specific delegated authority.
- Token Gift:** is defined as gifts such as chocolates or flowers, single bottles of wine, free or modestly subsidised meals, beverages or refreshments provided in conjunction with official business or networking events i.e., training, conferences, or small office or business accessories i.e., pens, calendars, notepads.
- Fraudulent behaviour includes but is not limited to:**
- Theft or misappropriation of Council funds including cash, property, plant and equipment.
  - Obtaining any financial benefit, or other benefit, by deception.
  - False invoicing and making false claims.
  - Unlawful or unauthorised use of Council's credit cards, computers, vehicles, telephones or any other item of Council property.
  - Bribery, corruption or abuse of office to gain some form of financial advantage.
  - Theft or misuse of intellectual property, or other confidential information.
  - Providing false or misleading information, or failing to provide information, when an obligation exists to do so.
  - Financial reporting fraud.
  - Making, using or possessing forged or falsified documents.
  - Falsification of time or attendance records.
  - Making false claims for allowances.
  - Failure to declare a conflict of interest.
  - Misrepresentation of qualifications or experience.
  - Deliberate over-ordering of materials or services to allow a proportion to be used for personal purposes.
  - Unauthorised amendment or correction to previously authorised forms;
  - Payment of fictitious employees or suppliers.
  - Damage, destruction or falsification of documents for the purpose of material gain.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** has principal responsibility for ensuring there are adequate fraud controls and governance structures in place to ensure compliance with the Policy.

The CEO is subject to mandatory reporting requirements under the IBAC Act. The CEO will report suspected or apparent fraud to the IBAC which he/she believes on reasonable grounds is occurring or has occurred.

**Executive Leadership Team** is responsible for:

- Ensuring there are adequate internal controls to provide reasonable assurance for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption.
- Supporting an effective Internal Audit function and Audit Committee.
- Ensuring that the Risk Register identifies fraud exposures and that fraud risks are reviewed at least annually.
- Complying with Council policies, rules and regulations.
- Ensuring employees are aware of their responsibilities through adequate training, supervision and written procedures.
- Responding to issues raised by the Internal Audit or Audit Committee and the external auditor.
- Reporting any known or suspected incidents of fraud to the CEO.
- In the event of an incident of fraud, conduct a fraud incident analysis.
- Setting an example and advising employees of the acceptability, or otherwise, of their conduct.
- Reporting incidents of fraud to the Audit Committee with recommendations for action to avoid further such incidents.
- identify positions where employees may be more exposed to the risk of fraud and/or corruption („at risk“ positions);

**Audit Committee's** role is to assist Management and Council to achieve sound managerial review and control over all Council activities. This process can aid fraud control.

**Employees** are responsible for acting with propriety in all Council activities. Employees must:

- Be aware of the content and provisions of this Policy and Procedure.
- Act in accordance with the Staff Code of Conduct at all times.
- Not use their position with Council to gain personal advantage, or to confer advantage, or disadvantage, on any other person.
- Be responsible for the safeguard of Council assets against theft, misuse or improper use.
- Report any suspicion of fraud that they believe on reasonable grounds has occurred or is occurring.
- Report all gifts to the Executive Support Officer as per the fraud control procedure.

**Councillors** shall be aware of and where applicable, comply with this Policy. Councillors must also be aware of and adhere to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1989.

**Contractors/Volunteers/Consultants** must:

- Act with propriety in all dealings with Council.
- Be responsible for the safeguard of Council assets against theft, misuse or improper use.
- Report any suspicion of fraud that they believe on reasonable grounds has occurred or is occurring.

**Commercial Services Unit** must:

- Assist the Organisational Development Manager and Director Corporate Services with the development and assessment of fraud and corruption awareness training;
- develop and make available risk assessment tools on fraud and corruption;
- act as the conduit between the organisation, the insurers and the investigators where a fraud is suspected to have occurred (excluding protected disclosure investigations);



- oversee the implementation of action plans developed by Departments to mitigate fraud and corruption as identified through the questionnaire or detailed risk assessments;
- retain copies of completed Departmental Fraud Assessments and detailed risk assessments for audit purposes; and
- review this Policy every three years or in circumstance of major change to Council's business and/or operations or legislation.

## PROCEDURE

### The following fraud minimisation procedures are to be performed:

- (a) Accountability of management for the results and deviations from budget in the reporting for departments. Further independent detailed reviews of significant variances that may arise will be arranged by the CEO or the relevant Directors.
- (b) Annual review of Council operations and an assessment of Council's exposure to the risk of fraud.
- (c) An ongoing Internal Audit process. Internal controls supported by Internal Audit reviews on a regular basis will minimise the exposure to fraud risk and minimise the occurrence of new fraud risks arising.
- (d) External Audit review with the focus on accountability of financial systems and reporting processes.
- (e) Maintain strict pre-employment, recruitment and revalidation practices, including the confirmation of all relevant employment, qualifications, , criminal history and reference checks and the promotion of this policy to all new Council employees.
- (f) All assets are properly recorded and regular checks are performed to ensure significant items are present.
- (g) Close relatives do not have a direct line of reporting, especially in financial, accounting and cash handling areas.
- (h) Penalties are in place should an employee be found guilty of fraud.
- (i) Ensure that Council's management team have been trained in identifying indicators of fraud.
- (j) Having procedures in place relating to the private use of Council assets/equipment by employees.
- (k) All new Senior Officers, Responsible Officers, and those involved in financial transaction processing , procurement and information handling or exercise significant delegated powers are subject to a satisfactory police check in accordance with the Police Check Procedure PRO/STAFF141.
- (l) The procedure can only be varied with the discretion of the Executive Leadership Team.

### Fraud training

The induction process for new employees will include Council's Fraud Policy and Procedure, highlighting fraud awareness and Council's process for the reporting of fraud.

All existing employees will also be required to undertake policy and procedure training every three years covering the same topics.

### Early warning signs of fraud

The following are behavioural warning signs all employees and managers need to be aware of relating to potential fraudulent behaviour:

- Refusing to take leave.
- Resigning suddenly or failing to attend work for no apparent reason.
- Drug or alcohol abuse.
- A Manager/employee who takes an unusual interest in certain elements of the organisation's business.
- A Manager/employee who over rides internal controls.

- Habitual gambling.
- Persistent anomalies in work practices.
- Excessive generosity towards other employees.
- Borrowing from other employees.
- Character changes.
- Obvious lifestyle changes that are in conflict with employees normal financial position.

## REPORTING OF FRAUD

### Reporting systems

Where an employee suspects, on reasonable grounds, that fraud is being committed against Council, the employee must report the matter. The employee may report the matter to their immediate Supervisor, Manager, Director or the Chief Executive Officer. Alternatively, employees may opt to make a disclosure in accordance with the Protected Disclosure Directive – DIR/GOV018. The employee making the disclosure will be requested to do so in writing or, as a minimum, provide sufficient detailed information to enable a comprehensive summary to be prepared by the Manager or CEO. Statements by the discloser, where known or possible, should identify the following:

- Name and contact details of discloser (optional).
- Names of the parties involved.
- How they became aware of the matter.
- A summary of the matter including names, any relevant dates, locations and all other relevant information.
- Names of other people aware of the matter.
- Other organisations contacted.
- Any documentary evidence to support their suspicions.

On receipt of a report of alleged fraud the CEO shall either:

- report the alleged fraud to the IBAC where he/she believes on reasonable grounds that the fraud is occurring or has occurred. Prior to making the report the CEO may consult with the Protected Disclosure Co-ordinator on matters relating to the IBAC Act or the need to appoint a Welfare Manager under the Protected Disclosure Directive; or
- (following advice from the IBAC) appoint an appropriately qualified or skilled officer to investigate and report on the alleged fraud. An investigation should be undertaken in a manner which will not damage any potential criminal investigation or charges.

All employees are required to maintain confidentiality with respect to matters referred to them. Instances of suspected fraud should be reported promptly and without delay.

It is preferred that employees do not make anonymous reports as such reports cannot be pursued if further information is required. However, anonymous disclosers will receive due and proper consideration.

Where employees do not wish to report to their immediate Supervisor, they should go directly to the next level of management within the organisation. If the matter involves the CEO it should be reported to the Mayor and/or IBAC.

### External notification

Theft will be reported to Victoria Police in a timely fashion so as to not damage any potential criminal investigation or charges. Where a report is also being made to the IBAC, the IBAC must be informed of the Police report.

### Investigation standards

Council will treat reported cases of suspected fraud with seriousness and confidentiality at all times.

Disclosers will not be victimised or disadvantaged.

The alleged employee will be treated with procedural fairness.

**Prosecution, recovery and disciplinary action**

Council will not tolerate fraudulent behaviour and will institute the necessary disciplinary procedures in respect of any employee found guilty of committing fraud.

In accordance with the Serious Misconduct, Negligence and Fraud Directive any employee found guilty of significant theft of Council property, or any type of fraud, may be dismissed.

An employment reference will not be provided to an employee found guilty of a fraud.

Prosecution in the Civil or Criminal Courts may be undertaken to recover losses incurred by Council where deemed appropriate.

**Fraud Incident Analysis**

In the event of an incident of fraud, the appointed Director is to initiate a Fraud Incident Analysis. This analysis is to commence immediately with an interim report being provided to the CEO within seven (7) days. A final report will then be provided at the conclusion of the investigation. A formal investigation should only be undertaken following advice from the IBAC.

The findings, and any remedial actions detailing who is responsible for the actions, are to be reported to ELT and the Audit Committee as soon as practical. This report will not contain the name of the discloser or any other information which may lead to the identification of the discloser.

**Gifts**

Employees may not receive additional payments or rewards from external sources for work which they are paid as part of their regular duties, or where it could be seen or perceived to induce a favourable outcome.

If an employee receives a series of gifts from one individual or agency, even if only of nominal value, they must consider whether the receipt of those gifts is an attempt to influence their behaviour. If an employee receives a series of gifts that are accumulatively valued at or over \$50, they must become property of council.

Under no circumstances should cash ever be accepted as a gift. Under this procedure, gift cards are considered to be the equivalent to cash.

**Acceptance and declaration of gifts**

A declaration of all gifts, other than token gifts, must be made to the Executive Support Officer for recording on Councils Gift Register using the Gifts and Benefits Register Form.

Where employees receive gifts with an estimated value of more than \$50, the gift will become the property of Council. Council may choose to retain the gift for Council use or to dispose of the gift in accordance with this procedure.

**Disposal of gifts**

When a gift is received that is above Council's stipulated value, and Council does not wish to retain the gift, the gift will be disposed of by donating the gift to charity or by arranging to conduct a raffle, with the gift as a prize and the proceeds being donated to charity.

**Meals and entertainment/Corporate hospitality**

While Council recognises the benefits of social interaction to aid in maintaining relationships with other organisations, corporate hospitality should not be accepted where it could be seen or perceived to induce a favourable outcome.

Under no circumstances should corporate hospitality be accepted when a tender or quotation process is ongoing. This includes the development stage of tender or quotation documentation.

**Conflicts of Duty/Pecuniary interests**

Council officers must give notification in writing of any other outside involvement that may reasonably relate to their Council duties. If outside involvement, whether paid employment or not, is considered likely to create conflicts of interest, or conflicts of duty, the employee's manager should determine whether the conflicts can be appropriately managed. If they cannot be managed, the employee must choose between the outside involvement and their Council employment.

More information can be found in Council's Staff Code of Conduct.

**RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS**

Staff Code of Conduct POL/STAFF100  
Protected Disclosures Directive DIR/GOV018  
Attractive Assets Directive DIR/CORP221  
Tendering Directive DIR/CORP217  
Procurement Policy POL/CORP229  
Recruitment Directive DIR/STAFF110  
Police Check PRO/STAFF 141  
Serious Misconduct, Negligence and Fraud Directive DIR/STAFF123  
Disciplinary Directive – DIR/STAFF104  
Termination of Employment DIR/STAFF126

**RELATED LEGISLATION**

Protected Disclosures Act 2012  
Local Government Act 1989  
Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Act 2011  
Standards Australia 2008, Fraud and Corruption Control (AS 8001–2008)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ CEO Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix A – Directions for making mandatory notifications of suspected corruption



## Directions for making mandatory notifications of suspected corruption

[www.ibac.vic.gov.au](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au)

### Directions for relevant principal officers

#### 1. About these Directions

These Directions are made pursuant to section 57A of the *Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Act 2011* (the IBAC Act), as amended, whereby the relevant principal officer of a public sector body must notify IBAC of any matter they suspect on reasonable grounds involves corrupt conduct.

The Directions set out the types of matters that must be notified, and the form, content and method of notification. The Directions also set out what IBAC does once a section 57 notification is received.

These Directions do not apply to the Auditor-General, a Departmental Head of a Department of the Parliament, the Electoral Commissioner, or the Ombudsman.

These Directions are effective 2 December 2016, following publication in the Victorian Government Gazette on 1 December.

#### 2. Relevant principal officer obligations under the IBAC Act

A relevant principal officer must notify IBAC of any matter they suspect on reasonable grounds to involve corrupt conduct occurring or having occurred.

##### Who is a relevant principal officer?

A **relevant principal officer** is defined in the IBAC Act to include:

- the public sector body Head (as set out in the *Public Administration Act 2004*)
- the Chief Executive Officer of a council
- the Chief Executive Officer of Court Services Victoria.

**Public sector bodies** include government departments, and state government or statutory authorities and corporations.

#### Obligation to report suspected corrupt conduct

The obligation to report suspected corrupt conduct rests with the relevant principal officer. This obligation cannot be delegated. Where another person is acting as the relevant principal officer, the obligation applies to that person and vicariously the organisation.

The relevant principal officer must notify IBAC of all instances of suspected corrupt conduct occurring in their own organisation, and suspected corrupt conduct occurring in other organisations where it is connected with the relevant principal officer's duties, functions and exercise of powers.

There is no legislative obligation for relevant principal officers to search out corrupt conduct, only to report it when suspected.

Agencies should ensure that appropriate internal systems are in place so matters involving corrupt conduct reported by staff are forwarded to the relevant principal officer.

#### Protection of the relevant principal officer

Notifications of suspected corrupt conduct to IBAC, pursuant to section 57 of the IBAC Act, constitute a statutory obligation. The requirement to notify IBAC has effect despite any duty of secrecy or other restriction on disclosure.

Notifications made in good faith protect the relevant principal officer from any criminal or civil liability. This is the case even if the suspicion on which the report is based turns out to be untrue or unsubstantiated.

All notifications of suspected corrupt conduct to IBAC will be treated in the strictest confidence.

### 3. What is corrupt conduct?

#### Corrupt conduct definition

The IBAC Act (section 4) describes and defines corrupt conduct, summarised here as conduct, or an attempt or conspiracy to engage in conduct (whether it takes place inside or outside of Victoria), that:

- adversely affects the honest performance of the functions of a public officer or public body
- constitutes or involves the dishonest performance of the functions of a public officer or public body
- constitutes or involves knowingly or recklessly breaching public trust
- involves the misuse of information or material acquired in the course of the performance of the functions of a public officer or public body
- is intended to adversely affect the effective performance of the functions or powers of a public officer or public body and results in the person or their associate obtaining a specified benefit.

In order for conduct to be **corrupt conduct**, it must also be the case that the conduct would constitute a **relevant offence** which means an indictable offence against any Act, or the common law offences of attempt to pervert the course of justice, bribery of a public official, perverting the course of justice and misconduct in public office.

A **public officer** is any person working in the service of the Crown or a public body, or – importantly – a person who is performing a public function on behalf of a public officer or public body. This includes a person under contract.

Public officers include public servants, teachers, court employees, parliamentary officers, police personnel, council employees, judges and magistrates, and elected officials such as Members of Parliament and Councillors.

A **public body** is a public sector body within the meaning of the *Public Administration Act 2004*, a body established under an Act for a public purpose (such as a university), a council, or a body performing a public function on behalf of the state, a public body or a public officer. This includes bodies under contract performing public functions.

**Misconduct in public office** is a broad offence. The elements of misconduct in public office are established if:

- a public officer in the course of, or connected to, their public office wilfully misconducts themselves whether by act or omission, without any reasonable excuse or justification, and
- the misconduct is serious and meriting criminal punishment having regard to the responsibilities of the public office, the importance of the public objects they serve and the nature and extent of the departure from those responsibilities and objects.

Examples of misconduct in public office include:

- deliberately falsifying accounts to conceal or obtain a benefit
- entering into a secret commission or profit sharing arrangement with another person
- colluding to share profits with tender recipients and concealing the overvaluation of tenders
- using public office to deceive a member of the public to gain a financial advantage
- misusing power to harm, oppress or disadvantage a person.

#### Reasonable grounds for suspicion

The words '**suspects on reasonable grounds**' mean there is a real possibility of corrupt conduct.

'Suspicion' is something less than belief, but requires more than idle speculation. It must be based on facts and circumstances that would be sufficient to make a reasonable person suspect corrupt conduct had occurred or was occurring. However, proof is not necessary, nor is it required that an individual or individuals be identified.

#### When does conduct constitute suspected corrupt conduct?

It can be difficult to discern what constitutes corrupt conduct or at what point certain conduct gives rise to a reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct. Relevant principal officers will have to exercise their judgement, and may need to seek independent legal advice before notifying IBAC.

IBAC encourages relevant principal officers or their representatives to seek clarification on any issue relating to the mandatory notification of suspected corrupt conduct. However, IBAC will not advise a relevant principal officer whether or not to notify a particular matter.

#### 4. Making a section 57 notification to IBAC

##### When must a report be made?

Notifications of suspected corrupt conduct must be made as soon as practicable after the relevant principal officer has formed a reasonable suspicion that corrupt conduct may have occurred or may be occurring. The IBAC Act does not provide for any delays in notifying suspected corrupt conduct to IBAC.

Delays in notifying suspected corrupt conduct, and in assessing such notifications by IBAC, can result in lost investigative and preventive opportunities. It follows that there is a mutual obligation to consider such conduct in a timely manner, not least to ensure due process and natural justice to all parties.

An assessment as to whether a matter must be notified to IBAC should be made based on the material available to the relevant principal officer. Where the available material is not sufficient to form a suspicion on reasonable grounds, a relevant principal officer may choose to gather further information. If doing so, the relevant principal officer should regularly re-assess the material and notify IBAC as soon as they form a suspicion on reasonable grounds that corrupt conduct has occurred or is occurring.

Where a notification of suspected corrupt conduct has been made to IBAC and further information becomes available or circumstances change and still gives rise to reasonable suspicion, the relevant principal officer must notify IBAC.

##### Actions by relevant principal officers before or after notification to IBAC

Certain actions – in particular any investigation – can prejudice a decision or action by IBAC. No action should be taken by the relevant principal officer until IBAC has assessed the matter and informed the relevant principal officer of its decision. Exceptions apply where the action is:

- necessary to lessen or prevent a serious threat to the life, health, safety or welfare of an individual or to public health or safety
- taken to comply with another legal obligation, such as a duty to report the matter under other legislation
- reporting the matter to Victoria Police.

These exceptions apply before a notification is made or while IBAC is assessing the notification.

If none of these exceptions apply and the relevant principal officer considers urgent action is required, they should consult with IBAC immediately.

##### Interaction with the *Protected Disclosure Act 2012*

The *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* (the PD Act) requires certain agencies to notify IBAC where they receive a disclosure that they consider may be a 'protected disclosure' (as defined in the PD Act). For those agencies that can receive disclosures, there may be overlapping obligations under the PD Act and section 57 of the IBAC Act to notify IBAC where they receive a disclosure alleging corrupt conduct.

Where an organisation receives a potential disclosure, it should first deal with the matter in accordance with the PD Act. If the matter is not notified to IBAC in accordance with the PD Act, the organisation should consider whether the relevant principal officer may be required to notify the matter to IBAC under section 57 of the IBAC Act.

All notifications and complaints to IBAC are assessed as potential protected disclosures under the PD Act. Where suspected corrupt conduct is notified to IBAC, it will similarly be assessed. Where suspected corrupt conduct has been notified to IBAC specifically as a potential protected disclosure, IBAC will also treat it as a suspected corrupt conduct notification and there is no need to further notify IBAC under section 57 of the IBAC Act.

More information on the PD Act and the processes for making a protected disclosure can be found in IBAC's *Guidelines for making and handling protected disclosures*.

##### What should be included in a notification?

A notification should describe the corrupt conduct and set out the grounds for reasonable suspicion, consistent with the definitions and meanings set out in the IBAC Act. The nature and seriousness of the allegations should be clear from the notification. The mandatory notification form for relevant principal officers is available at [www.ibac.vic.gov.au](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au)

To the extent possible, the notification should include:

- a description of the suspected corrupt conduct, including specific allegations
- the approximate amount of money or value of resources (if any) involved
- the name and position of any public official/s suspected to be involved
- the name/s of the person/s who brought the suspected corrupt conduct to the attention of the relevant principal officer
- the name/s and role/s of any other person/s relevant to the matter
- the dates and/or timeframes in which the suspected corrupt conduct occurred, and in which it came to the attention of the relevant principal officer
- the actions taken or proposed by the relevant principal officer and/or public sector body in response to the suspected corrupt conduct
- a judgement as to the apparent seriousness or systemic nature of the suspected corrupt conduct
- any other information deemed relevant to the matter
- copies of any relevant documents, including policies and procedures which explain the organisational context of the allegation(s)
- the name of the relevant contact officer
- whether or not the matter is a possible protected disclosure under the PD Act.

### Confidentiality in notifications

Notifications to IBAC must be made without advising the person(s) to whom the notification relates, and without publicity. All notifications of suspected corrupt conduct to IBAC will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Failure to handle notifications to IBAC confidentially may prejudice any subsequent investigation, whether by IBAC or the public sector body concerned, and may cause unnecessary reputational or other damage to individuals.

### How is a notification submitted?

The mandatory notification form can be submitted by:

#### Email

info@ibac.vic.gov.au

#### Post

Attention: Manager Assessments and Review  
IBAC Commissioner  
GPO Box 24234  
Melbourne VIC 3001

A notification should be made in writing using the mandatory notification form for relevant principal officers.

When you think the matter is serious and requires urgent attention, contact IBAC by telephone. A written report should then follow.

Further information and advice is available by telephoning IBAC on 1300 735 135 (business hours: 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday).

### 5. How notifications are assessed by IBAC

IBAC assesses all notifications of suspected corrupt conduct. In assessing a notification, IBAC may contact the relevant principal officer for additional information or clarification.

Section 58 of the Act requires that IBAC dismiss, investigate or refer notifications.

In considering a notification, IBAC may choose to make preliminary inquiries, prior to a decision to either refer, investigate or dismiss.

In a small number of notifications, IBAC will decide to investigate a matter. In deciding whether to investigate, IBAC will properly consider its legislated remit to prioritise the investigation of serious and/or systemic corrupt conduct.

However, many notifications will result in a referral back to the relevant principal officer for further action. IBAC may then choose to further consider and/or review the response of the agency.

### 6. IBAC's response

IBAC will acknowledge in writing all notifications of suspected corrupt conduct made pursuant to section 57 of the IBAC Act.

Once a notification is assessed, IBAC will write to the relevant principal officer outlining its decision and any further actions to be taken.

IBAC works to assess and finalise all notifications within 45 days of receipt. Most notifications are finalised earlier. When a matter requires more urgent attention, relevant principal officers are encouraged to contact IBAC.

### 7. The benefits of section 57 notifications

It is important that Victorian public sector bodies develop, implement and maintain systems and processes for meeting the statutory obligation to notify IBAC of suspected corrupt conduct.

Mandatory reporting of suspected corrupt conduct offers an opportunity for IBAC and the public sector to build an accurate picture of corrupt conduct and corruption risks, and respond accordingly in working to prevent such conduct from occurring.

IBAC uses the information in all complaints and notifications to improve its understanding of the nature and scope of corrupt conduct and corruption risks in the Victorian public sector.

This information helps IBAC identify practices and activities that public sector bodies can implement to prevent corruption occurring.

For more information, please go to [www.ibac.vic.gov.au](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au)

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GPO Box 24234,  
Melbourne, VIC 3001  
T 1300 735 135  
F (03) 8635 6444

November 2016

IBAC is Victoria's anti-corruption agency responsible for preventing and exposing public sector corruption and police misconduct. We do this by:

- investigating corruption and police misconduct
- informing the public sector, police and the community about the risks and impacts of corruption and police misconduct, and ways in which it can be prevented.

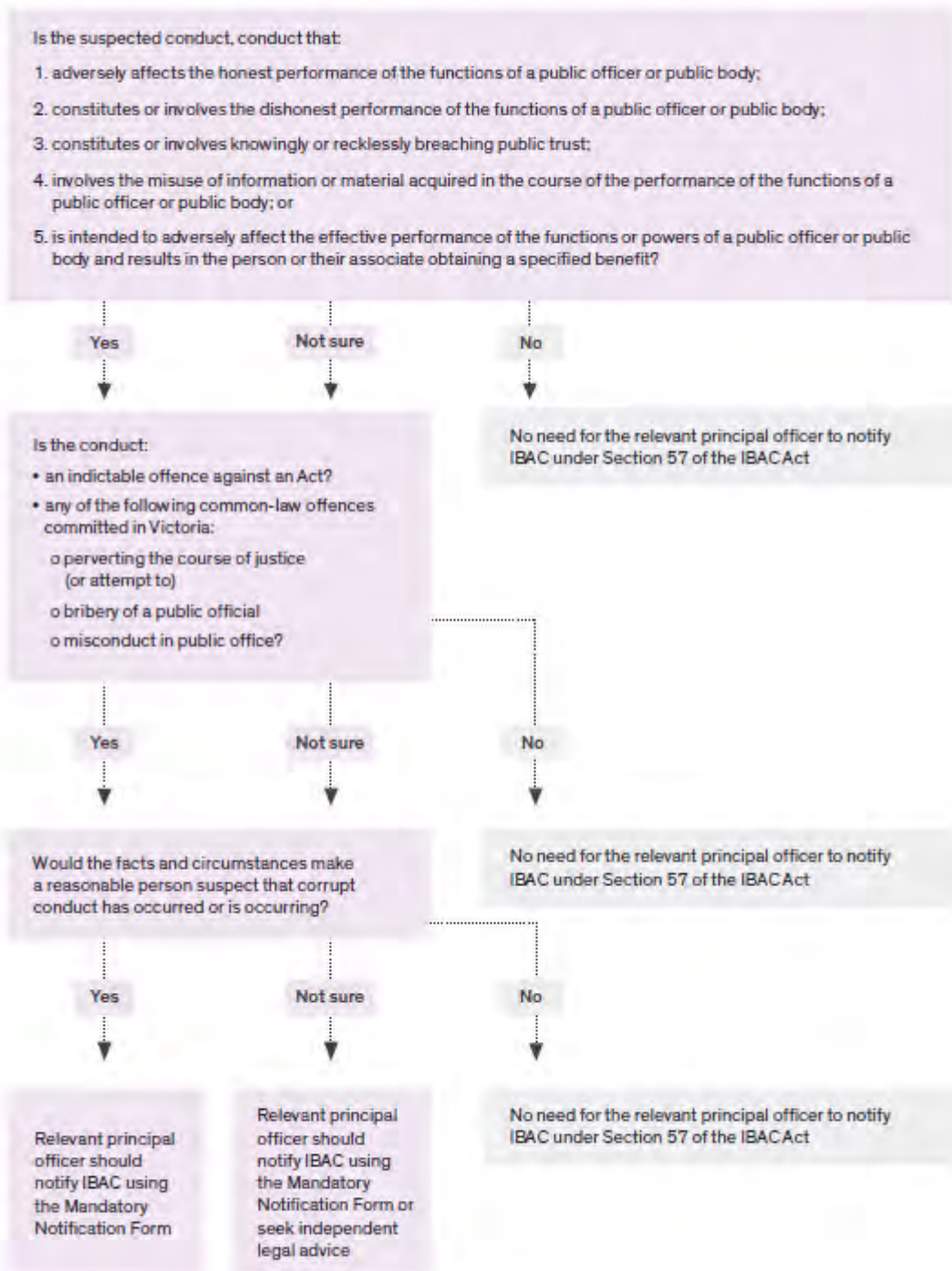
To report corruption phone 1300 735 135 or visit [www.ibac.vic.gov.au](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au)

*These Directions are for informational purposes only and should not be considered a substitute for legal advice.*



### Directions for making mandatory notifications of suspected corruption

The corrupt conduct decision-making process



### **B.17.141 ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Infrastructure  
**File Number:** S11-25-02  
**Attachments:** 1 Asset Management Policy

#### **Declarations of Interest:**

John McLinden - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

#### **Summary**

The Asset Management Steering Committee has been reformed and recently reviewed Council's Asset Management Policy. In progressing Council's Asset Management program the Policy is presented to Council for adoption.

#### **Discussion**

The attached policy provides the framework towards a mature Asset Management program for Council. Work is continuing in further developing Council's Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Plans. Progress on these aspects of the program will be further reported to Council in 2018.

#### **Consultation**

Considered at the Asset Management Steering Committee.

#### **Financial Implications**

The cost of implementing the Policy is covered from within existing resources.

#### **Social Implications**

Not applicable for this item.

#### **Economic Implications**

Not applicable for this item.

#### **Environmental Implications**

Not applicable for this item.

### **Risk Management Implications**

Implementation of Council's Asset Management Policy will lead to better informed decision making in relation to addressing asset condition.

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Governance and leadership*** - Effective and efficient utilisation of resources.

### **Options**

1. Council adopt the Asset Management Policy.
2. Council adopt the Asset Management Policy with amendments.
3. Council reject the Asset Management Policy.

### **Recommendation**

**That Council adopt the Asset Management Policy as presented.**

Date Adopted	June 2005
Date Reviewed-current as at	December 2017
To be Reviewed	December 2020

Fully compliant with Victorian  
Charter of Human Rights and  
Responsibilities Act 2006



**POLICY TITLE ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**POLICY NUMBER POL/INFRA516**

### **PURPOSE**

The Asset Management Policy provides Swan Hill Rural City Council with the framework to manage assets to enable it to deliver services to the community in an affordable and sustainable manner.

### **SCOPE**

This policy applies to all Council assets, including but not limited to:

- Infrastructure
  - Road network, including kerb and channel, carparks, pathways and bridges
  - Community facilities and buildings
  - Parks and recreational facilities
  - Urban drainage
  - Waste
- Associated asset groups (not strictly infrastructure assets) include the following
  - Plant and equipment
  - Monuments, artworks and Pioneer Settlement exhibits
  - Library books

This policy is consistent with Council's vision of "A prosperous and healthy community enjoying quality facilities and services."

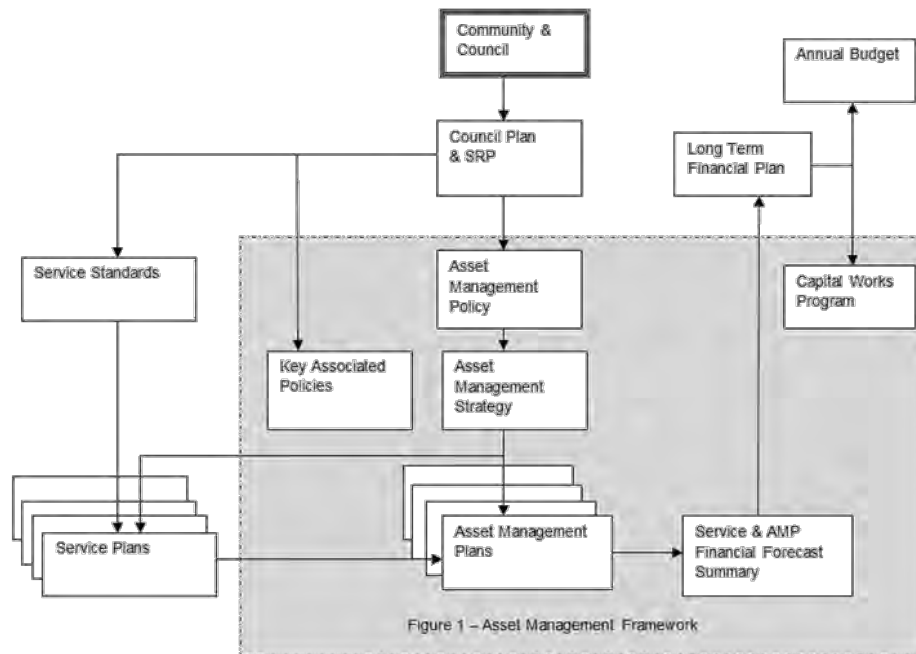
It is also consistent with the Council Plan which has the following relevant objectives for the management of assets:

1. Infrastructure that appropriately services community needs.
2. Infrastructure that is appropriately maintained in accordance with agreed standards
3. A strong focus on asset management systems and planning.

These objectives will be met through the implementation of Council's Asset Management Framework as detailed in Figure 1 Asset Management Framework.

Date Adopted	June 2005
Date Reviewed-current as at	December 2017
To be Reviewed	December 2020

Fully compliant with Victorian  
Charter of Human Rights and  
Responsibilities Act 2006



Council will use the following core principles in the implementation of the Asset Management Framework:

- Sound Asset Management principles will be applied by the whole organisation.
- Asset Planning and management that has a direct link with Council's corporate and business plans. (Including Council Plan and the Long Term Financial Plan), budgets and reporting process.
- Financial sustainability will be enhanced by making decisions that lead to a cost effective asset base, focusing on asset renewal before new assets, rationalising under-utilised assets and limiting asset expansion unless justified by a robust business case.
- Asset Management decisions shall be based on service delivery needs and the benefits and risks of assets, with an evaluation of alternative options that take into account lifecycle costs.

## POLICY

Council will:

- Prepare an Asset Management Strategy that will provide a road map for the delivery of the objectives under this policy.

Date Adopted	June 2005
Date Reviewed-current as at	December 2017
To be Reviewed	December 2020

Fully compliant with Victorian  
Charter of Human Rights and  
Responsibilities Act 2006



- 
- Prepare Asset Management Plans for all infrastructure categories, informed by community input, and local government financial reporting frameworks.
  - Use Asset Management Plans as a core input into the development of maintenance programs, operational plans, capital works programs, annual budget and the Long Term Financial Plan.
  - Establish a cross functional Asset Management Steering Committee (AMSC) to maintain, coordinate, advise and facilitate the implementation of the adopted Asset Management Strategy.
  - Engage with all stakeholders, especially the community, to determine levels of service and asset performance. Customer satisfaction will be monitored to ensure service levels are appropriate.
  - Build internal capacity to undertake asset management and financial functions. Training to be provided for staff and Councillors.
  - Identify funding to support and maintain our infrastructure
  - Ensure accounts and related business processes will be structured to recognise lifecycle costs.
  - Require the preparation a project scope and business case for each new and upgrade project and will be presented to the Executive Leadership Team for their consideration and prioritisation.

Date Adopted	June 2005
Date Reviewed-current as at	December 2017
To be Reviewed	December 2020

Fully compliant with Victorian  
Charter of Human Rights and  
Responsibilities Act 2006



#### RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS

Asset Management Plans POL/INFRA516  
 Council Plan 2017-2021  
 Council Asset Management Strategy  
 Project Scope and Business Case DIR&PRO/INFRA510  
 Consultation Policy POL &PRO/GOV002  
 Control of Damage to Council Infrastructure at Building Sites POL&PRO/INFRA509  
 Environment Management POL/INFRA503  
 Grants Application DIR&PRO CORP231  
 Infrastructure Contributions POL&PRO/INFRA502  
 Procurement POL&CORP229  
 Risk Management POL DIR & PRO/CORP216

#### RELATED LEGISLATION

Australian Accounting Standards – AASB 116  
 Local Government Act 1989  
 Australian Infrastructure Financial Management Guidelines (2012)  
 Road Management Act 2004

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **B.17.142 DRAFT VICTORIAN RURAL DRAINAGE STRATEGY**

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Director Infrastructure
<b>File Number:</b>	S34-24-02
<b>Attachments:</b>	1 MAV Member Brief Response 2 Draft Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy

### **Declarations of Interest:**

John McLinden - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

### **Summary**

The State Government has released its draft Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy for comment. The MAV has also issued a Members Brief in regard to this Strategy and this report recommends that the MAV position be endorsed.

### **Discussion**

The draft Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy has been developed to clarify rural drainage management for landholders, the choices available to them, and about how they will be supported.

The MAV convened the Drainage Arrangements Working Group to consider the recommendations to be included in the MAV submission. Attachment 1 provides a summary of the MAV considerations. The strategy deals with dry land drainage. Such drainage schemes are limited in the Swan Hill municipality. The strategy places responsibility for dry land drainage on landowners or groups of landowners to manage and fund.

The roles and responsibilities of Councils are defined in the strategy as:

- Provide point of contact and administrative support to landholders
- Manage drainage assets vested in them and infrastructure such as table drains, bridges and culverts in line with their existing obligations.

Council currently manages its existing drainage infrastructure and is the first point of contact for landowners wishing to install infrastructure within private property. This Strategy in no way should impose further requirements on Local Government that currently exists. The role of CMA's for drainage in rural areas requires to be clarified and maintained.

### **Consultation**

Councils are being consulted as part of the Strategy's development process.



### **Financial Implications**

Council currently provides advice to landowners when they wish to improve infrastructure on private property.

### **Social Implications**

Landowners may be impacted due to dry land drainage requirements.

### **Economic Implications**

Significant flooding will impact on economy of region impacted.

### **Environmental Implications**

Considered within the Strategy.

### **Risk Management Implications**

The development of this Strategy considers risks associated with dry land drainage.

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Infrastructure*** - A strong focus on asset management systems and planning.

### **Options**

1. That Council supports the MAV submission to the draft Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy.
2. That Council does not support the MAV submission to the draft Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy report.

### **Recommendation**

**That Council supports the MAV submission to the draft Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy noting that there be no shift of responsibility to Local Government for responsibilities currently undertaken by DEWLP and CMA's.**

# MAV MEMBERS BRIEF

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Set out below are a summary of the main features contained in the strategy and the MAV's proposed response

Proposed policy	Strategy details	MAV's proposed response
<b>Chapter 4 – Landholders making informed choices</b>		
Policy 4a (p24)	DELWP will develop resources to assist landowners consider economic issues and provide template documentation to enable them to form their own drainage committees	Support. DELWP's development of a resource kit will be an important part of delivering this strategy, including information about obligations of landowners, costing tool and guidance on how to establish works to deliver best value for investment and information about who to contact. (Actions 4a, 4b). The streamlining of environmental and cultural approvals will also be important benefits for landowners seeking to establish a complex drainage system. MAV is willing to work with DELWP to identify ways permits involving councils can be streamlined alongside permits required from CMAs and cultural heritage. (Action 4c)
Policy 4b (p25)	Councils to be the point of contact for landholders to access tools and information to help them seek statutory approvals to manage rural drainage. Information will also be available on all partner agency websites, including DELWP, DEDJTR and CMAs.	Support, if there is clarity about which agencies are responsible for particular aspects of rural drainage. Councils already receive enquiries about drainage issues, and having clear information will assist their provision of advice to landowners, and what issues do or do not need to be referred to CMAs and water corporations. MAV is willing to work with DELWP to identify template information councils can upload to their websites.  We also support water corporations having information on their websites as well. This is particularly relevant where water corporations are involved in providing drainage services, such as they do in irrigation districts, and rural areas within Melbourne Water's boundaries
Policy 4c (p26)	Public infrastructure interfacing with rural drainage will continue to be managed within the priority processes of the relevant agency	Support. If a drainage committee is formed with the agreement of a number of landholders, councils would no doubt be willing to consider prioritising public infrastructure interfaces where the economic benefits for the municipality are clear and they have the capacity to prioritise these in their regular asset maintenance and upgrade programs
Policy 4d (p27)	Landholders encouraged to manage drainage through amicable agreements.	Support. Councils do not have the powers or resources to resolve disputes between landholders about rural drainage.
Policy 4e (p27)	Landholders encouraged to manage drainage through written agreements	Landholders developing written agreements is to be encouraged, such as by establishing a community drainage committee under s244 of the Water Act would enable agreements to be recorded on land titles. Formal community drainage committees can also enable sharing of investment, maintenance and insurance between

# MAV MEMBERS BRIEF

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Proposed policy	Strategy details	MAV's proposed response
		landholders. We support DELWP preparing a model agreement (Action 4d)
Policy 4f (p28)	To streamline approval processes, landholders will have the option of developing a rural drainage management plan.	Support the concept of rural drainage management plans being required for complex schemes where there may be environmental and cultural heritage issues needing to be considered  Further clarification is required about the proposal for councils to provide support for drainage committees wishing to prepare these plans (see also the Government's intentions about this on p33). We suggest CMAs are the more appropriate agency to provide this role.
Policy 4g (p28)	Establishment of principles to guide when councils provide administrative support and other agencies provide technical advice	Support. Rural drainage is about increasing agricultural productivity – it is appropriate that landholders are the key drivers for any new drainage scheme to be established.
<b>Chapter 5 – Improvements for the environment</b>		
Policy 5a (p35)	Impacts of rural drainage need to consider and minimise impact on receiving waterways	Support. We also support DELWP investigating opportunities for exemptions for maintaining existing drainage, to facilitate initiatives which have the potential to drive economic development of the area in an environmentally appropriate way (Actions 5b and 5c).
Policy 5b (p38)	Priority areas to be identified for environmental restoration of waterways	Support. We welcome CMAs being funded to work in partnership with key stakeholders to consider incentives, education, awareness and partnerships with the private sector to encourage environmental restoration
<b>Chapter 6 – Supporting collaboration with Aboriginal Victorians over rural drainage</b>		
Policy 6a (p46)	Priority areas for restoration of previously drained areas for cultural benefit will be identified	Support. Rural drainage over the last 100 years or so has changed the shape of the original landscape and it has impacted Aboriginal cultural heritage through erosion and changing river and waterway courses. DELWP working with Aboriginal organisations to develop guidance about the Aboriginal heritage values landholders need to consider for rural drainage will provide greater clarity about requirements and options. (Actions 6a, 6b).
Policy 6b (p49)	Opportunity for Traditional Owners to work collaboratively with	Support. We welcome the proposed collaboration with Aboriginal organisations, agencies and landholders to improve cultural heritage management and awareness

# MAV MEMBERS BRIEF

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Proposed policy	Strategy details	MAV's proposed response
	stakeholders to encourage restoration works	
<b>Chapter 7 - Governance</b>		
Policy 7a (p54)	Shared arrangements for managing rural drainage in Victoria	<p>Support as an overarching concept. Institutional arrangements in the future are going to require greater collaboration between agencies to achieve better use of water for environmental and economic productivity benefits.</p> <p>This section requires much more clarification, however, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What will underpin the shared arrangements</li> <li>• Assurances for councils to know they will not become a default "rural drainage authority" over time</li> <li>• If legislative changes are required to strengthen councils' role in rural drainage, how the State Government proposes to enact the principle (vi) of the Victorian State Local Government Agreement which recommends the use of inter-governmental agreements where new responsibilities are proposed.</li> </ul> <p>Action 7a (p55) requires much greater clarification about what DELWP intends by working with councils to "make arrangements appropriate to match their provision of services for rural drainage". While this is positive in its intent, if the role is to be significant for councils, we would like to see referenced under this action that inter-governmental agreements will be considered where councils are being required to take on roles they do not currently provide.</p> <p>We suggest that the role of CMAs should include assisting potential participants of a drainage committee with advice about the development of drainage management plans and having a more determinative role about the beneficiaries who should contribute to a drainage scheme.</p> <p>There is a gap about which agency should retain information about the location and operation of drainage schemes – we suggest CMAs should be the repository for information, to inform their catchment planning.</p> <p>Descriptions of council obligations as public infrastructure managers should be referred to in the same manner as other infrastructure managers such as VicRoads and Victrack, namely that infrastructure is managed on a priority basis.</p>
Policy 7b (p58)	Funding arrangements for rural drainage	More clarity is required about the policy that "rural drainage will be provided where landholders choose to pay for the service in proportion to the extent that they benefit from the service". Questions still remain about the

# MAV MEMBERS BRIEF

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Proposed policy	Strategy details	MAV's proposed response
		beneficiaries of rural drainage schemes, and the upstream/downstream issues that inevitably need to be considered in respect who should contribute to its maintenance. We note that flooding issues need to be considered under the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy.
Policy 7c (p59)	Councils will provide an administrative support to bring all partners together, including the relevant agencies and landholders, to find pathways to managing complex arrangements	<p>DELWP and/or CMAs should be the lead agencies for bringing parties together to discuss the potential for a drainage scheme being established. Catchment knowledge is essential for determining participants in complex drainage systems, particularly at the commencement of discussions and investigations. As complex drainage schemes are likely to cross municipal boundaries, CMAs are the appropriate agency to facilitate discussions and oversee the development of drainage management plans prior to a scheme being instituted. We note that four of the five known drainage systems vested with CMAs span council boundaries.</p> <p>Once a drainage committee has been formed, councils could provide a role in hosting meetings of the committee and collecting levies. Further investigation will need to be undertaken in the implementation process about whether adjustments need to be made to legislation to protect councils from appeals from landholders not wishing to pay drainage levies.</p>
Policy 7d (p59)	Managing existing infrastructure	Support. This is a continuation of the current arrangements whereby agencies are responsible for drainage infrastructure vested with them. CMAs will continue to be responsible for the drainage infrastructure currently vested with them.
<b>Chapter 8 – Transitional arrangements</b>		
Action 8a (p63)	DELWP will work closely with CMAs to develop and implement a capability program to increase skills of landholders, councils, key agencies and Traditional Owners to manage rural drainage	Support in principle. We welcome the central role assigned to CMAs, and in particular that they will bring advice on obtaining hydrological skills and a catchment-wide understanding of the landscape to the table. We suggest that this role, which is referred to in the text on p63, is incorporated into proposed Policy 7a.
Action 8b (p64)	DELWP will prepare guidelines for rural drainage management	Support in principle. Clarity is required about how the roles assigned to councils are agreed, particularly if these extend to role with material impact on council resources and staffing.

# MAV MEMBERS BRIEF

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Proposed policy	Strategy details	MAV's proposed response
Action 8c (p64)	DELWP will provide climate information to assist landholders make choices about investing in rural drainage	Support.
Action 8d (p64)	A coordinated approach to be undertaken between councils and the State Government	<p>We welcome the State Government's acknowledgement of the Victorian State Local Government Agreement (VSLGA) and the commitment in this strategy to continuing to work with local government under the agreed principle of mutual respect and with an emphasis on improving communication and cooperation. It is not clear from this action statement, however, exactly what DELWP intends.</p> <p>If councils are to have material new roles to play in rural drainage, we would also expect the State Government to fulfil the VSLGA principle that that the use of intergovernmental agreements should be used to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly articulated and full financial considerations are made. Currently the legislative framework is that state agencies are authorised to be responsible for drainage on private land, not councils.</p> <p>An inter-governmental agreement is therefore appropriate if councils are to have a greater role which will require them to provide resourcing for.</p>
Action 8e (p65)	DELWP will establish a working group to support the development of the final strategy and ongoing implementation	Support in principle, assuming agreement can be reached about outstanding issues we're seeking clarification about.
Action 8f (p65)	Clear arrangements for CMAs to work in partnership to support management of rural drainage	<p>We welcome the State Government including in CMA's Statements of Obligations and their Letters of Expectations that they have a role in rural drainage where they are funded to do so, and that the development of new Catchment Partnership Agreements will consider how to incorporate the arrangements relating to rural drainage where relevant for each region.</p> <p>This section is rather qualified, however, so we will be seeking clarification about the role of CMAs if they are not funded expressly to undertake activities relating to rural drainage.</p>

# MAV MEMBERS BRIEF

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Proposed policy	Strategy details	MAV's proposed response
Action 8g (p66)	Identification of priority areas for drainage works for systems previously managed by CMAs	<p>Support. There are a number of CMA-vested drainage systems which require upgrading. This will be welcomed by the relevant councils.</p> <p>We require further clarification about the explanatory detail that it is up to road authorities (councils and Vicroads) to work with CMAs to decide whether to take on the drainage infrastructure where it intersects with their assets. Given the ongoing maintenance costs of drainage infrastructure currently vested with CMAs, we strongly suggest that CMAs need to work with councils about this issue, and that any transfer of assets is only with the agreement of the council.</p>
Action 9a (p69)	Evaluation of the strategy to be undertaken within five years	Support.

# Draft Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy





**Aboriginal acknowledgement**

The Victorian Government proudly acknowledges Victoria's Aboriginal community and their rich culture, and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

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 equality of outcomes and ensuring an equal voice for Aboriginal Victorians.

**Front cover image:**

David Fletcher

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# Minister's foreword



I am pleased to release this draft Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy, marking a significant milestone in simplifying the complex management arrangements for rural drainage.

This draft Strategy is an important step in clarifying rural drainage management for landholders, the choices available to them, and about how they will be supported.

This draft Strategy also supports the commitment we made in *Water for Victoria* to develop a rural drainage strategy through an open and consultative process.

In developing this draft Strategy, the project team has drawn on the consultation findings presented in the Environment and Natural Resource Committee Inquiry into rural drainage, and sought to address its key recommendations through discussions with the reference group and broad consultation with stakeholders and the community.

Deliberations between the reference group and the project team over the last 18 months have been detailed and extensive, reflecting the complexity of the rural drainage arrangements. The result is a draft Strategy that reflects the range of views discussed by the reference group members and the broader stakeholder consultation.

It provides a way forward to improve rural drainage management by:

1. Supporting landholders to make choices about how they want to manage rural drainage
2. Clarifying the roles, responsibilities and obligations for landholders and agencies in rural drainage
3. Rebuilding the capability for agencies and landholders to manage rural drainage to support agricultural productivity in their local regions
4. Streamlining the environmental and cultural approvals processes to help landholders manage rural drainage, while providing the additional benefits of protecting and improving environmental and cultural values
5. Promoting opportunities for landholders and Traditional Owners to collaborate in the ways they manage rural drainage.

I would like to thank the reference group and everyone who has contributed to the development of the draft Strategy – particularly the stakeholders and community members who met with the project team to clarify the issues and opportunities they wanted addressed in a state-wide rural drainage strategy.

The government is committed to developing the new arrangements for rural drainage through an open and consultative process. This draft Strategy provides an opportunity for community members to consider how well their views are reflected in the proposed arrangements for rural drainage.

We encourage you to get involved in the consultation process, share your views and help shape a final Strategy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Neville', written over a faint, stylized map of Victoria.

**Hon Lisa Neville**  
Minister for Water

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## Executive summary

In 2016, as part of a comprehensive plan for the future management of Victoria's precious water resources, the Victorian Government highlighted rural drainage in dryland areas as a key problem requiring further investigation and review. With its *Water for Victoria* plan, the government committed to developing a rural drainage strategy through an open and consultative process.

This draft Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy (draft Strategy) proposes a series of policies and actions designed to enable landholders to choose how to manage their drainage and their drainage systems into the future.

Rural drainage management is defined as the act of directing excess water away from dryland agricultural areas for the purposes of improved farm productivity. It is inherently complex, often involving multiple landholders, who often depend on interactions between private drainage assets and public assets such as roads, table drains, culverts and bridges. This draft Strategy seeks in large part to ease this complexity and to clarify the roles and responsibilities around managing rural drainage.

A range of stakeholders contributed to the development of this draft Strategy. Through an open and consultative process, they helped a minister-appointed Reference Group and its independent Chair Peta Maddy to navigate the complexities of the existing arrangements, and to ensure that the proposed new arrangements will be workable. Four consistent themes that emerged from those consultations were the need for:

- Clear responsibilities for rural drainage, and clearly defined roles for individual landholders, the Victorian Government, councils, catchment management authorities, Melbourne Water and other rural water corporations
- Clear legislative and policy arrangements that will enable rural drainage to be managed sustainably into the future
- Support to develop pathways through environmental and cultural approval processes
- Clear funding arrangements for rural drainage that reflect the distribution of costs and benefits.

This draft Strategy proposes a series of policies and actions to address these themes. The public release of the draft Strategy now provides an opportunity for the broader community to contribute to the final arrangements.

The draft Strategy outlines four sets of arrangements that landholders might choose to use in managing rural drainage. They will be able to manage drainage:

1. Individually
2. Collectively through amicable agreements
3. Collectively through written agreements
4. Collectively through written agreements with support from government agencies, and with councils offering administrative support where landholders are prepared to pay for that service.

Where the existing arrangements are still working and landholders are meeting their obligations to protect environmental and cultural values, the existing arrangements for rural drainage can continue. Where the existing arrangements are not working, this draft Strategy aims to clarify the issues, remove stumbling blocks and help to set up contemporary arrangements where landholders are able to choose to manage drainage in a different way. For example, under the proposed arrangements, they may seek administrative support in managing drainage systems.

Landholders should always discuss any proposed drainage works with their neighbours before carrying them out. After discussing the plans with neighbours they can choose how they want to manage rural drainage. This draft Strategy proposes that key agencies with roles and responsibilities in drainage management will provide landholders with access to a drainage resource kit that will include the relevant information they need to make decisions about how they want to manage rural drainage.

Landholders may choose to work together informally to manage drainage, but the risk is that when properties change hands those arrangements will break down. When that happens there is very little that councils or government agencies can do to help – other than to direct the affected landholders to the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria.

Formal written agreements are more likely to survive changes in property ownership. Provisions in the *Water Act 1989* enable the outcomes of written agreements to be recorded on property titles.

If landholders choose to do so, they can form a drainage committee and request administrative support from their local council.



Under the draft Strategy, councils would provide administrative support to help drainage committees establish and administer management arrangements for rural drainage systems. They would do this where the landholders approaching them to seek support could demonstrate that:

- Landholders within the drainage area support the need to manage the drainage system.
- Landholders benefiting from the drainage system agree to pay for the maintenance and administrative costs of the system.
- Landholders are willing to participate in a local drainage management committee in the form of an incorporated association (or other legal entity).
- The legal entity holds appropriate insurance.

Where landholders demonstrate they can meet the criteria, councils will also ensure that other government agencies are available to provide technical support at drainage committee meetings. This draft Strategy proposes formal commitments at the regional level from all relevant agencies to provide that support.

Landholders who provided feedback during the preparation of this draft Strategy indicated that attaining the environmental and cultural approvals necessary for rural drainage management has become increasingly difficult, and that the approvals processes appear ad-hoc. To overcome these issues, the draft Strategy proposes a commitment from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (the Department) to work with organisations with regulatory responsibilities to develop a risk-based framework for environmental approvals. Under such a framework, the approvals process will be easier to navigate in instances where the risks to the environment are low. For example, the draft Strategy proposes that the Department explore opportunities to provide exemptions from some requirements where the risks to the environment are low.

Where the risks are higher, there will be a consistent, streamlined approach to minimising the risks, and landholders agreeing to manage drainage collectively will be supported to prepare rural drainage management plans that will outline how drainage

works will be undertaken. These plans will streamline the approval process for drainage works, while also providing confidence to decision makers that works will be completed in a sensitive manner, meeting cultural and environmental obligations. With agency support for the development of rural drainage management plans, the cost and administrative burden currently involved in gaining approvals will be reduced. This approach will also provide increased certainty for landholders about the likelihood of gaining approvals.

The draft Strategy recognises the impacts of rural drainage on cultural heritage, and proposes to support landholders to understand and deal with these issues through the establishment of clear guidelines for them to follow. In this context, the draft Strategy highlights the collaborative relationships over cultural heritage forged by the Taungurung Corporation and local landholders and where restoration activities have occurred at Long Swamp in northern Victorian and Lake Condah in the south west of the state. The draft Strategy proposes to apply these arrangements more broadly, supporting Traditional Owners to work collaboratively with landholders across Victoria to encourage restoration works and to manage ongoing impacts of drainage on cultural heritage.

This draft Strategy proposes shared arrangements to manage rural drainage, underpinned by partnership arrangements between agencies. In keeping with *The Victorian State and Local Government Agreement*, the draft Strategy demonstrates the Victorian Government's commitment to work closely with local government to support landholders as they make their decisions. Under the partnership arrangements, the roles outlined in Table one are critical to the future management of rural drainage.

Government has a significant role in supporting change management for the new arrangements.

The State Government is committed to re-building capability for organisations and landholders to manage rural drainage. It is also committed to investigating the level of interest among landholders in moving to new arrangements for seven large-scale drainage systems that Victorian catchment management authorities have had some role in managing.

**Table 1 Summary of the roles and responsibilities proposed in this draft Strategy**

Who	Roles and responsibilities
The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investment to prepare tools and templates to support rural drainage (including the proposed drainage resource kit), and identify opportunities to streamline environmental approvals</li> <li>Set the policy direction for rural drainage</li> <li>Set the policy direction for state-wide partnership arrangements</li> </ul>
Forest, Fire and Regions Group (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulate native vegetation removal</li> <li>Provide pathways for rural drainage approvals and lead a program to identify opportunities to streamline environmental approvals</li> </ul>
Landholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make choices about how they want to manage rural drainage</li> <li>Agree to fund all the costs of management and maintenance of rural drainage</li> <li>Comply with regulations and obligations</li> </ul>
Catchment management authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support landholders to manage environmental and cultural benefits</li> <li>Build capability and skills in rural drainage</li> <li>Invest in environmental works and measures to improve the management of rural drainage areas on a priority basis</li> <li>Feasibility work to understand priority works for the rural drainage systems they manage</li> <li>Drive partnership arrangements in the regions</li> </ul>
Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide point of contact and administrative support to landholders</li> <li>Manage drainage assets vested in them and infrastructure such as table drains, bridges and culverts in line with their existing obligations</li> </ul>
Melbourne Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide regional drainage services within its waterway management district</li> <li>Develop and implement plans or schemes related to rural drainage</li> </ul>
Rural water corporations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share lessons from community arrangements in northern Victoria</li> <li>Regulate the take and use of water</li> <li>Manage drainage infrastructure in irrigation districts where it interacts with dryland rural drainage</li> </ul>
The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support agricultural productivity in Victoria</li> </ul>
VicRoads and Victrack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to manage infrastructure that interacts with rural drainage (except where the infrastructure is licensed to third parties)</li> </ul>

## A guide to the draft Strategy

This report is divided into five parts:

### Part 1 – How the draft Strategy was developed (Chapters 1 and 2)

This part outlines the purpose and context of the draft Strategy. It identifies opportunities to support agricultural productivity and reduce the impacts of rural drainage on the environment and on cultural values. It also recognises there might be opportunities to support improvements for environmental and cultural benefit. It outlines changes in the arrangements for how we manage drainage, and emphasises the need to work in partnerships to support these new arrangements. These aspects are set up in the vision and outcomes sections in Chapter 1.

Part 1 also acknowledges the contributions and commitments provided by key stakeholders involved in developing the draft Strategy. It outlines the key drivers for the directions set up in this draft Strategy, it responds to the 2013 state parliamentary inquiry into rural drainage, and it makes a commitment to respond to challenges set out in the 2016 Victorian Government plan *Water for Victoria* (Chapter 2).

### Part 2 – How you can contribute to the final Strategy (Chapter 3)

Stakeholders and the community can choose to contribute directly to the future directions for rural drainage management in Victoria in a range of ways. Chapter 3 (Part 2) highlights the government's commitment to an open and consultative process in developing a state-wide rural drainage Strategy.

### Part 3 – What improved management of rural drainage will mean (Chapters 4 -6)

Part 3 outlines the policies and actions for specific stakeholders – particularly landholders, environmental managers, Aboriginal Victorians and Traditional Owner groups.

It details how landholders are empowered through this Strategy to make choices about how they want to manage rural drainage. It also outlines landholders' obligations in managing rural drainage, and the support that will be provided to help them meet those obligations (Chapter 4)

The draft Strategy recognises the potential to achieve positive environmental and cultural benefits by helping landholders to find pathways through environmental and cultural approvals. It also provides increased certainty to landholders about how rural drainage can be managed in environmentally sustainable and culturally sensitive ways (Chapter 5).

In its 2016 *Water for Victoria* plan, the Victorian Government recognised the value that water has for Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians in the context of rural drainage. This draft Strategy reflects a commitment to consult with Aboriginal Victorians in a way that addresses the rights and interests of Traditional Owners. It also proposes to promote opportunities for landholders and Traditional Owners to work collaboratively to consider cultural heritage in drainage management (Chapter 6).

### Part 4 – How rural drainage will be supported in Victoria (Chapter 7)

Part 4 details the institutional arrangements that will underpin the future management of rural drainage in Victoria, including the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders. It focuses on the process for streamlining approvals, and clarifies how costs can be equitably distributed among landholders (Chapter 7).

### Part 5 – How the strategy will be implemented (Chapters 8 and 9)

To give effect to the clarified roles and responsibilities, the draft Strategy proposes the establishment of supporting arrangements to help implement the proposed policies and actions. It first explores how to build the skills and capabilities of landholders and agencies to help them in their roles in future rural drainage management. It then considers what landholders will need to know to make informed choices about rural drainage in the context of the proposed streamlined approvals process and in the face of climate change (Chapter 8).

Part 5 also includes a timeline for delivery of the Strategy, and details a proposal to review the arrangements in a final Strategy (Chapter 9).



# Part 1 – How the draft Strategy was developed



Wetland at Raynesville (Craig Moodie)



### (Chapters 1 –2)

This part outlines the purpose and context of the draft Strategy. It identifies opportunities to support agricultural productivity and reduce the impacts of rural drainage on the environment and on cultural values. It also recognises there might be opportunities to support improvements for environmental and cultural benefit. It outlines changes in the arrangements for how we manage drainage, and emphasises the need to work in partnerships to support these new arrangements. These aspects are set up in the vision and outcomes sections in Chapter 1.

Part 1 also acknowledges the contributions and commitments provided by key stakeholders involved in developing the draft Strategy. It outlines the key drivers for the directions set up in this draft Strategy, it responds to the 2013 state parliamentary inquiry into rural drainage, and it makes a commitment to respond to challenges set out in the 2016 Victorian Government plan *Water for Victoria* (Chapter 2).

# 1 Introduction

This chapter sets out the vision and proposed outcomes for dryland rural drainage in Victoria. It clarifies the scope of the draft Strategy, and provides a brief policy context and history of the arrangements for rural drainage across the state.

## Vision statement

Landholders and community partners are empowered to work together to improve management of rural drainage, while driving the agricultural sector's contribution to the Victorian economy and supporting positive cultural and environmental outcomes.

### 1.1 Proposed outcomes of this Strategy

1. Landholders understand the various ways they can manage rural drainage.
2. Cultural and environmental values are protected with increased efficiency.
3. Priority waterways impacted by rural drainage are managed to provide cultural and environmental benefits.
4. Key agencies have clear roles and responsibilities, and are aware of opportunities to work in partnerships to support landholders managing rural drainage.
5. Catchment partners work together with landholders to re-build capability and support ongoing arrangements for drainage management.



Water logging on the Victorian volcanic plains, South-Western Victoria (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning)

### 1.2 Scope

This draft Strategy focuses on the maintenance of on-farm drains in dryland agriculture, the management of Crown land and waterways, the movement of drainage water across property boundaries and the outfall from drainage into waterways. These are complex issues, requiring a very specific and targeted policy focus. For this reason, the draft Strategy does not include consideration of other rural water issues such as general waterlogging, irrigation drainage, or flooding that involves potential risk to life and safety.

The draft Strategy is essentially about providing pathways for landholders who choose to try to improve the management of drainage and drainage systems, and providing clarity for landholders about how they will be supported to do this.

#### What is rural drainage?

For the purposes of this Strategy, rural drainage is defined as the works and functions related to the collection, and timely removal, of excess water generated by high rainfall to support agriculture production. It involves enhancing the hydraulic capacity of drainage lines and soils, and increasing the rate at which water will flow off (or through) and away from land, to support increased agricultural production in dryland areas.

### 1.3 Background

Drainage of rural land in Victoria began in the mid-1800s. It expanded significantly at the start of the 20th century, and again after World War II. Historically, large-scale drainage systems were established to bring into agricultural production land that was previously unable to be farmed due to it being under water for some or all of the year.

The majority of these drainage areas were previously wetlands and lakes, such as the Koo Wee Rup Swamp, the Eumeralla Drainage Scheme and the Yatchaw Drainage Scheme. After the successive periods of expansion, Victoria ended up with about 130 dryland rural drainage areas, draining approximately 1.5 million hectares of agricultural land and servicing about 5000 landholders. There is known historical information for about 100 of these areas, most of which are located south of the Great Dividing Range. They vary markedly in their complexity and size.

In recent decades, particularly during the extended dry period around the turn of the century, there has been a decline in the effective functioning of rural drainage systems. This decline has coincided with some significant changes in legislative arrangements for environmental and cultural approvals, such as the introduction of the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conversation Act 1999*. During the drought, drainage systems deteriorated as farmers did not have as much need for drainage services. After the dry period, when the need for drainage services increased, landholders and agencies were confused about roles and responsibilities for managing rural drainage and the required environmental and cultural approvals.

With this Strategy, the Victorian Government proposes a series of policies and actions to clarify future management arrangements so that landholders can make their own choices about how to manage rural drainage. In keeping with *The Victorian State and Local Government Agreement*, the draft Strategy also demonstrates the government's commitment to partner with councils to consider how they will support landholders in making those decisions.

Unfortunately, the historical construction of rural drainage in Victoria has damaged some culturally significant sites for Traditional Owners, and reduced the environmental values of wetlands and waterways. Since the 1970s, with the advent of greater understanding of the potential harmful impacts of rural drainage, there has been very little expansion of rural drainage in Victoria, and a shift away from significant government investment in rural drainage infrastructure.

This draft Strategy recognises the historical loss of environmental and cultural values associated with rural drainage. While supporting landholders to maintain and enhance the productivity of their farms, the draft Strategy also promotes the restoration of wetlands and the improvement of flows to provide environmental or cultural benefits. It supports the adoption of rural drainage management practices that minimise or avoid environmental or cultural impacts, and it proposes a streamlined approach to increase the efficiency of the regulations designed to support that adoption.

The scale of drainage works in Victoria may change with the new arrangements. It is quite likely there will be a move away from major drainage systems to agreements between smaller groups of landholders or individuals managing their own drainage works. Under

these new arrangements, landholders will need to know the rules for managing the movement of drainage water across property boundaries. Rural drainage also often interacts with public infrastructure and, where this occurs, the draft Strategy proposes ways to clarify procedures. It also emphasises the opportunities for councils and government agencies to work in partnership to support landholders in the choices they make.

#### 1.4 Policy context

This draft Strategy proposes new arrangements that clarify the responsibilities of various stakeholders for rural drainage management. The arrangements also seek to manage interactions between rural drainage and other rural infrastructure such as roads, bridges and floodplain management structures.

The draft Strategy interacts with a range of other Victorian Government strategies and policies and arrangements at the regional and local level. The government's *Water for Victoria plan*, released in October 2016, is the key driver for the development of this draft Strategy.

This draft Strategy also directly aligns with the state policy set out in the *Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy* and the *Victorian Waterway Management Strategy*. The draft Strategy does not duplicate these policies, but references the relevant actions in a rural drainage context. Rural drainage, and the opportunities to support management of rural drainage, are enabled under legislative instruments such as the *Water Act 1989* and *Local Government Act 1989*, and links to other areas such as the state-wide planning framework, road management arrangements and the government's climate change framework.



Roadside drainage,  
southwestern Victoria  
(Department of  
Environment, Land, Water  
and Planning)

## 2 Development of the draft Strategy

This chapter sets out how this draft Strategy was developed, and acknowledges the work, ideas and commitments provided by the key agencies, farmers, directly-affected landholders, and Aboriginal Victorians, including Traditional Owners, involved in developing it.

### 2.1 Overview

In the *Water for Victoria* plan, the government committed to developing a rural drainage strategy through an open and consultative process by the end of 2017.

#### Environment and Natural Resource Committee Inquiry into Rural Drainage in Victoria

This draft Strategy responds to the findings of the 2013 Environment and Natural Resource Committee Inquiry into Rural Drainage in Victoria. Importantly, it also builds on the extensive public consultation conducted for that inquiry, which revealed significant community concern about the management, performance and maintenance of Victoria's rural drainage.

The inquiry involved three public hearings, consulted 51 representatives in regional Victoria and Melbourne, conducted site inspections, and received briefings from the then Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Victorian Farmers Federation.

In all, 74 submissions were received from community members, representative groups, councils and government agencies. The key themes to emerge from the submissions were the need for

- Recognition of the social, economic and environmental benefits of managing rural drainage
- A responsible rural drainage authority with clear funding guidelines
- Community acceptance of landholders' ongoing need to manage and maintain rural drains.

The inquiry into rural drainage followed significant floods in Victoria from 2010 through to 2012. Two initial inquiries relating to floodplain management culminated in the development of the *Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy*, which sets out revised arrangements for floodplain management across the state. Those inquiries also highlighted landholder concerns about prolonged waterlogging of land due to inadequately maintained drains, rather than flooding per se. This prompted moves for the separate inquiry into rural drainage.

This draft Strategy has a singular focus on drainage issues. Where flooding and drainage issues overlap at the local level, the flooding issues will be resolved through regional floodplain management strategies.

### 2.2 Who contributed to the draft Strategy?

Many different stakeholders have shaped the development of this draft Strategy.

#### Farmers and directly-affected landholders

Directly-affected landholders were approached to collaborate in developing the draft Strategy. Through one-on-one engagement with landholders, a greater understanding of the challenges individuals are facing was built, and these insights directly shaped the proposed policies and actions in the draft Strategy. The Victorian Farmers Federation provided a landholder perspective and offered further insights in its role as a member of the Reference Group that guided the draft Strategy.

#### Government agencies

Key government agencies such as councils and catchment management authorities, along with other bodies including the Victorian Catchment Management Council and the Municipal Association of Victoria, were engaged through Reference Group meetings and targeted working groups. They provided expertise to test the practicality of the policies proposed in this draft Strategy.

#### Aboriginal Victorians and Traditional Owners

The government has partnered with Aboriginal Victorians and Traditional Owners, including peak bodies, to support the development of this draft Strategy. Their feedback will continue to be sought through targeted consultation in the development of the final Strategy (See section 6.2).

**Table 2.1 Members of the Reference Group**

• Independent Chair – Peta Maddy, and Interim Chair – Tamara Boyd (22 May – 21 July 2017)
• Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
• Municipal Association of Victoria
• Baw Baw Shire Council
• Moyne Shire Council
• West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
• Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
• Victorian Farmers Federation
• Victorian Catchment Management Council
• Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
• Melbourne Water

### 2.3 The strategy process

A Reference Group, independently chaired by Peta Maddy, was established in 2016 to collaborate in developing this draft Strategy (Table 2.1). The Reference Group was appointed to involve, consult and inform a range of other stakeholders in the development of a rural drainage strategy.

Local government provided ongoing input through consultation with council representatives, the Municipal Association of Victoria and one-on-one discussions with senior representatives from councils. The issues and opportunities identified by councils during regional forums were also considered.

Engagement with catchment management authorities helped to shape and strengthen the partnership approach proposed in this draft Strategy. Working groups were established between catchment management authorities and the Department to provide technical support in the consideration of policy matters.

Consistent with the government's commitment to increasing the involvement of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians in the development of future water policy and management arrangements, Aboriginal Victorians and Traditional Owner groups were contacted to support the development of this draft Strategy. The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations was commissioned, with input from key Aboriginal Victorians and Traditional Owner groups, to prepare a discussion paper that informed the proposed directions relating to Aboriginal values in Chapter 6.

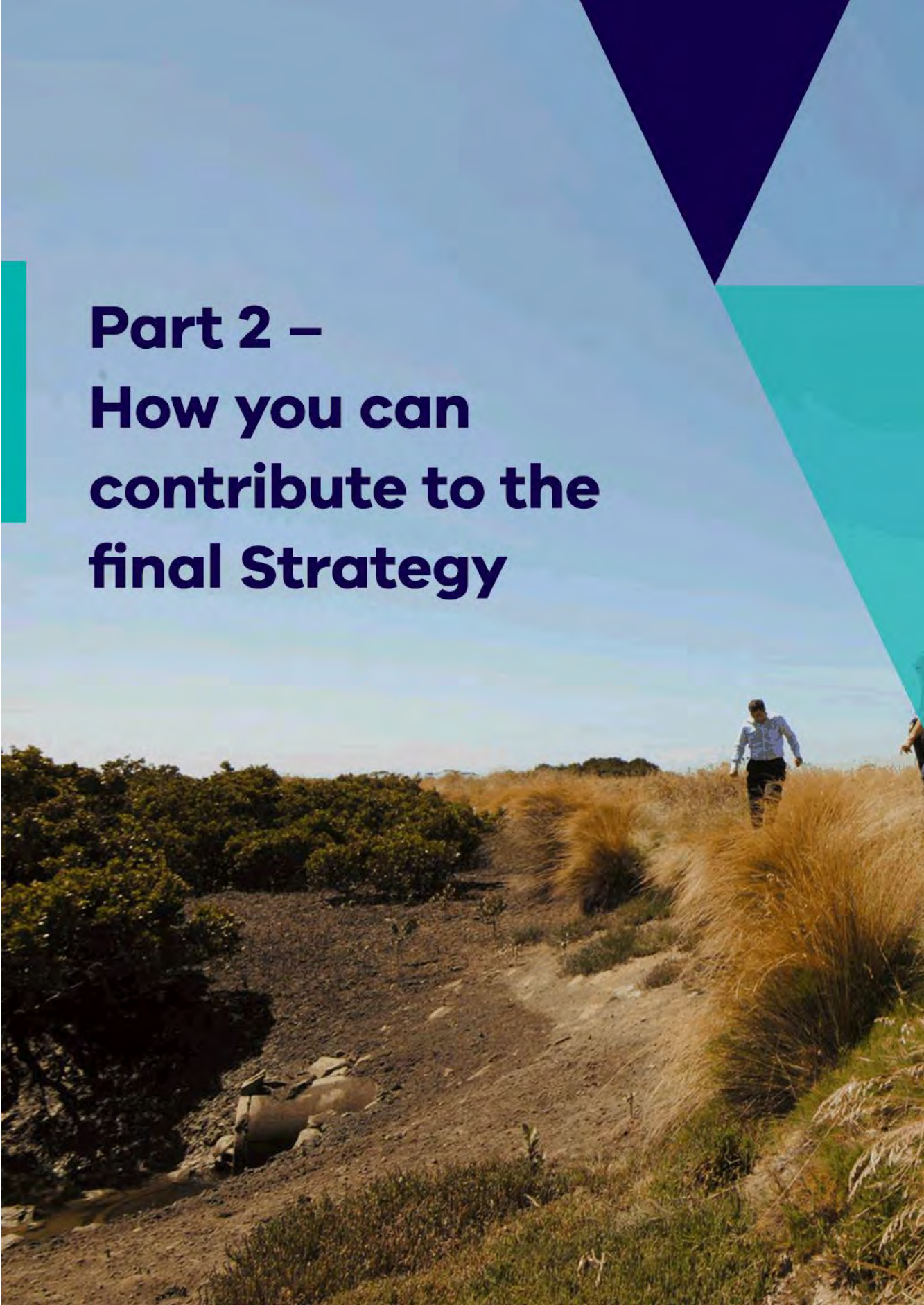
This draft Strategy also includes collective input from the Reference Group, which has shaped the proposed policies and actions for managing and maintaining rural drainage into the future.

The Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy is being developed in a four-phase process (see figure 2.1). With the publication of this draft Strategy, broader feedback is now being sought to help inform the development of the final Strategy.

Figure 2.1 Process for developing the Strategy







# Part 2 – How you can contribute to the final Strategy

Partnership between landholders and agencies in south Gippsland (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning)



Stakeholders and the community can choose to contribute directly to the future directions for rural drainage management in Victoria in a range of ways. Chapter 3 (Part 2) highlights the government's commitment to an open and consultative process in developing a state-wide rural drainage Strategy.

### 3 Have your say

The Victorian Government is now seeking broad community input and feedback to inform the final Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy. This draft Strategy provides an opportunity for the community to help determine what needs to be done to support the ongoing management of rural drainage in Victoria. The government welcomes and encourages the involvement of as many Victorians as possible in helping to shape a final Strategy. The draft Strategy will be open for an eight-week public consultation period and, subject to the feedback received, the aim is to release a final Strategy in late 2017.

There are various ways for the community and stakeholders to get involved. You are welcome to:

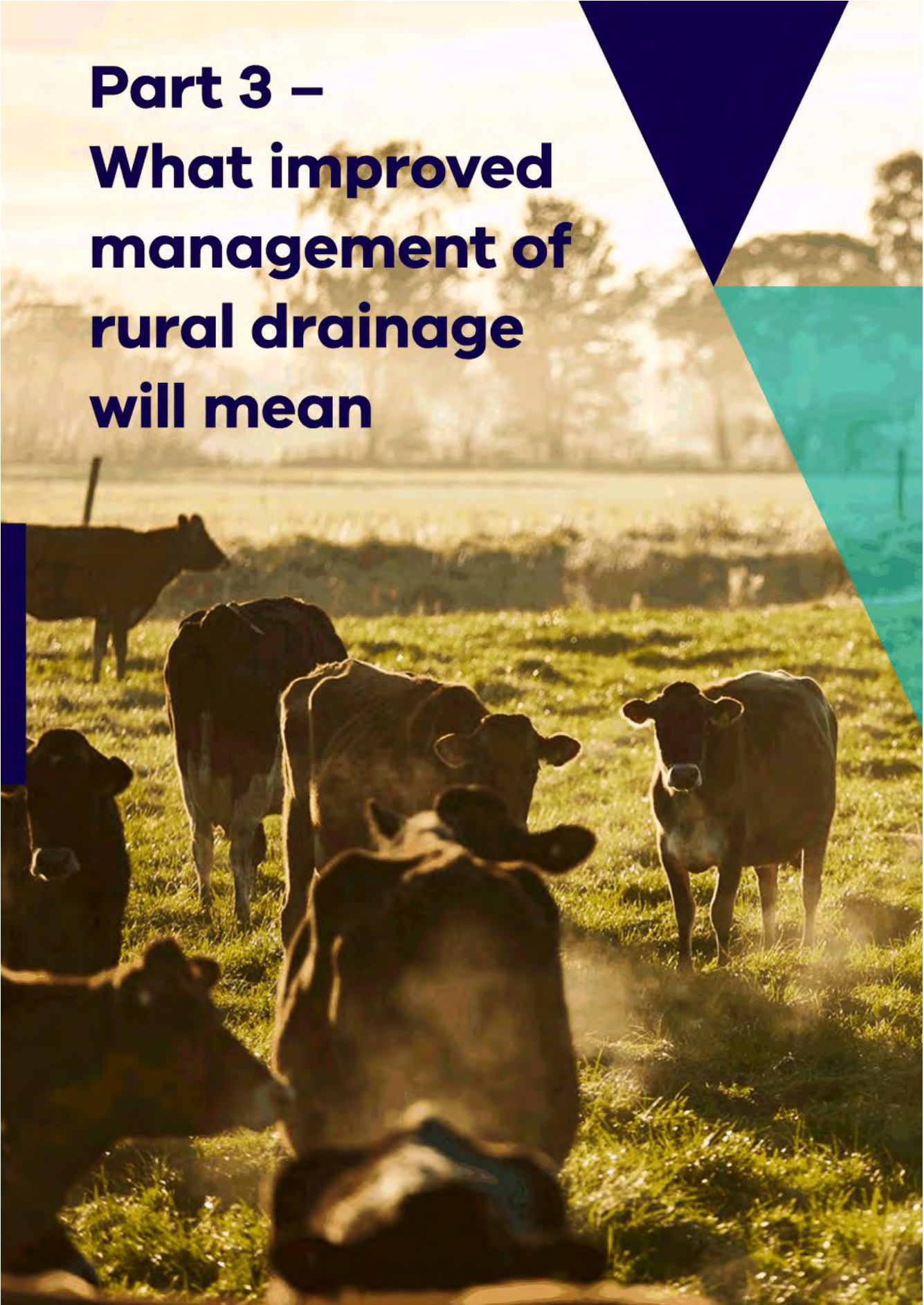
- Attend a regional forum or workshop
- Make a submission online at [www.engage.vic.gov.au/ruraldrainage](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/ruraldrainage)
- Have informal but structured one-on-one discussions with the project team as part of the consultation program.

Submissions will be made public unless confidentiality is requested. Submissions that are defamatory or offensive will not be published.

Public consultation will close eight weeks following the release of this draft Strategy.

Please visit the website for details on how you can get involved. The website includes information on when the project team will be in your area and information on the public consultation period, including dates for public submissions.

[www.engage.vic.gov.au/ruraldrainage](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/ruraldrainage)



# **Part 3 – What improved management of rural drainage will mean**

Dairy farming in Victoria (Craig Moodie)



**(Chapters 4–6)**

Part 3 outlines the policies and actions for specific stakeholders – particularly landholders, environmental managers, Aboriginal Victorians and Traditional Owner groups.

It details how landholders are empowered through this Strategy to make choices about how they want to manage rural drainage. It also outlines landholders’ obligations in managing rural drainage, and the support that will be provided to help them meet those obligations (Chapter 4)

The draft Strategy recognises the potential to achieve positive environmental and cultural benefits by helping landholders to find pathways through environmental and cultural approvals. It also provides increased certainty to landholders about how rural drainage can be managed in environmentally sustainable and culturally sensitive ways (Chapter 5).

In its 2016 *Water for Victoria* plan, the Victorian Government recognised the value that water has for Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians in the context of rural drainage. This draft Strategy reflects a commitment to consult with Aboriginal Victorians in a way that addresses the rights and interests of Traditional Owners. It also proposes to promote opportunities for landholders and Traditional Owners to work collaboratively to consider cultural heritage in drainage management (Chapter 6).

## 4 Landholders making informed choices

This chapter outlines the information that landholders will need to help them make informed choices about their management of rural drainage into the future. It looks at the different management arrangements open to them, either individually or collectively.

Where landholders can agree to manage drains collectively, they can do so through:

- Amicable non-written agreements;
- Written agreements; or
- Written agreements with administrative support from councils, which can partner with other agencies to ensure the right technical considerations are built in to any drainage arrangements (Figure 4.1).

This chapter also emphasises that drainage services will only be improved where landholders agree to pay for those improvements.

The arrangements outlined in this chapter aim to provide information for landholders to help them make choices about how to manage their drainage and drainage systems into the future.

### Proposed outcome 1

Landholders understand the various ways they can manage rural drainage



Working together  
(Craig Moodie)



**4.1 Making informed choices about management arrangements**

Landholders need the means to make informed choices about their management arrangements for rural drainage. If landholders are happy with their existing drainage arrangements and are meeting their relevant obligations they can continue with the current arrangements. For those landholders that are seeking clarity about management arrangements, or support to manage rural drainage, this draft Strategy will clarify the ways that they can manage rural drainage. (Figure 4.1)

The draft Strategy proposes that the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (the Department) will set out the proposed policy directions for rural drainage and develop the tools and information to help landholders make choices about how they manage rural drainage.

**Proposed action 4a**

Prepare tools and information to help landholders understand their options for managing rural drainage

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will work with landholders, councils, catchment management authorities and Traditional Owners to develop a resource kit for landholders who choose to invest in managing rural drainage. The proposed drainage resource kit will include:

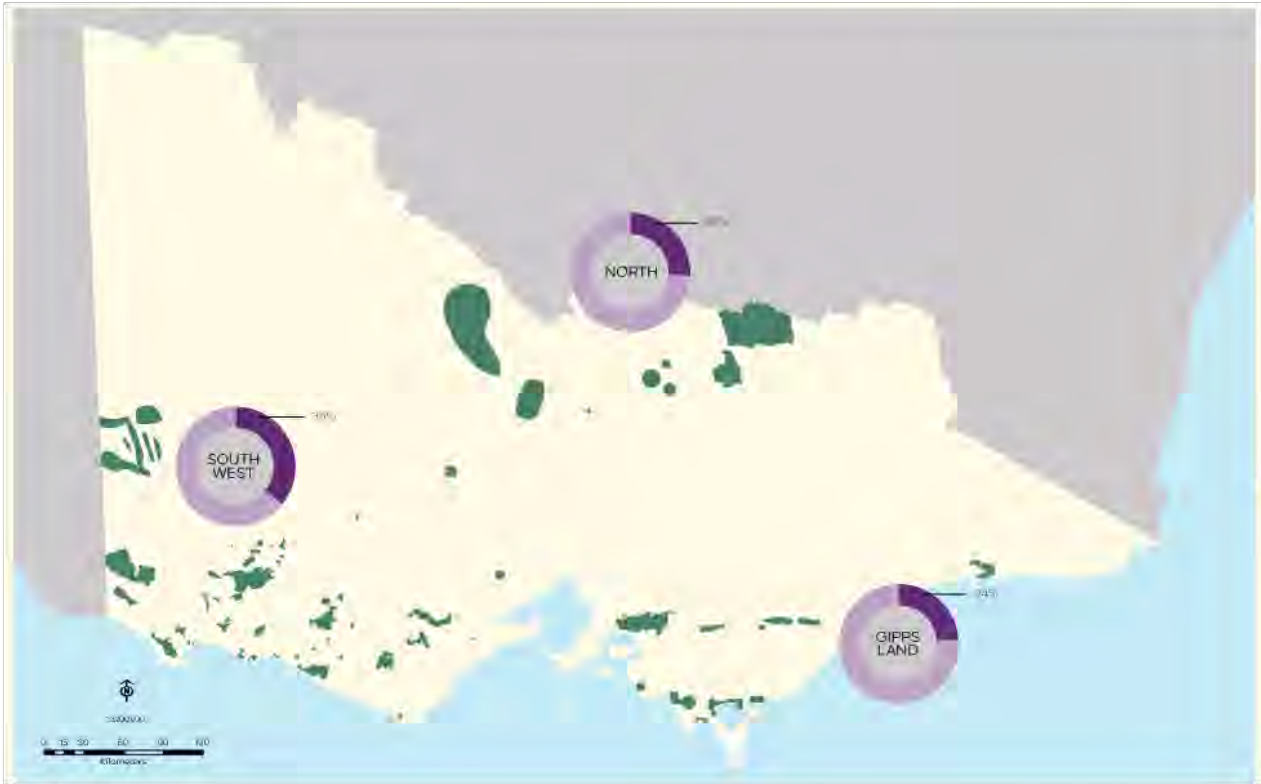
- A technical tool to help landholders consider the likely costs and benefits of investing in improved rural drainage
- Information about landholders' obligations to obtain approvals for drainage works (including investigating opportunities for exemptions and for streamlining approvals, as well as provision of certainty around where approvals may not be granted)
- Guidance for landholders to help establish any works that return the best value for money, while also minimising third party impacts and taking into account the possible impacts of climate change (best-practice guidelines for rural drainage)
- Information about governance structures and relevant legal arrangements to establish drainage committees

Information on rural drainage and access to the drainage resource kit will be available on relevant agency websites, including those of catchment management authorities, councils, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

Figure 4.1 Four ways landholders can manage rural drainage



**Figure 4.2 Preliminary assessments of the potential loss of productivity (as a percentage of total gross profit) due to poorly functioning drainage systems in the three key regions for dryland rural drainage in Victoria**



Legend  
 ■ Historic drainage areas

**Considering the costs and benefits of improving rural drainage**

Before landholders can choose to improve the management of their rural drainage, they need to understand whether the benefits of doing so will outweigh the costs. In some cases rural drainage can enhance productivity by reducing the extent, severity and duration of inundation after rainfall. If all the historical drainage systems were fully functioning, the gross annual returns from farming in these areas would be expected to be in the order of \$350 million. Because they are not fully functioning, it is possible that current gross annual returns for landholders are in the order of only \$175 million<sup>1</sup>, noting that these figures are indicative.

These estimates demonstrate the potential benefits to be achieved where landholders decide to invest in management of rural drainage. The return from investing in dryland drainage varies greatly, depending on a range of factors (such as climate, topography, soil and type of agriculture). However, estimates can be made based on known profit margins and cost estimates of the potential impacts of

waterlogging in historical large-scale drainage systems. Both benefits and costs are expected to vary significantly between drainage areas, depending variously on land use, each area’s susceptibility to waterlogging, and the current effectiveness of drains. Figure 4.2 shows how poorly functioning drainage infrastructure can potentially reduce landholder profit margins by 30 per cent.

Future changes in dryland agricultural production and in land use, both of which are largely driven by market demand for agricultural commodities, may affect the benefits derived from rural drains. The potential for reducing the effects of inundation of agricultural land is heavily dependent on the condition and subsequent performance of existing drainage infrastructure. A detailed assessment of the condition of infrastructure has not been undertaken at the individual property level, so these costs are indicative.

In addition, climate change is expected to produce generally hotter and drier conditions, which would tend to decrease the average annual impacts of inundation. Although drier conditions are expected, the intensity of some extreme rainfall events may



increase. The benefits of well-maintained drains would be most evident following these events. The overall net effect of climate change on the cost-benefit equation for maintaining rural drains is thus uncertain<sup>2</sup> and may not be evident in the short term.

Affected landholders must ultimately be the ones to assess the benefits and costs of improving the management of any drainage. To this end, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is keen to work more closely with landholders to develop a technical tool to assess the potential benefits and costs of improving their drainage services.

Guidance material to support the use of that tool will be developed. The material will enable landholders to consider the costs and benefits of rural drainage in a range of scenarios, including key climate scenarios, based on the *Guidelines for assessing the impacts of climate change on water supplies in Victoria*, which considers the vulnerability of supply systems to climate variability and climate change.<sup>3</sup>

The guidance material can support landholders to consider the vulnerability of drainage works to climate variability and climate change. It can help landholders understand their options to consider climate change, and the costs of refurbishing and managing rural drainage infrastructure. It can also support landholders to consider the costs of environmental offsets and approvals for works, which in turn will help them to choose the best options for investing in rural drainage over the short and longer-term.

#### Proposed action 4b

Help landholders understand the potential costs and benefits of rural drainage

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, in partnership with the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, will work with landholders, councils and catchment management authorities to prepare a generic technical tool that can be used by individual landholders to understand the potential costs and benefits of them investing in rural drainage management.

The tool will be supported by guidance material to help landholders, when they are using the tool, to consider the potential impacts on costs and benefits of a range of variables such as climate change.

#### Proposed policy 4a

Landholders can access a technical tool that they can use to consider the potential costs and benefits of rural drainage.

A generic technical tool will be available for landholders to access and use to understand the potential costs and benefits of rural drainage based on their business needs. The tool will be available in an accessible form on relevant agency websites, including those of catchment management authorities, councils, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

#### Pathways to meeting environmental and cultural approvals

Currently, individual landholders may need to apply to a range of agencies to obtain the necessary approvals to drain water from their land. For example, in areas deemed to have environmental significance, they would need to apply to their council for a planning permit for earthworks and to a catchment management authority for approval to carry out works on waterways. Landholders would also need to apply to a water corporation to ensure third party impacts are considered if proposed works involve taking and using water.

These approvals remain important because, as discussed in more detail in chapter 5 and chapter 6, rural drainage has had a significant impact on Victoria's waterways, and it is important to avoid or minimise any further cultural or environmental impacts.

Approvals, for both new and existing drainage works, where required, enable landholders to drain water in ways that avoid:

- Impacts on Aboriginal heritage sites
- Impacts on rare and threatened flora or fauna (including all matters of national environmental significance)
- Impacts on native vegetation
- Changes in water flow across property boundaries, and potentially across catchment boundaries, that are not reasonable or cause damage or injury to people or property
- Environmental harm from discharging wastewater into waterways
- Third party impacts associated with taking and using water from the drainage works (Section 67 works licence and Section 51 take-and-use licence under the *Water Act 1989*)
- Environmental impacts when carrying out works on waterways.

It is not always clear to landholders when and where approvals are required, and which agency is responsible for considering approvals. In some cases, there may be confusion about whether a permit is required at all, which can result in landholders being fined because they are not aware of their obligations.

This draft Strategy proposes to build awareness and understanding of approvals and identify opportunities to reduce the regulatory burden on landholders. There are opportunities to build capability for landholders and agencies to manage rural drainage in environmentally and culturally sensitive ways (see proposed action 8a). There are also opportunities to create greater efficiencies in the various approval processes, and to make use of specific exemptions to the approvals process where the risks to cultural and environmental values are low (Proposed action 5b).

It is a standard requirement that a permit be obtained for earthworks that relate to management of rural drainage, unless controls say otherwise. For example, a local schedule may state that a planning permit is not required up to a certain volume of earthworks.

In circumstances where a particular land use planning overlay is in place (such as an environmental significance overlay, or an overlay for land subject to inundation), an application for earthworks (or works) must be referred to the relevant planning referral authority, and a permit obtained for works. Works in these cases may be supported, or supported with conditions, where the regulators have assurance that the works will be undertaken in environmentally and culturally sensitive ways.

Although a permit from a catchment management authority will almost always be required to undertake works on a waterway, there are some exceptions, including where a drain is not listed as a designated waterway – as is the case in the Strathdownie drainage area.<sup>3</sup>

Land owner and/or public land manager consent will be required where works are proposed on land managed by the government. A landholder can seek advice and apply for consent from the Department's regional offices.

Where approvals are required, they sometimes appear to landholders to be ad-hoc and unnecessarily stringent.<sup>4</sup> Landholders need to have confidence that they will be supported within a regulatory framework that can be applied consistently across the state. This draft Strategy identifies opportunities to streamline approvals with the support of agencies (proposed policy 4f) and, in some cases, clarify opportunities for exemptions from approvals (Proposed action 5b).

In some cases, drainage of new areas will not be permitted if it is likely to result in significant environmental or cultural impact. Under the proposals in this draft Strategy, landholders will be provided with increased certainty about where works are unlikely to be granted (Proposed action 5a). Landholders will also be supported to incorporate cultural heritage management in the context of rural drainage (proposed action 6b).

#### Proposed action 4c

##### Streamline environmental and cultural approvals

The Forest, Fire and Regions Group of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will identify opportunities to streamline environmental and cultural approvals. It will be risk-based and provide a consistent approach to considering permit applications across the State.

The draft Strategy identifies opportunities to streamline approvals with the support of agencies. Catchment management authorities need to understand where there are opportunities to improve management of drainage areas for environmental and cultural values and will guide landholders through approvals in the more complex drainage systems when requested. This will help to lift impediments for landholders to managing rural drainage systems while meeting obligations (Proposed policy 4f).

This information will form part of a drainage resource kit that landholders will be able to access from the relevant agency websites (proposed action 4a).

#### Proposed policy 4b

##### Establish a contact point for landholders to access tools and information to help them seek statutory approvals to manage rural drainage

Councils will provide the point of contact for landholders to access tools and information about statutory approvals to manage rural drainage in a local context. This information will also be available on all partner agency websites, including those of catchment management authorities, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

4.2 Individually managed rural drains

<b>Single landholder</b>	<p><b>Individually managed rural drains</b></p> <p>Landholder sources drainage resource kit to guide drainage management.</p> <p>Landholders can seek advice from relevant regulatory authority.</p> <p><i>Figure 4.1</i></p>
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4.3 Drainage managed collectively through amicable agreements

<b>Numerous landholders</b>	<p><b>Managed collectively through amicable agreements</b></p> <p>Landholder sources drainage resource kit to guide drainage management.</p> <p>Landholders can seek advice from relevant regulatory authority.</p> <p>Managed by landholders, collectively.</p> <p>Supported by Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria.</p> <p><i>Figure 4.1</i></p>
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In some cases, rural drainage is confined to one property and can be managed by a single landholder. Landholders can access the drainage resource kit to understand the obligations for approvals for drainage works. They can continue to get advice from the relevant statutory authority about their obligations to manage the impacts of rural drainage.

Often, individual properties drain into a roadside table drain or culvert. Where the capacity of the drain or culvert is inadequate to avoid waterlogging or inundation on that property, it is up to the landholder to negotiate a resolution directly with the responsible road authority (either a council, VicRoads or in some cases the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning). These matters generally do not involve other agencies unless there is other infrastructure involved such as rail infrastructure, or there is a regulatory consideration, such as a need for works on a waterway that requires a permit.

Authorities in charge of roads, rail and other public infrastructure resolve drainage issues affecting their infrastructure on a priority basis. For example, in response to the jump in drainage inquiries following extensive regional flooding, Campaspe Shire Council prepared a drainage policy to prioritise drainage repairs and maintenance.<sup>5</sup>

**Proposed policy 4c**

Agencies continue to manage their public infrastructure that interfaces with individuals' drainage works

Where a property's drainage interfaces with a piece of public infrastructure such as a road, the relevant agency will continue to resolve issues through its prioritisation process.

In some cases, neighbours need to collaborate to agree on a combined approach to managing rural drainage. This happens where drainage crosses property boundaries or affects neighbours.

Where rural drainage involves more than one property, the landholders who benefit from that drainage system need to come together in ways that build trust and foster cooperation. Ultimately, they need to develop a set of rules for coordinating their drainage maintenance efforts. Where only a small number of landholders are involved and the system is relatively simple, landholders might choose to agree informally through neighbourly cooperation. In effect, the system would be managed through a series of amicable agreements. However, these negotiations between neighbours may sometimes be difficult.

The draft Strategy proposes that these informal arrangements can continue. These landholder groups will be able to contact councils and obtain the resource kit (proposed action 4a), which includes information on obligations related to approvals for works.

It should be noted, however, that when amicable agreements break down, there is very little agencies can do to help resolve issues or negotiate new agreements. The resource kit will encourage landholders to consider formal written agreements to support ongoing arrangements.

If a dispute cannot be resolved through discussions between landholders, they should approach the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria<sup>6</sup>, which offers a free mediation service involving an accredited and impartial mediator.

**Proposed policy 4d**

**Landholders managing drainage through amicable agreements**

Landholders will continue to be able to come to amicable agreements among themselves to manage and maintain shared drainage systems, but will be encouraged to consider formal written agreements to support all parties if circumstances change.

Neither councils nor other agencies are responsible for resolving disputes about rural drainage. Landholders are expected to work with their neighbours to manage shared rural drainage systems. Where agreement is not possible, landholders can seek assistance from the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria.

Ideally, the agreements should be recorded on land titles. A formalised community drainage committee can be established as an entity that can enter contracts in its own name to borrow money or buy equipment, and manage risks.

Model rules for incorporated associations are available from Consumer Affairs Victoria.<sup>7</sup> They provide a starting point for associations to tailor their own rules. The rules that the association adopts are a contract between the association and its members. They set out the association's purposes, list the rights and responsibilities of members and office holders, and include dispute resolution processes. In northern Victoria, a model agreement has been prepared for incorporated associations to extend their rules in a way that is tailored to community management of drainage systems. (see case study on page 29 – Shepparton Community Surface Water Management System).

One key task for the committee would be to determine, and record in the agreement, how they will collect revenue and how they will acquit funds.

**4.4 Drainage managed collectively through written agreements**

**Numerous landholders**

**Managed collectively through written agreements**

*Landholder sources drainage resource kit to guide drainage management*

*Can seek advice from relevant regulatory authority*

*Managed by landholders collectively, through written agreements.*

*Model agreement template*

**Figure 4.1**

**Proposed policy 4e**

**Landholders managing drainage through written agreements**

Landholders will continue to be able (and will be encouraged) to enter written agreements among themselves to manage and maintain drainage systems.

They will be able to use model rules for incorporated associations, available from Consumer Affairs Victoria, and use model agreements for community management of rural drainage, to formalise their written agreements.

Formal written agreements are more likely to survive changes in land use and property ownership. Relying on amicable arrangements is subject to changes in land use needs, or to confusion when properties change hands, potentially resulting in the breakdown of those arrangements.

Landholders working with each other to manage rural drainage might choose to bolster those arrangements with agreements for access to each other's properties under the *Water Act 1989*. This enables community groups (either an existing drainage committee or new group) to formalise drainage arrangements. These written arrangements can include:

- The extent of access to a neighbour's property;
- A map showing the location and measurements of proposed drainage works;
- Management arrangements for joint assets and support for management of broader risks to assets in the landscape.

The landholders may choose to form a community drainage committee to collectively manage drainage across their properties and neighbouring lands.

**Proposed action 4d**

**Prepare a model agreement for adoption by rural drainage committees**

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will work with key delivery partners to prepare a model agreement that landholders may choose to adopt as a formal written agreement to manage rural drainage.

This work will consider opportunities to provide advice on how a drainage committee can self-insure for risk.

## 4.5 Drainage managed collectively with support from councils and other agencies



The current need for each landholder to gain individual approval, as opposed to system-wide approval, to remove native vegetation, remove silt or modify channels that cross property boundaries has proven to be a stumbling block for landholders to collectively manage drainage. While it is important that these activities are regulated to minimise or avoid environmental and cultural impacts, this can be done much more efficiently on a broader scale (involving many properties) than at the individual property level.

Similarly, landholders may require support to determine how they will collect revenue and acquit funds. It is expected that landholders may need administrative assistance to collect funds on their behalf. While there are examples of such arrangements working effectively, in some cases the inability to reach agreement, particularly where some landholders believe they may not benefit from the drainage service, has prevented management of larger drainage areas. The new drainage resource kits discussed in proposed action 4a are designed to help landholders work through their options for drainage management, and to choose whether or not they want a drainage service.

In some cases, there may be a smaller group of landholders willing to pay for drainage services within a larger group that is not willing to pay. It would not make sense for those willing landholders to pay for a whole drainage area, but it may make sense for them to form a smaller collective to meet their individual needs, providing third party impacts are considered. In these cases, a drainage management plan may help to determine the critical points of the drainage system, and any third-party impacts, to progress drainage services for those prepared to pay (Section 7.4).

This will be underpinned by strong partnership arrangements, with agencies relevant to the drainage system in the local context involved in supporting landholders (proposed action 8f). The Shepparton Drain case study on page 29 highlights the lessons from irrigation drainage where drainage is supported by partnership arrangements.

### Proposed policy 4f

#### Supporting landholders to prepare rural drainage management plans

To streamline the approvals process, landholders who choose to manage drainage collectively will have the option to prepare a rural drainage management plan that sets out how the environmental and cultural impacts of rural drainage will be managed. Support for landholders to prepare a rural drainage management plan will be underpinned by strong partnership arrangements, in line with the proposed directions in this draft Strategy. Under the proposals:

- Landholders will be responsible for preparing rural drainage management plans. (based on guidance proposed in action 8b).
- Councils will provide administrative support for the development of rural drainage management plans, including convening meetings with landholders and relevant agencies, where landholders are prepared to meet certain criteria (see proposed policy 4f).
- Catchment management authorities will provide an early indication for landholders on the costs of seeking environmental approvals. Catchment management authorities will also work in partnership with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to understand the potential costs of seeking cultural approvals. And they will provide advice on the development of environmental and cultural management arrangements for rural drainage management plans.

Once the planned maintenance activities detailed in the plan (potentially an attachment to a license application) have been approved by each of the relevant regulatory bodies, planned maintenance will be allowed without the need for further approvals for a period of up to 15 years (provided it is in line with conditions which could include a requirement that works be undertaken in line with the drainage management plan), at which time they will be reviewed and then renewed with or without changed conditions.

### Proposed policy 4g

#### Principles for supporting landholders to manage rural drainage

Rural drainage systems will only be managed with the administrative support of councils and the advice of other agencies if:

- The need to manage the drainage system has the support of landholders within the drainage area.
- The landholders benefiting from the drainage system agree to pay for the maintenance and administrative costs of the system.
- The landholders are willing to participate in a formally constituted local drainage management committee
- The incorporated association holds appropriate insurance.



*Construction of Shepparton Drain BB/11P (Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority)*

### Case study: Community Surface Water Management System Shepparton Drain 3B / 11P

**Although irrigation drainage is outside the scope of this draft Strategy, there are lessons to be learned from this community model.**

The Shepparton Irrigation Region is located in central northern Victoria within the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District. The development of irrigated agriculture has altered the natural hydrology of the region, with removal of trees and the frequent irrigation of land resulting in soil profiles with higher moisture content. This results in higher volumes of runoff and ponded rainfall leading to prolonged waterlogging with negative impacts on productivity.

To address these issues, the Shepparton Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan was developed in partnership with Goulburn Murray Water, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, the community, the Victorian Government and the Greater Shepparton City Council. This plan included a Surface Drainage Strategy looking at providing drainage services across the irrigated regions of the catchment and a proposed works program, prioritised to allow progressive implementation of works across the region.

The Community Surface Water Management System Shepparton 3B/11P services a catchment area of 292 hectares across 15 properties. Land use is mixed, with the entire catchment laid out to irrigation. Normal to wet rainfall conditions result in significant inundation,

as natural drainage lines in the area are not continuous and the topography is particularly flat. The catchment was affected by wet periods through the 1970s and 1980s, with a major flooding event in 1993 leading to renewed community calls for improved drainage.

Implementation of a community surface water management scheme in this catchment required strong partnership arrangements to support the negotiation of various issues including land ownership changes, land use changes, changing views of landholders on the need for the service, and landholder disagreements. These complexities necessitated landholder support for the construction and ongoing management of the system. As the works are within the irrigation district and outfall is into the publicly-owned drainage system, the Victorian Government, via the then Department of Primary Industries with support from Goulburn Murray Water, were the most appropriate organisations, and they worked in partnership to provide support in this case.

Through these arrangements, landholders were able to construct drains, and connect them to existing irrigation district drains at much lower costs than for other options. Due to the connection to irrigation infrastructure, ongoing maintenance of the completed works is funded by serviced landholders and conducted by Goulburn Murray Water as part of its maintenance program, with costs recovered through annual rates and charges.

The support provided by a third party to bring the affected parties together, along with clear guidelines and a process for delivery, enabled this community group to successfully work through a range of issues over a number of years to see their scheme completed with improved outcomes for agriculture in the region.

## 5 Improvements for the environment

This chapter explains the importance of waterways, and the effects of drainage on waterways. It focuses on those waterways most affected by drainage, and pays attention to the impacts on wetlands.

The chapter also outlines how proposed simplified environmental approvals processes for landholders in relation to rural drainage management will play an important role in protecting and improving environmental values.



The chapter outlines opportunities for environmental restoration of waterways previously affected by drainage. It also sets out arrangements to avoid future impacts of drainage on biodiversity values and waterways, while also providing landholders with increased certainty. It concludes by proposing ways for existing rural drainage to be managed in environmentally and culturally sensitive ways, and outlines the environmental protection measures that would be required for any new drainage in the future.

It also considers how climate change and other factors can be considered in future management of rural drainage, and describes how this draft Strategy proposes to manage any further threats to the value of waterways from rural drainage.

**In the context of the main proposed outcomes of the Strategy, this chapter addresses the environmental aspects of the following:**

### Proposed outcome 2

Cultural and environmental values are protected with increased efficiency

### Proposed outcome 3

Priority waterways impacted by rural drainage are managed to provide cultural and environmental benefits



West Wimmera Wetlands (David Fletcher)

## 5.1 Introduction

Waterways are important natural assets supporting diverse populations of animals and plants - some of which are now rare, endangered or threatened - and providing broader community values. This draft Strategy proposes that existing statutory arrangements to consider impacts of rural drainage on the environment will be retained. This includes retaining the role of catchment management authorities in considering permit applications relating to works on waterways.

### What are waterways?

Waterways are defined as rivers and streams, their associated estuaries and floodplains (including floodplain wetlands) and non-riverine wetlands.<sup>8</sup>



### 5.2 The environmental impacts of rural drainage

Rural drainage has clearly led to increased agricultural productivity in Victoria – but in the past this has resulted in a decline in the ecological condition of many waterways. The drainage of land has resulted in a 28 per cent reduction in Victoria’s wetland area, while the runoff from rural drainage affects water quality in receiving waters. Wetlands in southwest Victoria have been particularly affected; in the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority region, for example, 75 per cent of shallow freshwater wetlands have been lost due to drainage.

A state-wide assessment of Victoria’s 600 high value wetlands concluded that 56 per cent of these wetlands were in excellent or good condition, while the other 44 per cent were in moderate, poor, or very poor condition. The report stated that ‘even though high value wetlands have a high profile for protection and management’, many wetlands were ‘still subject to threatening processes which are likely to have been exacerbated by drought.’<sup>9</sup>

North Central Catchment Management Authority staff undertaking wetland monitoring (North Central Catchment Management Authority)



### 5.3 Pathways through environmental and cultural approval processes

Under this draft Strategy, it is proposed that the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will work with councils and catchment management authorities to develop a risk-based framework for environmental approvals (proposed action 4c). It will also prepare guidance material, including a resource kit, on how to apply for a permit to maintain rural drainage. This will include practical advice for landholders about how to meet their obligations to protect environmental and cultural values.

#### Provide better information to landholders about approvals

Since the 1970s there has been very little expansion of large-scale rural drainage in Victoria. Many priority agricultural areas have already been developed, and were assessed under a different environmental standard. There is now a greater community expectation for provision of a higher level of protection for the environment. In practice this means approvals for new rural drainage works in some areas may not be granted – or, if they are granted, approvals could come with conditions designed to minimise environmental and cultural impacts. Under this draft Strategy, it is proposed that landholders will benefit from information about where approvals may not be granted, or where a greater level of investment in environmental and cultural considerations is required, minimising the potential frustration and costs of pursuing unrealistic or unaffordable drainage proposals.

**Proposed action 5a**

**Provide increased certainty for landholders about approvals**

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, in partnership with councils and catchment management authorities, will prepare a resource kit that provides increased certainty to landholders about approvals – including increased certainty about where works are unlikely to be approved – for rural drainage works that could have significant environmental impacts.

#### Preparing rural drainage management plans

Councils will provide support for drainage committees wishing to prepare rural drainage management plans. These plans will provide an opportunity to streamline the approvals process. With agency support for the development, those plans should reduce the costs and administrative burden currently involved in gaining approvals.

Rural drainage management plans should be fit for purpose. The level of complexity should depend on a risk-based assessment of the environmental and cultural impacts associated with operating and maintaining the drainage. For example, for small drainage systems with low levels of risk, the plans could be relatively informal. For large drainage areas with high levels of risk, the plans would need to address comprehensively the operation and maintenance regime, the regulatory requirements, and the processes for minimising the social, economic and environmental impacts of rural drainage.

Rural drainage management plans will need to provide details to landholders and the community about how the system is managed and how drainage charges are applied. Multi-year works plans would have a clear schedule of the type, scale and timing of works to be undertaken. Once landholders agree, rural drainage management plans will be considered by the relevant regulatory body (such as a council, catchment management authority or the Department’s Forest Fire and Regions Group), streamlining the process to seek approval for drainage works, while also providing confidence to decision makers that works will be completed in a sensitive manner, meeting cultural and environmental obligations.

The proposal is for rural drainage management plans to outline the management, operation and maintenance schedule for the system for a period of up to 15 years, thus avoiding the need to get regular approvals (proposed policy 4f).



### Case Study: The Koo Wee Rup and Longwarry flood protection district

**The Koo Wee Rup and Longwarry flood protection district covers approximately 330 square kilometres south-east of Melbourne.**

The region is a former wetland that was drained in the late 1800s for agriculture. It is now Australia's largest asparagus growing district. Beef farming and potato growing are the other major agricultural activities. Much of the district also provides habitat for threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities, and supports Aboriginal cultural heritage values. Five species and one ecological community likely to be found within the district are protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*: the helmeted honeyeater, the southern brown bandicoot, the growling grass frog, the Australian grayling, dwarf galaxias and the subtropical and temperate coastal saltmarsh.

Melbourne Water owns and is responsible for drains in the district and carries out annual maintenance activities, guided by the advice of the Koo Wee Rup–Longwarry flood protection district advisory committee.

To allow maintenance to continue, Melbourne Water sought an exemption under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to proceed with annual routine works without the need to seek further approval.

In accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, Melbourne Water is required to demonstrate that its actions will not:

- Lead to the long-term decrease in the size of a population
- Reduce the area of occupancy of the species
- Fragment the existing population into two or more populations
- Disrupt the breeding cycle of the population
- Modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline.

To ensure that species listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* are protected, while enabling necessary flood protection maintenance works to proceed, Melbourne Water developed controls and protection measures for use in known sensitive areas. (*Koo Wee Rup and Longwarry Flood Protection District EPBC Act Factsheet*). As a result of these controls and protection measures, approval was granted for 'the maintenance of existing utility assets within the identified asset maintenance zones'.

Melbourne Water is still required to comply with State and Commonwealth legislation to protect environmental values to demonstrate that its actions are undertaken in a way that minimises impacts. This can include staging works to avoid affecting critical life history stages (such as breeding), leaving one side of a channel vegetated while clearing the other, leaving some vegetation within the channel that will not significantly impede flood conveyance, or thinning rather than completely removing vegetation.

By working closely with the community and regulating agencies, Melbourne Water now has a Cultural Heritage Management Plan and a maintenance regime that meets its obligations under environmental and cultural heritage protection legislation while providing an appropriate level of services to its customers.

**Exemptions**

Where allowed by regulations such as the Victorian Planning provisions or bylaws for Works on Waterways, it may make sense to explore and provide clarity about opportunities for exemptions from approvals for works to maintain existing rural drainage.

The removal of native vegetation is primarily regulated by the Victoria Planning Provisions, and applications for removal are referred to the Department for consideration where approval is required on Crown land or where certain thresholds are reached. The *Permitted clearing of native vegetation – Biodiversity assessment guidelines* (the Guidelines) is a document incorporated into the Victorian Planning Provisions that outlines how impacts on Victoria’s biodiversity are assessed when a planning permit application to remove native vegetation is lodged. Under certain circumstances, a planning permit is not required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation when undertaken in accordance with a relevant exemption. These exemptions will continue, and guidance on how they are applied will be provided.

In 2000, the Commonwealth Government’s *Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* came into effect to protect matters of national environmental significance. Given that most of the existing drainage systems were constructed before it was enacted, the legislation provides exemptions allowing the continued and uninterrupted operation of pre-existing activities that were fully approved or permitted by state and local governments.

There are some examples of where documented maintenance regimes for pre-existing infrastructure have been put in place to demonstrate ongoing compliance with the intent of legislation and environmental regulations, while also providing an appropriate level of drainage service.

The activities outlined in the Koo Wee Rup and Longwarry flood protection district case study demonstrate that drainage works can be undertaken in environmentally sensitive ways. The lessons from this case study will guide the support provided to landholders who choose to prepare rural drainage management plans (proposed policy 4f and proposed action 8b).

**Proposed action 5b**

Investigate opportunities for exemptions for maintaining existing drainage

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will work with catchment management authorities and councils to develop a risk-based framework for environmental approvals. In doing so, it will investigate opportunities for exemption from relevant approvals (i) for maintenance of existing drainage works, and (ii) where works are undertaken in ways that minimise impacts.

**Considering water quality impacts of rural drainage**

The *State Environment Protection Policy* (Waters of Victoria) provides a regulatory framework to protect waterway values through the management of water quality threats. The policy, which is established under the *Environment Protection Act 1970*, places obligations on those carrying out specific activities that may affect water quality. It also outlines a series of environment management practices and actions that improve environmental quality and help protect waterway values.

The policy reflects the *Environment Protection Act 1970* by placing a priority on avoiding waste. Where that is not achievable, it focuses on reusing, recycling, treating, containing and, if necessary, disposing of waste. It includes requirements to minimise the runoff of pollutants such as sediment, nutrients, salt, biocides, pathogens and litter to surface waters from agricultural activities.

The policy is currently being reviewed. It is proposed that the obligations on landholders to minimise their impact on the environment will be retained.

This draft Strategy also recognises the potential impacts of farming practices on waterways, and supports the preparation of rural drainage management plans which, guided by the regulatory framework, seek to minimise or avoid the impact of rural drainage on receiving waterways.

**Proposed policy 5a**

Considering the water quality impacts of rural drainage

Rural drainage management plans will consider the regulatory framework to minimise or avoid the impact of rural drainage on receiving waterways.

**Managing waterways in a changing climate**

Australia’s climate is highly variable. Within this variability, records show that catchments have become drier and temperatures have increased. The Millennium Drought brought a seasonal shift in rainfall, with proportionally less rain in the cooler months, a trend that has continued in many parts of Victoria since the end of the drought. Many catchments in Victoria have recorded streamflow reductions of 50 per cent or more over the past 20 years (since the beginning of the Millennium Drought in 1997), (Figure 5.1). Given the changes experienced in Victoria’s climate and streamflow, the climate of recent decades is considered the most reliable baseline.

As the climate changes, many wetlands are expected to dry more frequently and for longer durations. The remaining more permanent wetlands will become vital to the survival of many species by acting as refuges in dry years.

It is not known if drainage affects the carbon balance of wetlands. A recent investigation of inland wetland carbon stocks confirmed that Victoria’s inland wetlands represent significant carbon sinks. However, because wetlands are a significant source of methane, which is also a greenhouse gas, little is known about their net effect on greenhouse gases.

The Wimmera and North Central catchment management authorities are partnering with Murray Local Land Services in NSW, MidCoast Council, Deakin

University and Southern Cross University to look at maximising carbon sequestration in freshwater wetlands. This project will determine whether hydrology can be manipulated to maximise carbon sequestration and minimise the release of greenhouse gases in wetlands. The Department’s climate change framework flags the need to develop climate change adaptation plans for key sectors. Three pilot adaptation plans are being developed, including one for water.

This draft Strategy proposes to manage existing and future drainage of waterways in ways that help to adapt the management of waterway ecosystems to climate change.

**Proposed action 5c**

**Support climate change adaptation in rural drainage**

The pilot climate change adaptation plan for the water sector will consider opportunities to support climate change adaptation in rural drainage. For example, it may link to guidance that will be provided to landholders on how they can consider climate change scenarios as part of deciding whether to invest in rural drainage over the longer term.

**Figure 5.1 Streamflow reductions across gauged streams in Victoria since 1997 <sup>18</sup>**



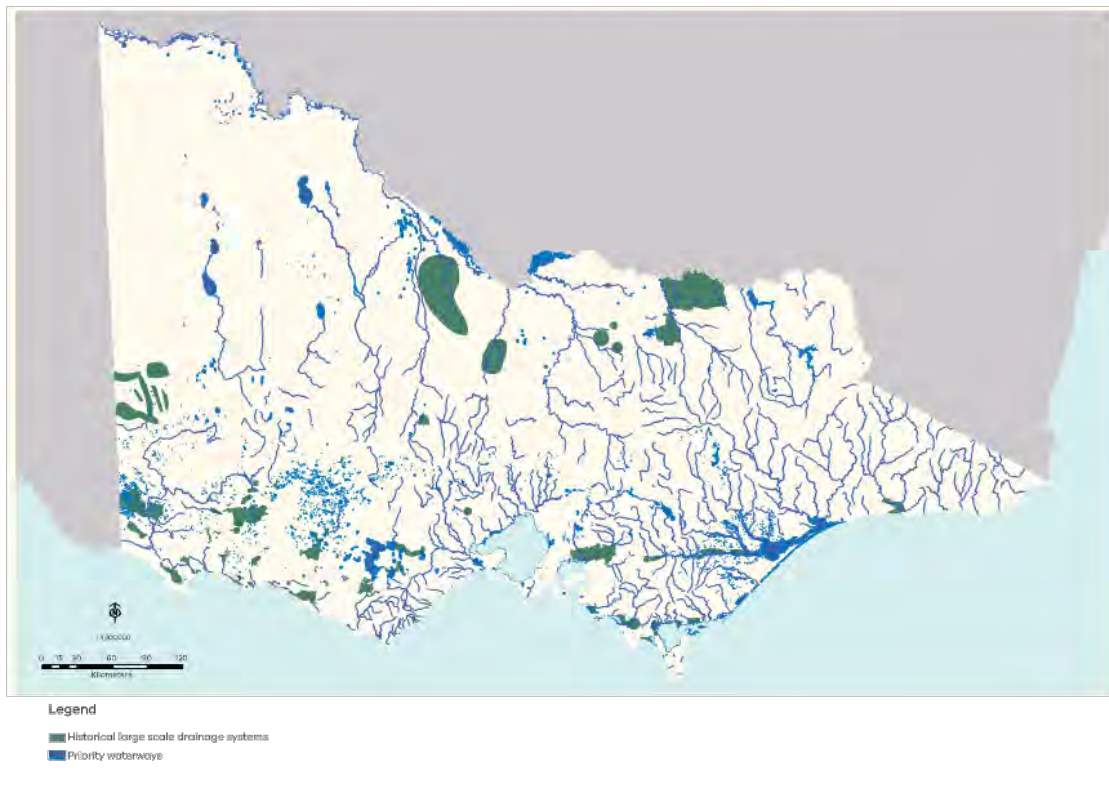
### 5.4 The potential for environmental restoration

The *Victorian Waterway Management Strategy* provides the overarching policy for the management of Victoria's waterways. This draft Strategy does not seek to duplicate these directions; rather, it aims to clarify how rural drainage management and drainage infrastructure will be considered in this context.

Wetland management in Victoria is based on an integrated approach at the international, national, state and regional levels. Wetlands of international importance listed under the Ramsar Convention are protected under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This legislation recognises the importance of protecting places and species of national environmental significance, including threatened ecological communities and Ramsar listed sites.

At the regional level, catchment management authorities oversee programs to maintain and improve the values of rivers, estuaries and wetlands on a priority basis through their statutory regional waterway strategies. Priority waterways attract more investment for protection and restoration, and have been identified across Victoria by each catchment management authority, in consultation with local communities and Traditional Owners. The location of priority waterways in relation to known historic rural drainage systems is shown in (**Figure 5.2**).

**Figure 5.2 – Historical large scale drainage areas related to priority waterways**



**Environmental restoration of drainage areas**

Where opportunities exist for environmental benefit, it makes sense for drainage areas to be considered for priority works and measures to maintain or improve the condition of waterways.

The priority waterways framework needs to be updated to enable catchment management authorities to consider restoration of previously modified drainage areas. Currently, environmental restoration is considered only in priority reaches. Landholders are increasingly recognising the value of waterways, and are increasingly investing in riparian management, such as fencing off waterways, and in some cases, particularly in northern Victoria, they have started seeking opportunities to restore wetlands.

**Proposed action 5d**

Update the priority-setting framework to consider restoration of previously modified drainage areas

The guidelines for developing regional waterway management strategies will be updated to include previously modified drainage areas in the priority-setting framework so that the restoration works can be considered in these areas when investment decisions are being made.

This presents a great opportunity, as almost 70 per cent of Victoria’s wetlands, representing 35 per cent of the total wetland area, are on private land. The way landholders manage land adjacent to wetlands is often critical to their long-term health. The *Victorian Waterway Management Strategy* emphasises that individual landholders, community groups, not-for-profit organisations and for-profit organisations can make significant contributions to maintaining and improving the condition of wetlands on private land.

Nature Glenelg Trust and Field and Game Australia provide outstanding examples of what can be achieved in this way.

To this end, where landholders decide that drainage is redundant or that they are no longer prepared to pay for drainage services, they may decide to reinstate wetlands. Incentives to do so are provided through existing programs run by organisations such as catchment management authorities, Trust for Nature and the Department. The Brady Swamp case study on page 39 highlights how restoration works can strengthen partnerships between landholders, agencies and community volunteers, and achieve environmental benefits.

**Proposed policy 5b**

Identify priority areas for environmental restoration of waterways

In line with the *Victorian Waterway Management Strategy*, regional waterway strategies will identify actions to mitigate the impacts of existing drainage on waterways where it is feasible and cost-effective, where it has community support and where it does not affect other stakeholders.

Catchment management authorities, in partnership with key stakeholders including Traditional Owners, will consider a combination of incentives, education, awareness and partnerships with the private sector to encourage environmental restoration.



Brady Swamp, post restoration  
(Lachie Farrington – Glenelg Nature Trust)

## Case study: Brady Swamp restoration

**Brady Swamp is part of an extensive wetland complex of the upper Wannon River, near Dunkeld in southwest Victoria. Artificial channels were constructed in the 1950s to drain these wetlands and support agricultural productivity. A portion of the wetlands was acquired in the mid-1980s and incorporated into the Grampians National Park. However, the majority wetland and floodplain area remained under private ownership, creating a degree of uncertainty surrounding the restoration of a more natural water regime. That uncertainty remained unresolved for over two decades.**

### Restoration works

In autumn 2014, Nature Glenelg Trust, with the support of local landholders, community volunteers, Parks Victoria and the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, implemented a restoration trial by blocking the drain with a temporary weir. Even with below-average rainfall, the weir significantly improved the hydrology of the wetland by increasing water retention levels, increasing the duration of inundation and reinvigorating flows in the adjacent natural Wannon River flow path. Following the success of the trial restoration, the Victorian Government funded the Trust to permanently reinstate the original earthen banks of the wetlands that were breached through artificial drainage.

This work permanently protects the reinstated hydrology of these important floodplain wetlands and restores flows to the upper Wannon River.

### Results

The extended period of inundation has boosted the population of the threatened growling grass frog, which breeds during spring to early summer. Brady Swamp is also home to two other threatened species that will also benefit from the increased period of inundation: the western swamp crayfish, which is only found in the Grampians region, and the little galaxias freshwater fish. Both species are reliant on this wetland floodplain habitat for breeding success. Monitoring is in place to measure changes to vegetation and the distribution and status of these and other key fauna species, including varieties of waterbirds, fish and frogs.

This restoration project has shown the importance of partnerships between landholders, agencies and community volunteers. Community participation has been critical in promoting the benefits of the project to all partners and stakeholders, in constructing works and in monitoring the ecological response to works.



## 6 Supporting collaboration with Aboriginal Victorians over rural drainage



This chapter is based on a discussion paper prepared by The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owners Corporation. The chapter recognises the values that Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians place on their traditional lands and waters, and discusses the effects of drainage on these values. Building on previous successes, the chapter supports opportunities for landholders to collaborate with Traditional Owners to manage rural drainage.

The chapter also outlines arrangements established to give due consideration to Aboriginal cultural heritage in the context of rural drainage, and explains how these arrangements will be used to avoid future effects of drainage on cultural values, while also providing landholders with increased certainty. It proposes ways for existing rural drainage to be managed in environmentally and culturally sensitive ways, and it outlines the protection measures that would be required for any new drainage in the future. It finishes by considering opportunities to involve Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians directly in the ongoing management of rural drainage.

**In the context of the main proposed outcomes of the Strategy, this chapter addresses the cultural aspects of the following:**

### Proposed outcome 2

Cultural and environmental values are protected with increased efficiency

### Proposed outcome 3

Priority waterways impacted by rural drainage are managed to provide cultural and environmental benefits



**6.1 Introduction**

In its 2016 *Water for Victoria* plan, the Victorian Government made a strong commitment to involve Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians in future water planning and management across the state. That commitment is honoured in this draft Strategy, which mandates extensive consultation with Aboriginal Victorians in all aspects of the draft Strategy that have relevance to their rights and interests. Importantly, the Strategy also seeks to draw on Traditional Owners’ unique relationship with and knowledge of Country to create innovative opportunities to incorporate Aboriginal values in rural drainage management.

Based on principles of co-design, and through a tender process, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning procured the services of a Traditional Owner peak body, The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owners Corporation, to prepare a discussion paper about what should be included in this chapter of the draft Strategy.

This draft Strategy recognises the legislative context of Traditional Owners, defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. In line with the principles for broader inclusion of Aboriginal Victorians, this chapter reflects the opportunities to broaden inclusion, alongside the legislative context, in line with the Department’s *Munganin-Gadhaba* plan.

Quotes and stories from Aboriginal Victorians throughout this chapter reflect the government’s commitment not just to engage with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians, but to do so on their terms.

**Who are Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians?**

**Aboriginal Victorians**

An Aboriginal Victorian is a person of Aboriginal descent who identifies as an Aboriginal and is accepted as such by the Victorian Aboriginal community in which he or she lives.

**Traditional Owners**

People who, through membership of a descent group or clan, are responsible for caring for Country. They are Aboriginal people with knowledge about traditions, observances, customs or beliefs associated with a particular area. A Traditional Owner is authorised to speak for Country and its heritage.<sup>10</sup>

## 6.2 Involving Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians in the development of the Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy

The approach used to consult with Traditional Owners so far in developing this draft Strategy was devised by Victorian Traditional Owners who have rights and interests in rural drainage on their Country. It was a Traditional Owner-driven process, with consultants nominated to facilitate engagement within a framework of Aboriginal self-determination. Having designed the process, Traditional Owners were empowered to participate on their terms in a way that adheres to cultural protocols.

The consultation process has sought to acknowledge and recognise the obligations of government under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (Vic)* to engage directly and meaningfully with Traditional Owner Corporations on all policy reforms that affect their Country, as set out in the individual participation strategies of each corporation's Recognition and Settlement Agreements. The process also actively implements the principles of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Aboriginal Inclusion Plan, *Munganin-Gadhaba*, which seeks to respect and acknowledge Aboriginal culture, to recognise Traditional Owners' right to access and care for Country, and to work in partnership with Traditional Owners to improve participation.<sup>11</sup>

The work is not intended to speak for all Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians, but rather to give a broad overview of shared concerns and values to shape the direction of the draft Strategy.

Further consultation will take place with a wider range of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to gain feedback on the details of the proposals in this draft Strategy (Chapter 3).

### Proposed action 6a

Develop a consultation process to gain feedback from a wider range of Traditional Owners

Following the release of this draft Strategy, further consultation will be conducted with a wider range of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to seek feedback on the precise details of the proposed actions and policies.

Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians will be invited to continue to engage in the development of a final Strategy. They will be invited to contribute to a working group that will consider feedback through consultation on a draft and help to shape the final Strategy.



Regulator at Lake Condah supporting Aboriginal cultural values (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning)

### 6.3 Considering Aboriginal values in rural drainage management

#### **The importance of waterways to Traditional Owners**

The Traditional Owners of Victoria assign great cultural, social and economic significance to water. Each group of Traditional Owners holds distinct perspectives relating to identity and religious attachment to place and environmental knowledge, and supports custodial responsibilities to manage interrelated parts of culture. Connections to and relationships with water and wetlands are much broader than consideration of heritage values; they relate to notions of sociality, sacredness, identity and life-giving, as part of the broader means of caring, connecting and speaking for Country.

Waterways and wetlands, including floodplain areas that are prone to inundation, have always been important places for Traditional Owners to come together as families and communities for social, economic, religious and recreational activities. Waterways are valued for many different reasons: they were routes of travel, trade and communication, conduits for ceremony and ritual, and rich sources of food, medicines and other resources. Rivers, streams and lakes have also served as boundaries between clans and nations, giving them primary importance in the political life of Aboriginal peoples.

The values and connections of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians are articulated in Country plans, and in submissions to government reports and inquiries.

Eastern Maar consider waterways in this way:

*We believe the spirits of our dead reside in our waterways and water bodies, and that they use animate and inanimate objects to move through Country.<sup>12</sup>*

And for Dja Dja Wurrung,

*Our rivers are the veins of Country, and provide food and medicine, and places to camp, hunt, fish, swim and hold ceremonies. They are places that are central to our creation stories, and many of our cultural heritage sites are associated with waterways – burial sites, birthing sites and middens. Our waterways are places that we connect with our ancestors and pass traditional knowledge on to our children and grandchildren.<sup>13</sup>*

Archaeological sites associated with Aboriginal occupation often have a strong association with waterways. Indeed, proximity to water has been identified as one of the key determinants of archaeological potential. The clear majority (95 per cent) of the 30,000 known significant Aboriginal places and heritage sites recorded in Victoria are located on or near waterways. For example, stone eel

trap systems used by the Gunditjmara for thousands of years are the oldest example of freshwater aquaculture in the world; the landscape is therefore recognised as an internationally significant site. Eeling remains an important traditional, social and economic practice, and methods of eel farming undertaken by earlier generations of the Eastern Maar community are still in practice today.

#### **Effects of drainage on Aboriginal heritage**

Rural drainage has clearly led to increased agricultural productivity in Victoria, but the environmental effects of rural drainage have eroded the capacity of Country, including waterways, to sustain Indigenous economies, with significant social consequences.<sup>14</sup> Many Traditional Owners will testify to the loss of control and autonomy, the inability to access and holistically manage customary estates, to exercise custodial authority and to prevent further ecological degradation and economic impoverishment. The management of the water quality of waterways receiving drainage is also an issue that concerns Traditional Owners (see section 5.4).

In a submission to the 2013 Victorian parliamentary inquiry into rural drainage, the Framlingham Aboriginal Trust stated:

*In the words of traditional owner Possum Clark-Ugle, "Before Europeans arrived, south-west Victoria was the 'Kakadu' of the south, with thousands of wetlands supporting a rich variety of animals, birds and plants that our ancestors used in a sustainable and respectful way."*

*The inquiry should note that the historical basis for drainage schemes lies in the importation to Australia of European land management practices that are ignorant of local hydrological, meteorological, ecological and cultural realities. This ignorant approach to land management quickly swept away vast tracts of sustainably managed habitat that underpinned the economies of Aboriginal people in Victoria.<sup>15</sup>*

Historically, Traditional Owners were not specifically consulted over the declaration of drainage areas or the implementation of drainage schemes. The government recognises that managing the effects of rural drainage on Aboriginal values can provide opportunities to reconnect Traditional Owners to waterways to revive culture and contribute to an improved sense of identity.

## 6.4 Incorporating Aboriginal values into drainage management

### **Working with landholders to avoid impacts of drainage on Aboriginal heritage**

Victoria's rich Aboriginal cultural heritage is protected by the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, which was strengthened in 2016 to incorporate intangible heritage for the first time. The Act provides protection for all Aboriginal places, objects and human remains, as well as intangible heritage, regardless of whether they are included in the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register or land tenure. Registered Aboriginal Parties have functions and responsibilities under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Figure 6.1).

The Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* identifies heritage items of national significance and provides protection mechanisms for these items. If an action is proposed that significantly affects a nationally listed heritage item, approval is required from the Australian Government – in addition to state and local approvals (see case study in chapter 5 - The Koo Wee Rup and Longwarry flood protection district).

There are varying approaches to considering Aboriginal heritage, and some confusion among landholders and agencies about when and how the legislation is triggered. For example, what triggers the need for a Cultural Heritage Management Plan? What opportunities are there for landholders, agencies and/or registered aboriginal parties?

#### Proposed action 6b

Prepare guidance on how to incorporate cultural heritage management in the context of rural drainage

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will work closely with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and Registered Aboriginal Parties to prepare guidelines relating to cultural heritage management, native title and Traditional Owner Settlement obligations. The guidelines will form a component of the proposed drainage resource kit, and will support landholders and organisations in their need to consider Aboriginal heritage values in the management of rural drainage. The guidelines will include:

- An overview of the obligations for landholders to manage cultural heritage when undertaking rural drainage works
- Guidance on what types of drainage works might be considered high impact
- Identification of some of the highly sensitive landscapes that might trigger the need for a Cultural Heritage Management Plan when doing drainage works
- A checklist on how to apply the obligations for cultural heritage in a rural drainage context
- Options for landholders to seek support (such as for preparation of a drainage management plan).

Figure 6.1 Historical large-scale drainage areas related to Registered Aboriginal Party boundaries.



Legend

- Historical large scale drainage systems
- Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) boundaries

**Ensure cultural heritage is considered in drainage management**

The *Victorian Waterway Management Strategy* provides the framework for maintenance or improvement of the condition of waterways. This draft Strategy proposes arrangements to encourage and facilitate restoration of drainage areas that are no longer required for drainage purposes, or where there is goodwill from landholders to support environmental or cultural values (Section 5.4).

Restoration of drainage areas offers a means by which Traditional Owners can be engaged in works and measures to bring about environmental improvements, build technical capacity, and provide a land management service to the wider community. Catchment management authorities will work with Traditional Owners to help landholders consider whether drainage services are still required (for drainage systems that they currently or previously had a role in managing) and, if not, whether restoration is appropriate (See proposed policy 5b).

As the case study in this chapter demonstrates, activities to restore waterways where drainage services are no longer required by landholders would be viewed very positively by Traditional Owners.<sup>14</sup>

**Proposed action 6c**

Update the priority-setting framework to consider restoration of previously-modified drainage areas

The guidelines for developing regional waterway management strategies will be updated to include previously modified drainage areas in the priority setting framework so that the restoration works that maintain or enhance Aboriginal values can be considered in these areas when investment decisions are being made.

**Proposed policy 6a**

Identify priority areas for restoration of previously drained areas for cultural benefit

In line with the *Victorian Waterway Management Strategy*, regional waterway strategies will identify actions to mitigate the impacts of existing drainage on Aboriginal cultural values where (i) it is no longer required for drainage purposes by landholders, (ii) it is feasible and cost effective, and (iii) where it has community support and does not affect other stakeholders.

This consideration will reflect a broad definition of cultural heritage values.

Long Swamp (North Central Catchment Management Authority)



### Case study: Long Swamp – restoring a drainage area in Dja Dja Wurrung Country

**Long Swamp, the largest wetland on the Moolort Plains near Maryborough, is located in Dja Dja Wurrung country, two kilometres east of the northern end of the Tullaroop reservoir. A freshwater meadow, the swamp occupies approximately 177 hectares. Although the site is highly salt affected, birdlife is prolific when water is present.**

Historically, this deep swamp was an important site of Aboriginal occupation because it held water for longer than the surrounding area.

In 1965, Long Swamp was drained at the suggestion of the Shire of Tullaroop. The aim was to reduce the effects of salinisation on vegetation and to bring more land into agricultural production. A drain was cut to move water into Tullaroop Creek. That action was

strongly opposed by the Maryborough Field Naturalists, who valued the biodiversity of the area, especially birds like brolgas that were attracted to it.

Community concern about the swamp prompted action in the 1990s to restore its values. Parts of the swamp have been purchased by the Trust for Nature (\$290,000), with contributions from government (\$222,000) to the purchase. The central drain has been closed with sandbags. Water levels were restored during the last flood and there are plans to further rehabilitate the area.

Since the formation of the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and its enterprise unit, the Trust for Nature has been exploring a partnership with Traditional Owners. Long Swamp is identified as a case study in Healthy Country Planning processes undertaken by the Trust. These processes have involved discussing what successful wetland restoration looks like, and how young Aboriginal people can be involved in making 'new stories' about their Country.





Pelicans (Ed Dunnen)

## 6.5 Traditional Owner involvement in restoration works

More than 60 per cent of Victoria is now covered by legally recognised settlements with Traditional Owner Corporations, and some claims are still underway. These settlements include native title determinations and settlements under Victoria's *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*, which allows for out-of-court settlements of native title.

As an alternative to the future acts regime of the *Native Title Act 1993*, Victoria has also developed a Land Use Activity Regime policy that provides procedural rights for recognised Traditional Owner groups over certain land use activities that occur on areas of public land (Part 4 of the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*). Land use activities that may affect native title rights and interests are defined in the Act, as are notification and consultation processes for decision makers to follow. The aim is to encourage a level of engagement between the decision maker and the Aboriginal Corporation that is flexible enough to respect and accommodate the needs of each party.

Currently there is one Land Use Activity Agreement in place for the Dja Dja Wurrung settlement area. The future act regime under the *Native Title Act* applies to Crown land in areas where there is no Land Use Activity Agreement. It provides procedures for dealing with activities on Crown land that have the potential to affect native title rights and interests.

In the words of Dja Dja Wurrung:

*... un-doing drainage is a principle of [Traditional Owner's] Country Plan. Restoring flows resonates with Traditional Owner values of restoring Country to its natural working order, but it's hard to do in isolation.<sup>14</sup>*

Restoration work constitutes a large component of reconnecting people and communities with the natural environment, and *Water for Victoria* commits the largest investment in waterway health in Victoria to support on-ground works over four years.

*Munganin – Gadhaba 'Achieve Together' Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Aboriginal Inclusion Plan 2016 – 2020*, commits the Department to improving its procurement processes with a view to facilitating opportunities for Aboriginal businesses. *The Victorian Aboriginal Economic Strategy 2013-2020 – Building Opportunities for Economic Prosperity for all Aboriginal Victorians* identifies the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning as one of the lead departments (in conjunction with Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources) in supporting the development of Aboriginal businesses.

The Victorian Government is reviewing its procurement policies to enable Aboriginal businesses to have improved access to contract tendering processes. The evidence shows that Traditional Owner groups have the skills and capability to do this work. For example, Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation has an annual turnover of \$1.1 million linked to restoration works, and employs a significant number of Traditional Owners. The experience of restoration throughout the region, demonstrates clearly that Gunaikurnai has the capacity to engage in partnership arrangements to manage weeds and plant trees. Gunditjmarra Aboriginal Cooperative has demonstrated a long-term vision for restoring drained areas such as Lake Condah (see also the case study in this chapter about the restoration of Long Swamp). Similarly, Yorta Yorta Aboriginal Corporation has identified wetland restoration as a key goal of the organisation.

**Partnership arrangements with Aboriginal Victorians**

Victorian Aboriginal groups have spent many years working to improve relations and partnerships with catchment management authorities and other agencies involved in natural and cultural heritage resource management. Councils are also working to improve their practices and to build stronger partnerships with Traditional Owners. The proposed partnership arrangements outlined in this draft Strategy (proposed action 8a and proposed action 8f) support an exchange of knowledge and practices in partnering with Traditional Owners to improve cultural heritage management, and a two-way exchange to improve outcomes.

For example, collaborative relationships over cultural heritage have been forged by the Taungurung Corporation and local landowners in the Seven Creeks area near Euroa, where restoration activities are underway. Artefacts have been found by land holders and willingly brought to the attention of Taungurung to share knowledge. As the land holders increasingly realise that the Taungurung people's prime objective is to discover more about their past and not to impede development, more and more landowners have come forward.

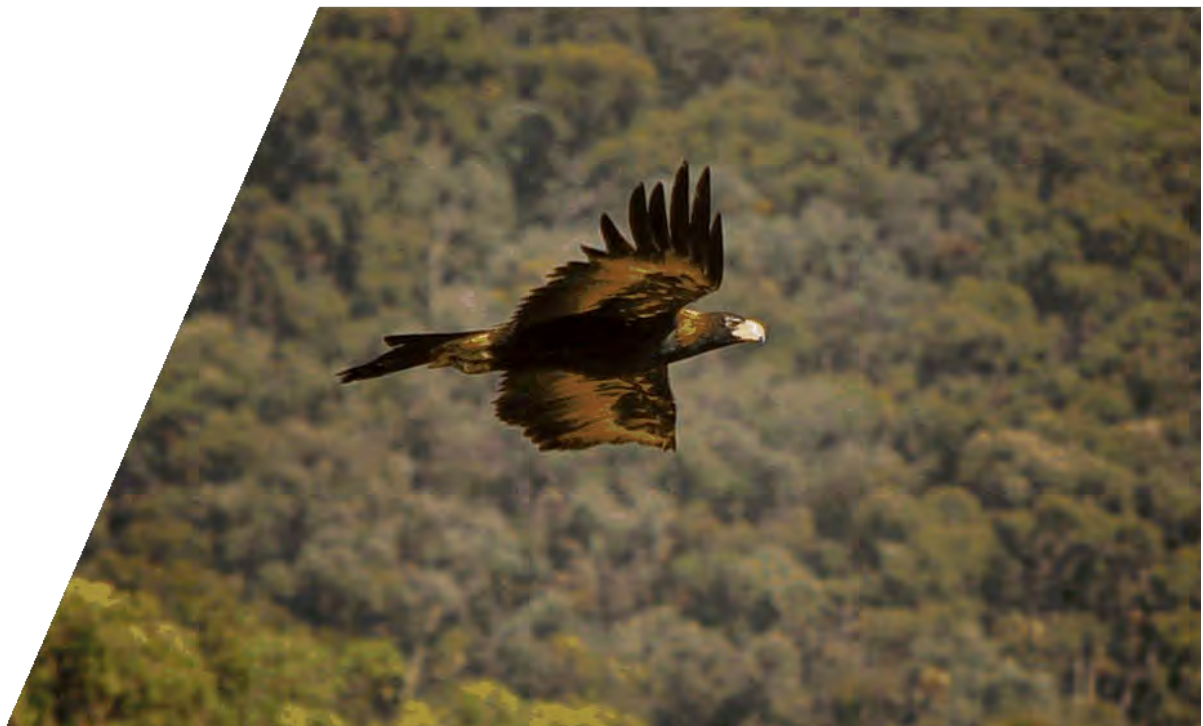
The Taungurung Corporation is building on this goodwill by offering education programs to councils and their planning departments in cultural heritage management. The Corporation is running workshops to agree to common procedures, improve rates of compliance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and encourage councils to take a proactive approach.

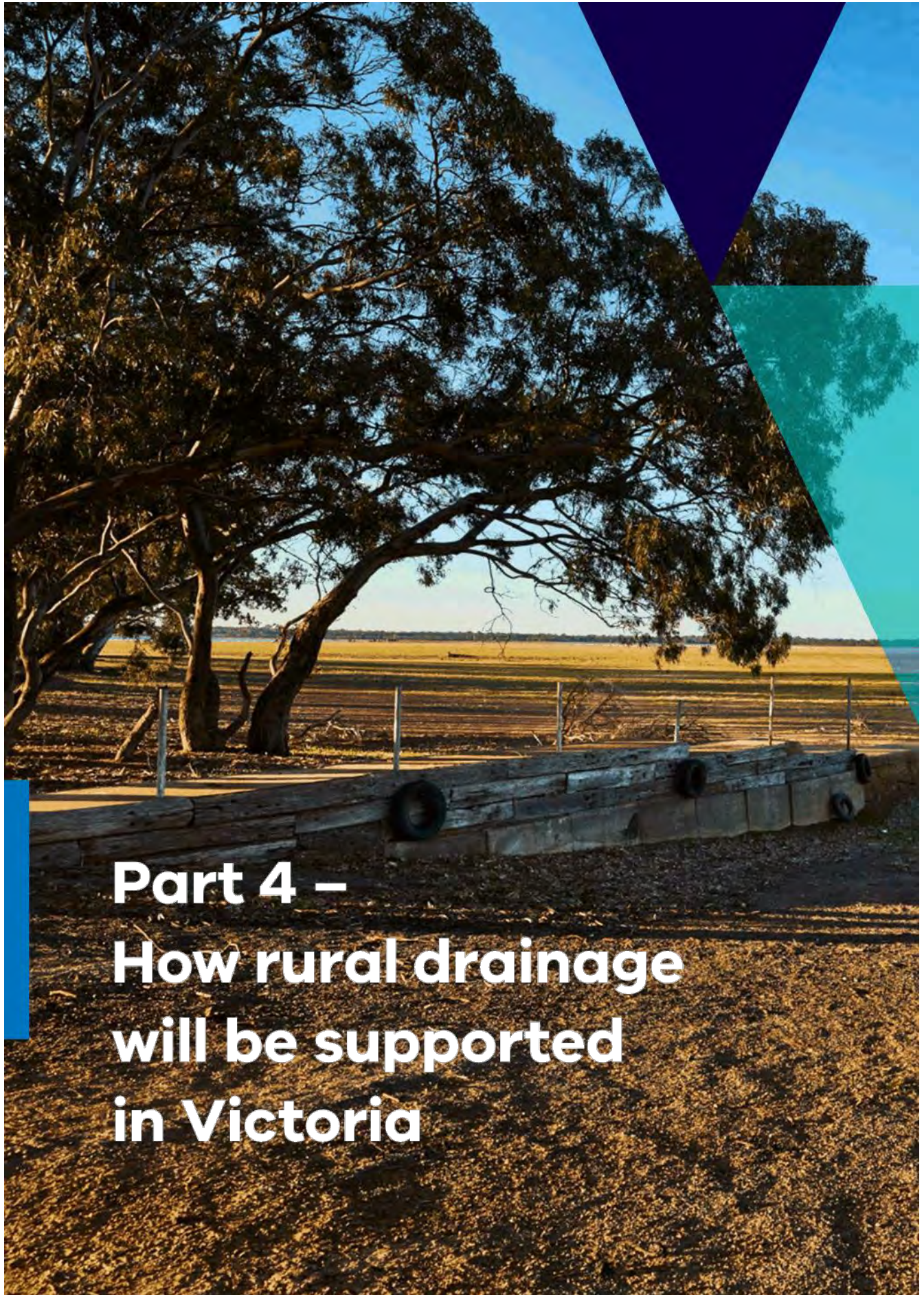
**Proposed policy 6b**

Traditional Owners invited to work collaboratively with stakeholders to encourage restoration works

Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians will be invited to work in partnership with catchment management authorities to consider a combination of incentives, education, awareness and partnerships with the private sector and landholders to encourage restoration works.

Wedge Tailed Eagle (Rod Waddington)





**Part 4 –  
How rural drainage  
will be supported  
in Victoria**

Historic dryland drainage in Western Victoria (Craig Moodie)



**(Chapter 7)**

Part 4 details the institutional arrangements that will underpin the future management of rural drainage in Victoria, including the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders. It focuses on the process for streamlining approvals, and clarifies how costs can be equitably distributed among landholders (Chapter 7).

## 7 Governance

This chapter proposes governance arrangements for the future management of rural drainage in Victoria. It sets out a contemporary management framework supported by clear roles and responsibilities and details the funding arrangement for rural drainage.



### Proposed outcome 4

**Key agencies have clear roles and responsibilities, and understand the importance of working in partnerships to support landholders managing rural drainage.**

#### 7.1 Introduction

The 2016 *Water for Victoria* plan emphasised the need for a management framework to provide certainty around the cost and responsibilities for rural drainage. In addressing that need, this chapter has been largely informed by feedback gathered during consultation for the draft Strategy. The feedback closely echoed issues raised during the earlier parliamentary inquiry into rural drainage.

A number of consistent themes emerged from those consultations, including the need for:

1. Clear responsibilities for rural drainage, and clearly defined roles for individual landholders, the Victorian Government, councils, catchment management authorities, Melbourne Water and other rural water corporations.
2. Clear legislative and policy arrangements that will enable rural drainage schemes to be managed sustainably into the future
3. Support to develop pathways through environmental and cultural approval processes (See chapters **4**, **5** and **6**)
4. Clear funding arrangements for rural drainage that reflect the distribution of costs and benefits.



Gunbower National Park (North Central Catchment Management Authority)

## 7.2 Clear roles and responsibilities

### Clarifying responsibilities

Landholders building their capability to manage rural drainage will need the support of councils and government agencies, and it is important to be clear about the roles and responsibilities of each of those agencies.

The agencies with responsibilities related to rural drainage works and measures include:

- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (the Department)
- Forest, Fire and Regions Group (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning)
- Catchment management authorities
- Councils
- Melbourne Water
- Rural water corporations
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
- VicRoads and VicTrack.

The parliamentary inquiry into rural drainage identified concerns about the replacement of the more prescriptive *Drainage Areas Act 1958* and the *River Improvement Act 1958* with the current enabling legislation. The current legislation, while it enables management of drainage, does not have clearly prescribed directions for management. The onset of the Millennium Drought soon after enabling legislation was enacted took the focus away from the ongoing need for rural drainage until the extraordinarily wet years 2010–2012. These circumstances created confusion about the ongoing roles and responsibilities for managing rural drainage.

Landholders should be better able to manage their own rural drainage as part of the proposed new arrangements. If landholders are to make informed choices about managing rural drainage into the future (Chapter 4), they will need clear arrangements for councils and other agencies to provide them with administrative support and advice on how to consider third party impacts of drainage. A partnership approach is proposed, requiring agencies at the local level to work together with clearly defined roles.

**Proposed policy 7a****Shared arrangements for managing rural drainage in Victoria**

The following roles will apply for rural drainage in Victoria:

- The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will develop support tools and templates, and set the policy direction for rural drainage
- The Forest Fire and Regions Group of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will regulate native vegetation removal, provide advice, and support pathways for rural drainage approvals.
- Landholders will make choices about how they want to manage rural drainage. They will fund works, and comply with regulations and obligations.
- Catchment management authorities will support landholders to manage environmental and cultural benefits and impacts, help to build capabilities and skills in management of rural drainage, investigate opportunities to apply contemporary drainage arrangements to the rural drainage systems they have had a previous role in managing and invest in restoration of priority drainage assets for environmental and cultural benefit.
- Councils will provide the principal point of contact for landholders. They will also provide administrative support, regulate land use planning, manage drainage assets vested in them and manage related infrastructure such as table drains, bridges and culverts, in line with their obligations.
- Melbourne Water – existing arrangements will continue in the Melbourne Water region. It will provide regional drainage services within its waterway management district, and develop and implement plans or schemes related to rural drainage
- Rural water corporations will share lessons from community arrangements in northern Victoria. They will regulate take and use of water, and manage infrastructure and drainage associated with irrigation in regulated districts, and where rural drainage infrastructure is to some extent integrated with irrigation drainage infrastructure
- The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources will continue to support agricultural productivity through existing partnership forums. It will also work with agricultural industries on research, development and extension.
- VicRoads and VicTrack will continue to be responsible for the ongoing management of infrastructure associated with arterial roads and rail lines, and to manage that infrastructure on a priority basis. It should be noted that in some instances, drainage infrastructure within a railway corridor could be considered infrastructure associated with rail lines (pipes, swale drains, culverts), but is in fact licensed to third parties such as councils or adjoining landowners. In these instances, the licensee is responsible for this infrastructure. For example, in some places VicTrack is responsible for a culvert structure but a licensee is responsible for keeping the opening clear.

**7.3 Clear legislative and policy arrangements****Legislative arrangements**

The draft Strategy outlines obligations on individual landholders to gain approvals for drainage works, and seeks to streamline approvals based on the level of risk.

It is proposed that support would be provided to landholders for more complicated drainage systems where landholders agree to certain principles and processes, including participation in a formally constituted local drainage committee. Such arrangements are covered in Part 12 of the *Water Act 1989*. Where a group of landholders has formalised arrangements, and has established a community drainage committee, councils could at the request of, (and on behalf of) the committee collect levies from participating landholders for drainage services. Provision is also made for a council to undertake other services for a committee. The *Local Government Act 1989* also provides the ability to declare a special rate or charge, or a combination of both, for the purposes of meeting costs where there is a special benefit.<sup>16</sup> Arrangements under which councils can collect funds already operate in some parts of Victoria.

The *Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy* notes that Water Management Schemes under the *Water Act 1989* may provide an alternative management framework to community drainage committees for councils to manage levees, where such a framework might not be available under the *Local Government Act 1989*. The *Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy* recognises that the arrangements set out in the *Water Act 1989* are not perfect, and commits to a review to consider options to make these arrangements more workable. Water Management Schemes, once they are reviewed, would be considered in more complex arrangements – such as anywhere that flood infrastructure and drainage infrastructure interact.

An independent review is underway to consider the potential costs and benefits of regulatory and non-regulatory options to manage dryland rural drainage. The review will consider the implications for agencies and landholders involved in drainage committees, water management schemes and alternative non-regulatory options and consider the most appropriate approach to clarify the legislative arrangements that support the refreshed roles and responsibilities in rural drainage (see proposed policy 7a).

**Proposed action 7a**  
 Review administrative arrangements for rural drainage

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will work with councils to make arrangements appropriate to match their provision of services for rural drainage. Opportunities to streamline existing legislative mechanisms will be considered, as will the impacts on agencies and landholders of any changes.

A current review of the planning provisions that regulate these impacts is underway. *Water for Victoria* (Action 5.5) commits to a review of planning provisions to improve management of stormwater. There is potential for this review to be expanded as part of the next stage of the review to consider the opportunities to improve management of the volume of runoff from peri-urban areas.

**Proposed action 7b**  
 Understand the impact of increased runoff on drainage areas due to the expansion of impervious surfaces

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will work with councils and other stakeholders to understand the impact of increased impervious surfaces on rural drainage areas, and to consider the effectiveness of options to manage these increased impacts.

**Peri-urban drainage**

In recent decades, Victoria has experienced rapid expansion of urban centres into rural and farmland areas. These areas are often described as peri-urban areas – areas of land use change where urban areas are expanding into rural zones. Peri-urban development creates more impervious surfaces, which can lead to greater runoff and increased inundation downstream (causing issues such as increased risk of flooding, stream side erosion and water quality impacts).

Similarly, in many rural parts of Victoria population densities are increasing on former farmland, where larger properties are broken up into smaller ‘lifestyle’ blocks. These areas are also described as ‘peri-urban’ and in some cases, have proven to be stumbling blocks to collective action to managing drainage. The proposed new arrangements and support provided by councils will help to find pathways around this collective action problem (see section 4.5).

**Improving the management of peri-urban drainage**

Under clause 56 of the Victorian Planning Provisions, councils must ensure new residential subdivisions (where they trigger a planning permit) do not increase flows downstream of the subdivision (although there may be some exemptions where there are no downstream impacts). Unfortunately, these provisions are not widely considered and may not apply in regional areas, and there are several legacy issues to address.

Landholders have indicated that peri-urban development can increase the volume of water that they must manage in the downstream drainage area. The *Water Act 1989* regulates changes to flow of water impacting on third parties such as landholders, including changes that may result from an increase in peri-urban development. Landholders have also raised concerns about the impacts on rural drainage from the increase in runoff from new roads and expansion of existing roads. The *Roads Management Act 2004* requires the relevant road manager, such as VicRoads to manage third party impacts through measures to regulate the peak flow of water onto a road, including the removal of constructed features that have altered the natural flow of water.





## 7.4 Distribution of costs

In the past, landholders wanting to collectively manage rural drainage received a mix of types of support from councils and key agencies. There is now greater understanding of the impacts of rural drainage (chapters 5 and 6), and there is a greater focus on allowing individuals to make their own choices about how to invest, rather than continue with significant government investment in rural drainage infrastructure.

Landholders choosing to manage drainage collectively will be supported where those landholders who benefit are prepared to pay for the service (Chapter 4). Landholders who agree to pay for drainage may not all get the same level of service; a landholder at the end of a system, for example, may receive a greater direct benefit than those upstream. A key design principle for determining fees for drainage arrangements is that the distribution of costs should be proportional to the distribution of benefits.

### Proposed policy 7b

#### Funding arrangements for rural drainage

Rural drainage will be provided where landholders choose to pay for the service in proportion to the extent that they benefit from the service.

### Proposed action 7d


#### Develop guidelines for determining costs proportional to the benefit of drainage services

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and councils will work with key delivery partners to develop guidance on how to distribute costs based on the proportional benefit to each landholder.

Rural drainage in Gippsland, Victoria (Craig Moodie)



### 7.5 Managing complex drainage systems

<p><b>Numerous landholders seeking support to collectively manage drainage</b></p>	<p><b>Managed collectively through written agreements with support from councils and other agencies where the principles in proposed policy 4g are met</b></p>
	<p>Landholder sources drainage resource kit to guide drainage management. Landholders can seek advice from relevant regulatory authority. Model agreement template. Arrangements documented in a drainage management plan. Council offering administrative support on a fee-for-service basis. <b>Figure 4.1</b></p>

#### Drainage systems that cross municipal boundaries

Some rural drainage systems span municipal boundaries. This makes the task of providing administrative support for landholders more complex, because it is not always clear which council should take on the primary support role. This has proven to be a stumbling block for collective action with some rural drainage systems. Of the five rural drainage systems that span council boundaries, only one does not currently involve a catchment management authority. The transitional arrangements detailed in chapter 8 consider how to manage those drainage systems that are currently the responsibility of catchment management authorities. The authorities will consider opportunities to reduce the scale of systems to address these complexities (see proposed action 8g).

#### Large dispersed rural drainage systems

Some rural drainage systems, most notably Black Dog Creek in northeast Victoria, involve a complex network of drains into and out of waterways over a vast, flat landscape. Many landholders in those areas are unaware that their properties are in effect drained by that system. Consequently, there is little prospect for collective action in managing it.

In those systems, the most pressing need is to avoid changes in water flow across property boundaries that are not considered reasonable in a legislative context, or that cause injury or damage. In Indigo Shire, this is managed through an environment significance overlay that applies to the Black Dog Creek system, but there are no such controls applying to the other half of the system.

Collective action in managing drainage services may be possible in discrete parts of such systems. In some

cases, therefore, it may make sense to provide administrative support for small groups of landholders where agreement can be reached, rather than attempt to reach agreement with everyone in the system in the first instance (Chapter 4).

#### Inundation caused by flooding

Rural drainage systems sometimes have to cope with inundation caused by flooding or by the natural closure of an estuary. In these situations, landholders must interact with several agencies whose interests are broader than the provision of drainage services.

Working collaboratively with local communities, Traditional Owners, councils, the Victorian State Emergency Service (VICSES) and other regional agencies, in line with the *Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy*, catchment management authorities will prepare regional floodplain management strategies. These strategies will consider the floodplain management activities required to manage the flood risk for drainage areas.

For example, the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority is seeking feedback on its *draft Regional Floodplain Management Strategy*. Flood issues relating to rural drainage in the Yarragon-Trafalgar Flats Drainage Area are considered in that draft Strategy. There are significant floodplain management issues associated with the Moe Canal and the contour drain, which together constitute important parts of the rural drainage system. The *draft Regional Floodplain Management Strategy* considers the floodplain management activities required to manage the flood risk for those parts of the rural drainage system, and it recognises that the residual rural drainage matters will be considered in this draft Strategy.

Apart from the problems presented by widespread flooding, long periods of low flow in catchments can result in the closure of estuary entrances. This natural process supports ecological values in the estuary, but can also cause inundation of surrounding low-lying land, triggering the demand for flood mitigation or drainage services, including artificial estuary entrance openings. The *Victorian Waterway Management Strategy* sets out the principles and process under which artificial estuary entrance opening will occur in the future.

It is expected that regional partners will rely on these principles when agreeing on local processes for managing estuary openings. These local arrangements may be formalised through memoranda of understanding or other instruments. These principles seek to support landholders wanting drainage services, while balancing the benefits of those services against the potential environmental risks. In most cases councils will provide these services to landholders in partnership with other agencies such as catchment management authorities, Parks Victoria and landholders.



Powlett estuary and surrounding land (DELWP)

## Case Study: Powlett River Estuary

**Located 130 kilometres south-east of Melbourne, the Powlett River Estuary is a designated Nationally Important Wetland due to its extensive saltmarsh and wetland communities and cultural heritage. The estuary and surrounding wetlands support a diverse range of significant plants and animals. The estuary also has significant social and recreational values and is surrounded by high value agricultural land.**

The Powlett River Estuary intermittently closes following long periods of low flow. This natural process, which supports the estuary's ecological values, can cause inundation of the surrounding low-lying land (including farmland). It is sometimes necessary to artificially open the river mouth, which provides a drainage service to low lying areas, allowing waters to flow into the sea. However, this disrupts the natural process affecting the life cycles of the estuary's ecological communities and can potentially lead to mass fish deaths.

Government agencies and the community have been working together to improve understanding of the importance of estuary closure and the risks associated with artificial estuary openings. The West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority has developed an Estuary Management Plan for the Powlett River to guide future management, including maintaining a balance between supporting agricultural productivity through providing drainage services and protecting environmental values.

The Estuary Management Plan also outlines clear roles and responsibilities for Parks Victoria, Bass Coast Shire and the catchment management authority in managing the estuary mouth opening to alleviate inundation and waterlogging of surrounding farmland.

**Proposed policy 7c****Managing complex drainage systems**

Councils will provide administrative support to bring all partners together, including the relevant agencies and landholders, to find pathways to managing complex arrangements.

These arrangements will be based on local circumstance, and will need to consider how the systems may interact with other arrangements, such as floodplain management. Ultimately the aim will be to section off the drainage component to make the arrangements workable for drainage.

Where drainage systems relate to other arrangements such as flooding, these matters can be considered outside of the rural drainage context. This can open up opportunities to leverage funding through the relevant avenues.

Landholders who are prepared to meet the criteria in proposed policy 4g will be provided with administrative support to find pathways to manage the drainage components of complex systems, in line with the arrangements in this strategy.

Chapter 8 of this draft Strategy demonstrates how such support arrangements might work.

Except for drains that are privately owned, the responsibility for maintaining drainage infrastructure remains with the authority with which it is currently vested.

Drains on private land are likely to be owned either by:

- The landholder; or
- The people who obtained consent for the drains to be constructed on neighbouring land – if this was done under and in accordance with Part II of the *Drainage of Land Act 1975* (or its predecessors of 1890 and 1958), or the *Water Act 1958*.

Where a council or a catchment management authority has previously provided administrative support, appointed a drainage management committee, or levied a rate on behalf of a drainage management committee, it does not necessarily follow that any of the infrastructure is vested in that council or catchment management authority.

Other than limiting any potential liabilities associated with their infrastructure, there should be no obligation for anyone to manage existing rural drainage or to provide drainage services. Support for drainage services should only be provided for both existing and new drainage where the benefitting landholders agree to the proposed principles for support to manage rural drainage (Proposed policy 4g).

## 7.6 Arrangements for drainage infrastructure

### Understanding unmanaged drainage infrastructure on waterways

Significant safety issues could surround some of the infrastructure associated with some rural drainage systems. However, ownership – and, therefore, liability – is often unclear because the historical records about assets, maintenance and ownership have been lost. With no clear design standards for these assets or infrastructure, it is difficult to know whether this infrastructure is fit for purpose.

This draft Strategy supports Policy 11.6 in the *Victorian Waterway Management Strategy*, which states that waterway managers will assess and identify priority drainage structures for removal in the relevant regional waterway strategy. In assessing if an in-stream structure should be removed, the level of service provided as well as the environmental, cultural, social and economic risks and benefits must be considered. The level of health and safety risk to the public must also be considered.

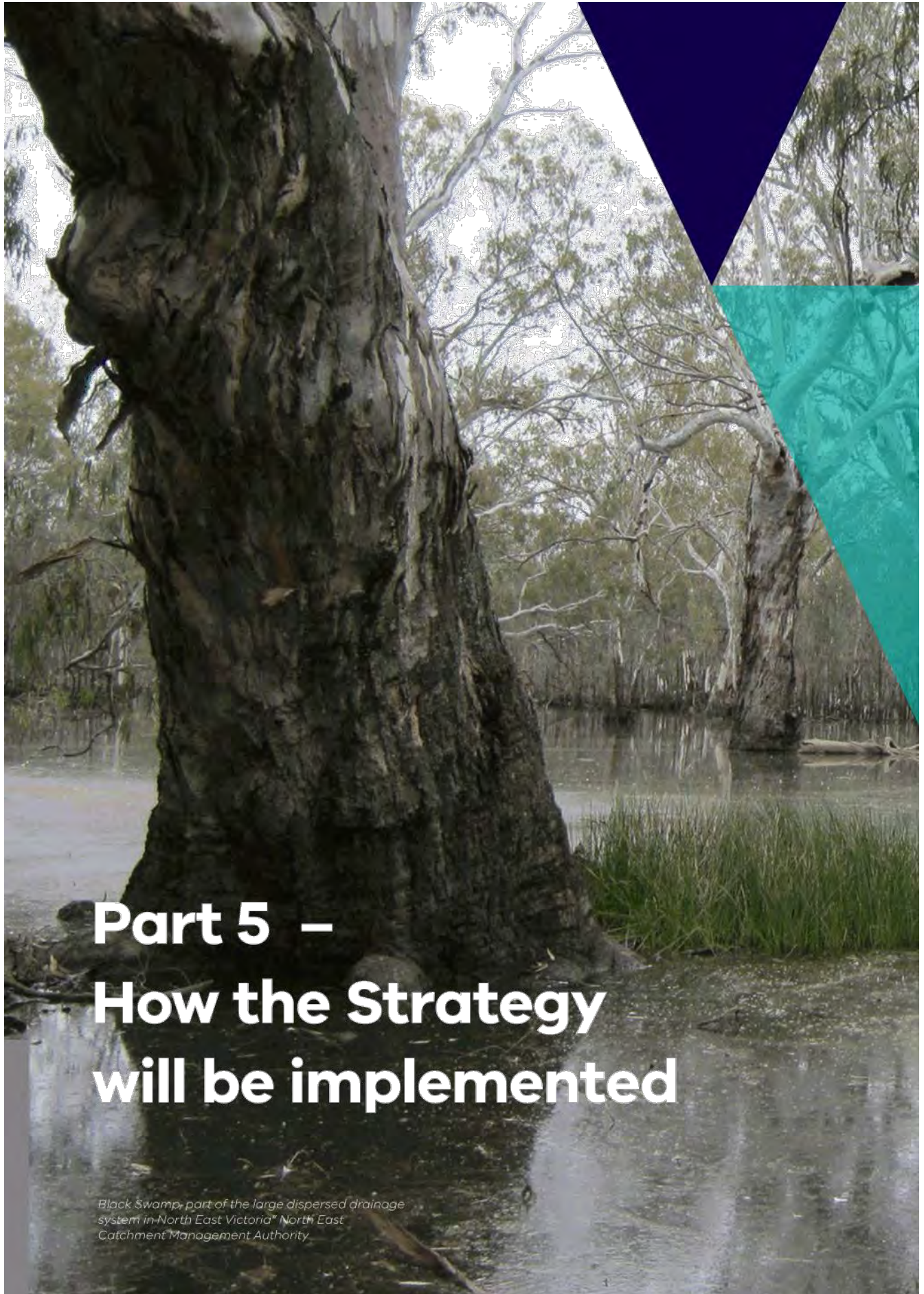
Where drainage assets provide benefits to an individual landholder, transferring ownership to that individual would increase the incentive for the asset to be maintained at a standard that is fit for purpose.

**Proposed policy 7d****Managing existing drainage infrastructure**

The responsibility for managing drainage infrastructure and associated infrastructure such as table drains, culverts, bridges and water-regulating structures remains with the authority that was vested with it. Those authorities will continue to be responsible for managing any risks associated with that infrastructure in line with their procedures or policies.

Ongoing support for drainage services will only be provided where landholders agree to the principles for support proposed in this draft Strategy.

Where ownership of drainage infrastructure is unknown, waterway managers will assess and identify priority drainage structures for removal in the relevant regional waterway strategy.



# Part 5 – How the Strategy will be implemented

*Black Swamp, part of the large dispersed drainage system in North East Victoria. North East Catchment Management Authority*



**(Chapters 8–9)**

To give effect to the clarified roles and responsibilities, the draft Strategy proposes the establishment of supporting arrangements to help implement the proposed policies and actions. It first explores how to build the skills and capabilities of landholders and agencies to help them in their roles in future rural drainage management. It then considers what landholders will need to know to make informed choices about rural drainage in the context of the proposed streamlined approvals process and in the face of climate change (Chapter 8).

Part 5 also includes a timeline for delivery of the Strategy, and details a proposal to review the arrangements in a final Strategy (Chapter 9).

## 8 Transitional arrangements

This chapter outlines the supporting arrangements needed to implement the proposed policies and actions outlined so far. It first explores how to build the skills and capabilities that landholders, councils and government agencies will need to manage their responsibilities for future rural drainage management. It then considers the information that landholders will need to make their own choices about rural drainage – including details about the proposed streamlined approvals process, and how the potential effects of climate change need to be taken into account when weighing up the costs and benefits of investment in rural drainage.

**Proposed outcome 5**

**Catchment partners work together with landholders to re-build capability and support ongoing arrangements for drainage management**

### 8.1 Introduction

This draft Strategy proposes new arrangements for rural drainage and greater clarity about the roles and responsibilities of agencies. It also proposes ways to give landholders the power to make their own choices about the future of rural drainage management (Chapter 4).

The transition for key agencies and landholders to the new arrangements will be progressively supported as capability builds and queries relating to rural drainage are directed appropriately. The State will demonstrate its commitment to supporting change through the proposed actions in this chapter.





### 8.2 Building skills and capability

Due to the lack of clarity around roles and responsibilities for rural drainage, the skills and capability for administering rural drainage no longer sit explicitly with any one organisation.

A capability building program that draws on the relevant experience of councils, catchment management authorities, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources is needed. Councils – which have expertise in the management of urban drainage, land use planning, regional development, community support, local roads and associated infrastructure such as table drains, culverts and bridges – are best placed to provide ongoing administrative support for rural drainage.

However, councils will need the ongoing support of catchment management authorities, which will bring advice on obtaining hydrological skills and a catchment-wide understanding of the landscape to the table. This will be particularly important where drainage systems cross municipal boundaries. Councils and the catchment management authorities will both also rely on the Department to provide policy direction, guidance materials and capacity-building support. At the regional level, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will continue to be actively involved in the proposed streamlined approvals process.

Landholders making their own choices about the future management of rural drainage are the focus of this draft Strategy. The proposed streamlined approvals process will make their choices easier, but in the first instance they will rely on councils, catchment management authorities, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the

Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources to provide them with information, and possibly administrative support, as they work to identify viable options for rural drainage management.

To help put those arrangements in place, catchment management authorities will work with landholders to provide an early indication of the likely costs of environmental and cultural approvals for rural drainage, and identify trigger points for landholders to commit to proceeding with drainage works. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will produce guidance materials to enable each agency to play its clearly identified role in collaborating with drainage committees. This work will draw on the experience and lessons from irrigation drainage.

#### Proposed action 8a

Develop a capability program to support agencies, Traditional Owners and landholders to manage rural drainage

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, working closely with catchment management authorities, will develop and implement a program to increase the capability and skills of landholders, councils, key agencies and Traditional Owners to manage rural drainage, including support to participate in the preparation of rural drainage management plans (such as where they incorporate cultural heritage, including Aboriginal cultural heritage land management agreements).



**Proposed action 8b****Prepare guidelines to manage rural drainage**

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will provide support to landholders managing rural drainage, and to councils working in partnership with other key agencies, by developing guidelines that will:

- Set out best-practice standards for rural drainage, providing technical guidance for managing rural drainage in ways that consider environmental and cultural impacts and third party impacts caused by changes to the flow of water across property boundaries.
- Outline the elements of a rural drainage management plan, including clear directions for the preparation of environmental and cultural management plans.
- Help to determine the distribution of costs so that they are proportional to the distribution of benefits.
- Develop model rules of association and a model community agreement that can be applied by those landholders who choose to set up a drainage committee.

### 8.3 Providing information on climate change to inform choices about managing rural drainage

*Water for Victoria* recognises that landholders are continually adapting to new technologies, variable cost structures and global market forces. These types of variables will contribute to individuals' choices about the ongoing costs and benefits of rural drainage. So too will the potential impacts of climate change. To help Victorians understand the likely scale of change and what they can do to adapt, the Victorian Government produced *Climate-Ready Victoria* (2015), a series of regional fact sheets that outline projected climate change impacts across Victoria.<sup>17</sup> Specific guidance for the water sector has been developed to help the sector plan for and adapt to a range of climate scenarios. The *Guidelines for assessing the impacts of climate change on water supplies in Victoria* apply a risk-based framework that considers the vulnerability of supply systems to climate variability and climate change.<sup>2</sup>

Providing information to help the community better understand and manage the effects of climate change is a key responsibility and an ongoing commitment of the Victorian Government.

Changes in climate conditions will affect the way rural drainage needs to be managed into the future. The Bureau of Meteorology recently released a synthesis of

findings from the Victorian Climate Initiative<sup>18</sup>. Because of the uncertainty about when and the extent to which reductions in rainfall and streamflow may occur, a scenario-based approach to planning is recommended.

*Water for Victoria* committed to investing in climate science and to continuing to invest in research and partnerships. It is important that this information is provided in a way that meets the needs of landholders.

**Proposed action 8c****Provide climate change information in a way that meets the needs of landholders**

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will provide climate information that meets the needs of farmers to inform their choices about investing in rural drainage in the future.

### 8.4 Working together to support rural drainage

Complex natural resource matters often involve multiple stakeholders. Options are in place to help strengthen partnerships between these stakeholders. *Our Catchments, Our Communities* is the first state-level strategy for integrated catchment management in Victoria, with a focus on how catchment management partners can work together more effectively. A key objective in that strategy is to drive increased partnership approaches to managing Victoria's catchments. It will do this by strengthening the regulatory instruments, such as Statements of Obligations and Letters of Expectation, that govern the way catchment management authorities operate.

Under *Our Catchments, Our Communities*, new Catchment Partnership Agreements will be developed to strengthen coordination between catchment partners to support environmental, economic and liveability outcomes for regional communities. The framework for the new agreements describes the current rural drainage role of catchment management authorities. Development of the new agreements can incorporate the arrangements relating to rural drainage where relevant for each region.

*The Victorian State and Local Government Agreement* also provides a mechanism to consider the effects of policy changes on councils, and seeks to foster more effective collaboration between councils and the State Government. The implementation of the final Strategy will have the secondary benefit of further strengthening communities and regional relationships. It will overcome the current lack of a management framework, and will remove uncertainty surrounding drainage regulation.

Working together with landholders to implement effective and sustainable drainage works will not only help strengthen relationships, it will help build local economies and support the liveability of regional Victoria. Broader involvement of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians in rural drainage management will help to meet the strategic direction of the Victorian government to involve Aboriginal Victorians and Traditional Owners in water management and planning. This will strengthen the partnership approach to natural resource management.

#### Proposed action 8d

Provide a coordinated approach to rural drainage by councils and the State Government

In accordance with *Victorian State and Local Government Agreement*, the State Government commits to continuing to work with local government (including councils and the Municipal Association of Victoria) under the agreed principle of mutual respect and with an emphasis on improving communication and cooperation.

#### Proposed action 8e

Establish a working group to support the development of a final Strategy and ongoing implementation.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will partner with key stakeholders, including landholders and agencies, to establish an implementation working group to support the transition of stakeholders to the new arrangements. This will include coordinating actions arising from the Rural Drainage Strategy, and their alignments with broader government directions and policies, such as Aboriginal Water Management.

Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians will be invited to be represented on the working group.

#### Proposed action 8f

Establish clear arrangements for catchment management authorities to work in partnership to support the management of rural drainage

Under its commitment to a partnership approach to rural drainage, the government will require that the Statement of Obligations for catchment management authorities and the Letter of Expectations issued by the government explicitly consider a role for catchment management authorities in rural drainage where they are funded to do so.

To further embed partnership arrangements, the development of the new Catchment Partnership Agreements will consider how to incorporate the arrangements relating to rural drainage where relevant for each region.

## 8.5 Understanding catchment management authorities' drainage infrastructure

Nine drainage areas were previously, or in some cases may still be, managed by catchment management authorities, and another one is managed by Melbourne Water (See Figure 8.1). These drainage areas are often large scale and, in some cases, cross municipal council boundaries (See section 7.5) Melbourne Water owns and is responsible for drains in its waterway management district, and funds works through its waterways and drainage rate. Melbourne Water charges a special 'precept rate' to fund the increased level of service across the Koo Wee Rup and Longwarry flood protection district. These arrangements will continue.

Melbourne Water has invested significant time and effort to demonstrate that rural drainage maintenance can be done in an environmentally and culturally sensitive way. Rather than landholders in other drainage systems having to duplicate the efforts of Melbourne Water, they can learn from and apply the principles of this precedent with the support of the arrangements proposed in this draft Strategy (See case study in Chapter 5).

The government recognises its responsibility to support landholders to move to the new arrangements. It is investing in understanding of where landholders are prepared to commit to the proposed arrangements outlined in this draft Strategy, and providing supporting technical tools and setting the policy arrangements to support this.

The pilot project on Woody Yaloak/Lough Calvert provides a real example of how these arrangements could be applied (page 67). This project will also provide an evidence base for the future management of systems currently or previously managed by catchment management authorities.

Catchment management authorities will use this investment to investigate options for the future management of the seven remaining drainage areas they have had some previous involvement in managing. They will work with landholders, using the tools, manuals and guidance materials proposed in this draft Strategy, to determine whether landholders are prepared to meet the principles for support for rural drainage (Proposed policy 4g).

Works to upgrade drainage infrastructure will be considered in situations where landholders or organisations are prepared to take on ongoing management responsibility. These works will focus on the areas previously managed by catchment management authorities on a priority basis (figure 8.1) and will draw on the lessons learned from existing work by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (see **Page 67**).

It is possible that some catchment management authorities have been vested with the responsibility for bridges or culverts on public or private roads. Ideally, the relevant road authority should manage bridges and culverts on public roads in the long term. In such cases it will be up to the relevant road authority to work with the catchment management authority on deciding whether to take on the drainage infrastructure where it relates to their assets (roads). Similarly, individual landholders should manage structures on private roads.

#### Proposed action 8g

Identify priority areas for drainage works for systems previously managed by catchment management authorities

Over the next three years, catchment management authorities will investigate future management arrangements for the seven drainage areas they have previously managed. These are mostly larger scale systems that cross municipal boundaries. Catchment management authorities will:

- Identify strategic opportunities to restore wetlands for cultural and environmental values where drainage services are no longer required.
- Work with landholders, Traditional Owners, Aboriginal Victorians and other stakeholders to finalise options for ongoing ownership and management of the drainage infrastructure in these areas, consistent with the new arrangements proposed in this draft Strategy.
- Work with landholders and councils in these drainage systems where they cross multiple boundaries.
- Focus on how to establish smaller scale drainage systems that do not span municipal boundaries and, if that is not possible, identify clear arrangements for organisations to work in partnership to support landholders to manage rural drainage.
- Consider supporting initial capital upgrades for drainage works in a culturally and environmentally sensitive way for these areas, on a priority basis, where landholders are prepared to commit to the new arrangements.



Cundare regulator upgrades on the Woody Yaloak Diversion Scheme (DELWP)

## Pilot Project – Woody Yaloak/ Lough Calvert

**The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority was given management responsibility for the Woody Yaloak Diversion Scheme and the Lough Calvert Drainage Scheme by Ministerial Order in 1999. Despite having clear management responsibility for the schemes, the catchment management authority is not authorised to raise revenue to fund their operation and maintenance. However, the Victorian Government provides the authority with an annual stipend, which it uses to carry out priority maintenance and to operate the scheme when necessary.**

### Current issues

While both schemes are still capable of being operated, they need significant maintenance to remain viable into the future and to enable compliance with current safety regulations. Various assets are at- or-near, the end of their economic and operational life, with the majority being over 50 years old.

An asset condition assessment undertaken in 2014-2015 identified areas for repair or upgrade that would be necessary to meet acceptable operational, public safety and workplace safety requirements. While some minor upgrades and maintenance can be delivered with existing government funds, these are not sufficient to fully cover the required capital upgrades.

The region contains many important environmental and cultural assets that can potentially be impacted by the operation of these systems. For example, the Woody Yaloak Diversion Scheme alters flows into Lake Corangamite (which is Ramsar listed) and Cundare Pool.

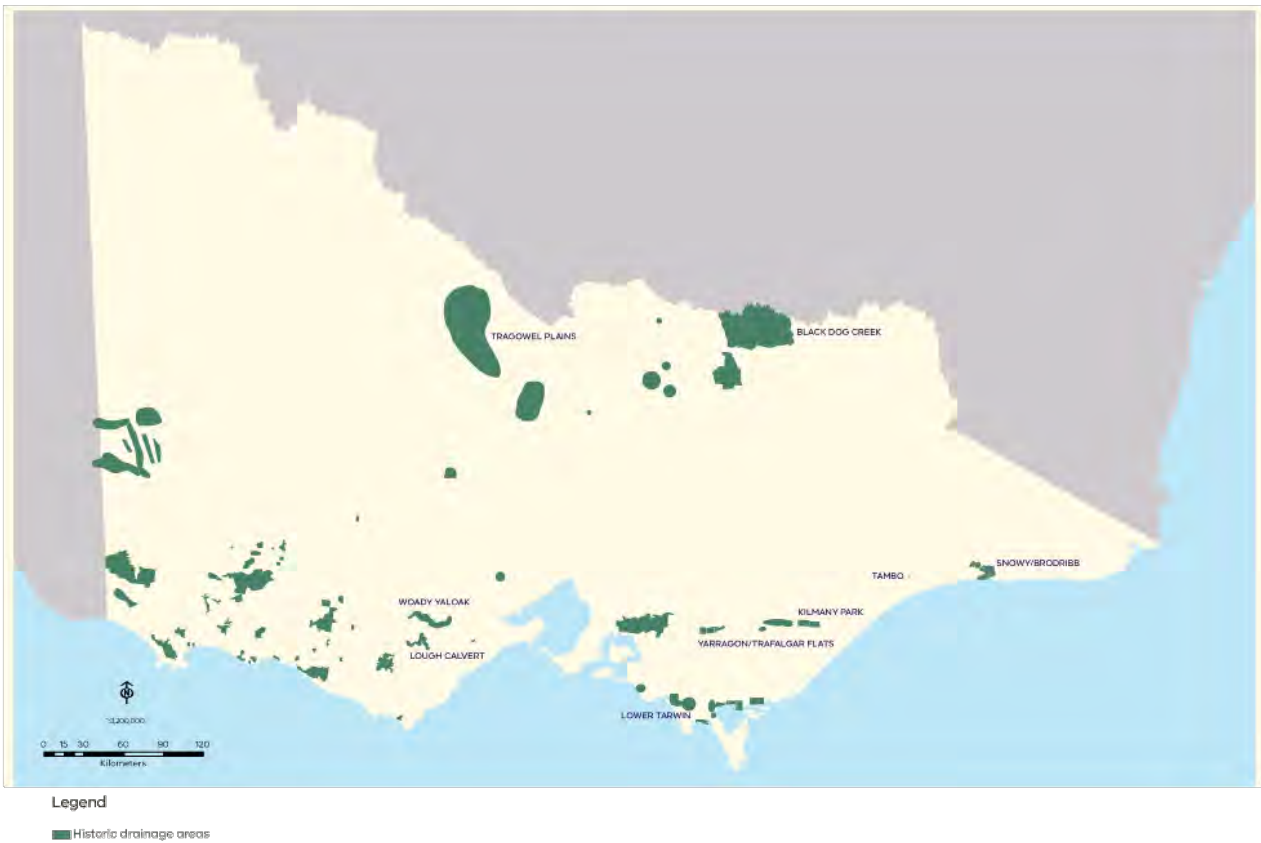
To ensure the ongoing viability of this infrastructure, options for its ongoing management, maintenance and ownership are being explored. These will include managing the system to protect significant environmental assets in the region.

### Planning, capital works and maintenance

The proposed works program includes:

- Reviewing current ownership and management arrangements for works
- Identifying priorities based on risk to improve/ upgrade
- Developing operation and maintenance plans and emergency response plans
- Upgrading and repairing infrastructure
- Working with landholders and other stakeholders to formalise options for ongoing ownership and management.

Figure 8.1 Historical drainage areas across Victoria. Areas previously managed by catchment management authorities are named in this figure.





Johnston Swamp (Erin Ashcroft)

## 9 Delivering the Strategy

This chapter outlines the delivery plan for the strategy and timelines for review of the Strategy actions and polices.

### 9.1 Learning through delivery

Delivery of the Strategy will be based on lessons learned through implementation. These lessons will be used to refine the program and inform and improve future strategies.

Data will be collected throughout the life of the Strategy, with an evaluation five years following its release. The evaluation will assess progress in delivering Strategy actions and directions. It will also provide new knowledge and information to update the Strategy implementation plan, and it will measure the Strategy’s success in meeting its outcomes (see Chapter 1). This will ensure there is a record of achievements and lessons learned, and an evidence base for future management approaches.

#### Proposed action 9a

##### Evaluation of the strategy

An evaluation of the Strategy will be undertaken within five years of the release of the final Strategy.

### 9.2 Proposed implementation plan

All proposed actions and policies listed within the draft Strategy are summarised in the tables below (Table 9.1 and Table 9.2), with lead responsibility partners delivery timelines. The final Strategy will include an updated implementation plan that will set out the preferred actions and directions to manage dryland rural drainage in Victoria.

**Table 9.1 – Summary of proposed actions and indicative timelines for the Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy****Chapter 4 - Landholders**

Action	Responsibility	Delivery Partners	Timeframe
Proposed action 4a Prepare tools and information to support landholders seeking statutory approvals to manage rural drainage	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; landholders; councils; catchment management authorities	June 2018
Proposed action 4b Help landholders understand the potential costs and benefits of rural drainage	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; landholders; councils; catchment management authorities	October 2017
Proposed action 4c Streamline environmental and cultural approvals	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning – Forest, Fire and Regions Group	Councils and catchment management authorities	November 2018
Proposed action 4d Prepare a model agreement for adoption by rural drainage committees	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Councils	June 2018

**Chapter 5 - Environment**

Action	Responsibility	Delivery Partners	Timeframe
Proposed action 5a Provide increased certainty for landholders about approvals	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Councils and catchment management authorities	June 2018
Proposed action 5b Investigate opportunities for exemptions for maintaining existing drainage	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Catchment management authorities, councils	December 2017
Proposed action 5c Support climate change adaptation in rural drainage	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Landholders, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; catchment management authorities	Ongoing
Proposed action 5d Update the priority-setting framework to consider restoration of previously-modified drainage areas	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Catchment management authorities	Mid 2018

**Chapter 6 - Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians**

Action	Responsibility	Delivery Partners	Timeframe
Proposed action 6a Develop a consultation process to gain feedback from a wider range of Traditional Owners	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians	November 2017
Proposed action 6b Prepare guidance on how to consider cultural heritage management in the context of rural drainage	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Aboriginal Affairs Victoria; Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians	December 2017
Proposed action 6c Update the priority-setting framework to consider restoration of previously-modified drainage areas	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Catchment management authorities; Traditional Owners	Mid 2018

**Chapter 7 - Governance**

Action	Responsibility	Delivery Partners	Timeframe
Proposed action 7a Review administrative arrangements for rural drainage	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Councils; landholders	June 2018
Proposed action 7b Understand the impact of increased runoff on drainage areas due to the expansion of impervious surfaces	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Councils; landholders; catchment management authorities	June 2019
Proposed action 7d Develop guidelines for determining costs proportional to the benefits received from drainage services	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; councils	Catchment management authorities; Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; landholders	December 2017



**Chapter 8 – Transitional Arrangements**

Action	Responsibility	Delivery Partners	Timeframe
Proposed action 8a Develop a capability program to support delivery partners and landholders to manage rural drainage	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Catchment management authorities; landholders; councils; Traditional Owners	June 2018
Proposed action 8b Prepare guidelines to manage rural drainage	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; landholders; councils and catchment management authorities	June 2018
Proposed action 8c Provide climate change information in a way that meets the needs of landholders	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Landholders	December 2017
Proposed action 8d Provide a coordinated approach to rural drainage by councils and the State Government	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Municipal Association of Victoria; councils	Ongoing
Proposed action 8e Establish a working group to support the development of a final Strategy and ongoing implementation	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Councils; catchment management authorities; landholders; Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources	November 2017
Proposed action 8f Establish clear arrangements for agencies to work in partnership to support the management of rural drainage	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Catchment management authorities; Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians; councils; Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; VicRoads	June 2018
Proposed action 8g Identify priority areas for drainage works for drainage systems previously managed by catchment management authorities	Catchment management authorities	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; landholders; Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians; councils	June 2022

**Chapter 9 – Delivering the strategy**

Action	Responsibility	Delivery Partners	Timeframe
Proposed action 9a Evaluation of the Strategy	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	All partners	End 2022

Table 9.2 – Summary of proposed policies for the Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy

<b>Chapter 4 - Landholders</b>		
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Delivery Partners</b>
Proposed policy 4a Landholders can access a technical tool that they can use to consider the potential costs and benefits of rural drainage	Landholders	All partners
Proposed policy 4b Establish a contact point for landholders to access tools and information to help them seek statutory approvals to manage rural drainage	Councils	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; catchment management authorities
Proposed policy 4c Agencies continue to manage their public infrastructure that interfaces with individuals' drainage works	Councils, VicRoads, VicTrack and catchment management authorities	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Proposed policy 4d Landholders managing drainage through amicable agreements	Landholders	Consumer Affairs Victoria; Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; councils
Proposed policy 4e Landholders managing drainage through written agreement	Landholders	Consumer Affairs Victoria; Department Environment, Land, Water and Planning; councils
Proposed policy 4f Supporting landholders to prepare rural drainage management plans	Landholders	Catchment management authorities; councils; Traditional Owners; Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Proposed policy 4g Principles for supporting landholders to manage rural drainage	Councils	Catchment management authorities; Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; landholders
<b>Chapter 5 - Environment</b>		
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Delivery Partners</b>
Proposed policy 5a Considering the water quality impacts of rural drainage	Landholders	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; catchment management authorities; Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians
Proposed policy 5b Identify priority areas for environmental restoration of waterways	Catchment management authorities	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians

**Chapter 6 - Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians**

Policy	Responsibility	Delivery Partners
Proposed policy 6a Identify priority areas for restoration of previously drained areas for cultural benefit	Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians; Catchment management authorities;	Catchment management authorities; Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Proposed Policy 6b Traditional Owner involvement in restoration works	Catchment management authorities; Traditional Owners	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; local councils

**Chapter 7 - Governance**

Policy	Responsibility	Delivery Partners
Proposed policy 7a Shared arrangements for managing rural drainage in Victoria	All partners	All partners
Proposed policy 7b Funding arrangements for rural drainage	Landholders	Councils
Proposed policy 7c Managing complex drainage systems	Councils and all partners	All partners
Proposed Policy 7d Managing existing drainage infrastructure	All partners	

**Chapter 8 – Transitional Arrangements**

Policy	Responsibility	Delivery Partners
NA		

**Chapter 9 – Delivering the strategy**

Policy	Responsibility	Delivery Partners
NA		

## 10 Glossary

<b>Aboriginal Victorians</b>	An Aboriginal Victorian is a person of Aboriginal descent who identifies as an Aboriginal and is accepted as such by the Victorian Aboriginal community in which he or she lives.
<b>Adaptation</b>	Changes in natural or human systems to prepare for actual or expected changes in the climate to minimise harm, act on opportunities or cope with the consequences.
<b>Agencies</b>	For the purposes of the Draft Strategy, the term agencies includes councils and catchment management authorities, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. It can also include Vic Roads and Vic Track.
<b>Assets</b>	Assets are resources that provide benefit. Drainage assets can include, for example, infrastructure such as pipes and pumps, culverts, dams, bores and table drains.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	The numbers and variety of plants, animals and other living beings, including micro-organisms, across our land, rivers and oceans. It includes the diversity of their genetic information, the habitats and ecosystems in which they live and their connections with other life forms.
<b>Capital works</b>	Construction activities, such as building and engineering, that create assets.
<b>Carbon sequestration</b>	The general term used for the capture and long-term storage of carbon dioxide. Capture can occur at the point of emission (e.g. from power plants) or through natural processes (such as photosynthesis), and removes carbon dioxide from the earth's atmosphere.
<b>Catchment</b>	An area where water falling as rain is collected by the landscape, eventually flowing to a body of water such as a creek, river, dam, lake or ocean, or into a groundwater system.
<b>Catchment management authorities</b>	The <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> established 10 catchment and land protection regions, each with a catchment management authority responsible for the integrated planning and coordination of land, water and biodiversity management.
<b>Climate change</b>	Changes in the state of the climate, including an increase in extreme weather events, long-term changes in weather patterns and sea level rise, attributed directly or indirectly to human activity.
<b>Community</b>	Includes individuals, public and private landholders, community groups and business owners.
<b>Country</b>	Aboriginal culture revolves around relationships to the land and water. For Traditional Owners, Country is a part of who they are, just as they are a part of it.
<b>Country Plans</b>	Country Plans are one way for Traditional Owners to articulate their priorities and aspirations for looking after Country. They can be strategic plans that encompass physical and spiritual concepts of Country, provide a strategic basis for partnerships, and identify management actions and economic opportunities.
<b>Culvert</b>	A culvert is a structure that allows water to flow under a road, railroad, trail, or similar obstruction.
<b>Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources</b>	Victorian government department working across multiple portfolios. Within this department, Agriculture Victoria works with the agriculture and fisheries industries on research, development and extension to improve production, connect the sector with international markets, support development and maintain effective biosecurity controls.

<b>Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning</b>	Victorian Government department that brings together planning, local government, environment, energy, suburban development, forests, emergency management, climate change and water functions into a single department to strengthen connections between the environment, community, industry and economy.
<b>Drainage</b>	The works and functions related to the collection and removal of local rainfall runoff from land prone to natural water-logging.
<b>Dryland agriculture</b>	Agricultural land that is not actively connected to surface water supplies, via direct contact or irrigation. Dryland farmers manage their own on-farm water supplies, including waterlogging.
<b>Ecosystem</b>	A dynamic complex of plant, animal, fungal and microorganism communities and the associated non-living environment interacting as an ecological unit.
<b>Fit-for-purpose</b>	Water of a quality that is appropriate for its intended use.
<b>Floodplain</b>	Low-lying land adjacent to a river or stream with unique ecosystems dependent on inundation from flood events.
<b>Floodplain management</b>	The prevention activities of flood management together with related environmental activities (see also floodplain).
<b>Hydraulic capacity</b>	A measure of the maximum volume of flow able to pass through a material, structure or watercourse.
<b>Hydrology</b>	The scientific study of water and its movement, distribution and quality.
<b>Integrated catchment management</b>	The coordinated management of land, water and biodiversity resources based on catchment areas. It incorporates environmental, social, cultural and economic considerations. This approach seeks to ensure the long-term viability of natural resource systems and human needs across current and future generations.
<b>Irrigation drainage</b>	Drainage networks implemented to remove excess surface water generated by rainfall events from irrigated landscapes.
<b>Landholders</b>	People who own land and, in particular, individuals who make their living from it.
<b>Melbourne Water</b>	Supplies drinking and recycled water to Melbourne, manages its water supply catchments, sewage treatment and rivers, creeks and major drainage systems.
<b>Millennium Drought</b>	The drought in Victoria that lasted from 1997 to 2009.
<b>Peri-urban drainage</b>	Peri-urban drainage refers to drainage in non-urban areas close to cities and towns. Peri-urban areas are often described as areas of rapid land use change where more intensive use is becoming more common
<b>Ramsar wetlands</b>	Wetlands of international importance, designated under the Ramsar Convention.
<b>Reservoir</b>	Natural or artificial dam or lake used for the storage and regulation of water.
<b>Riparian</b>	Land or vegetation that adjoins a river, creek, estuary, wetland or lake.
<b>Runoff</b>	The amount of rainfall that drains into the surface drainage network to become streamflow; also known as rainfall excess.
<b>Rural drainage</b>	For the purposes of this Strategy, rural drainage is defined as the works and functions related to the collection, and timely removal, of excess water generated by high rainfall to support agriculture production. It involves enhancing the hydraulic capacity of drainage lines and soils, and increasing the rate at which water will flow off (or through) and away from land, to support increased agricultural production in dryland areas.

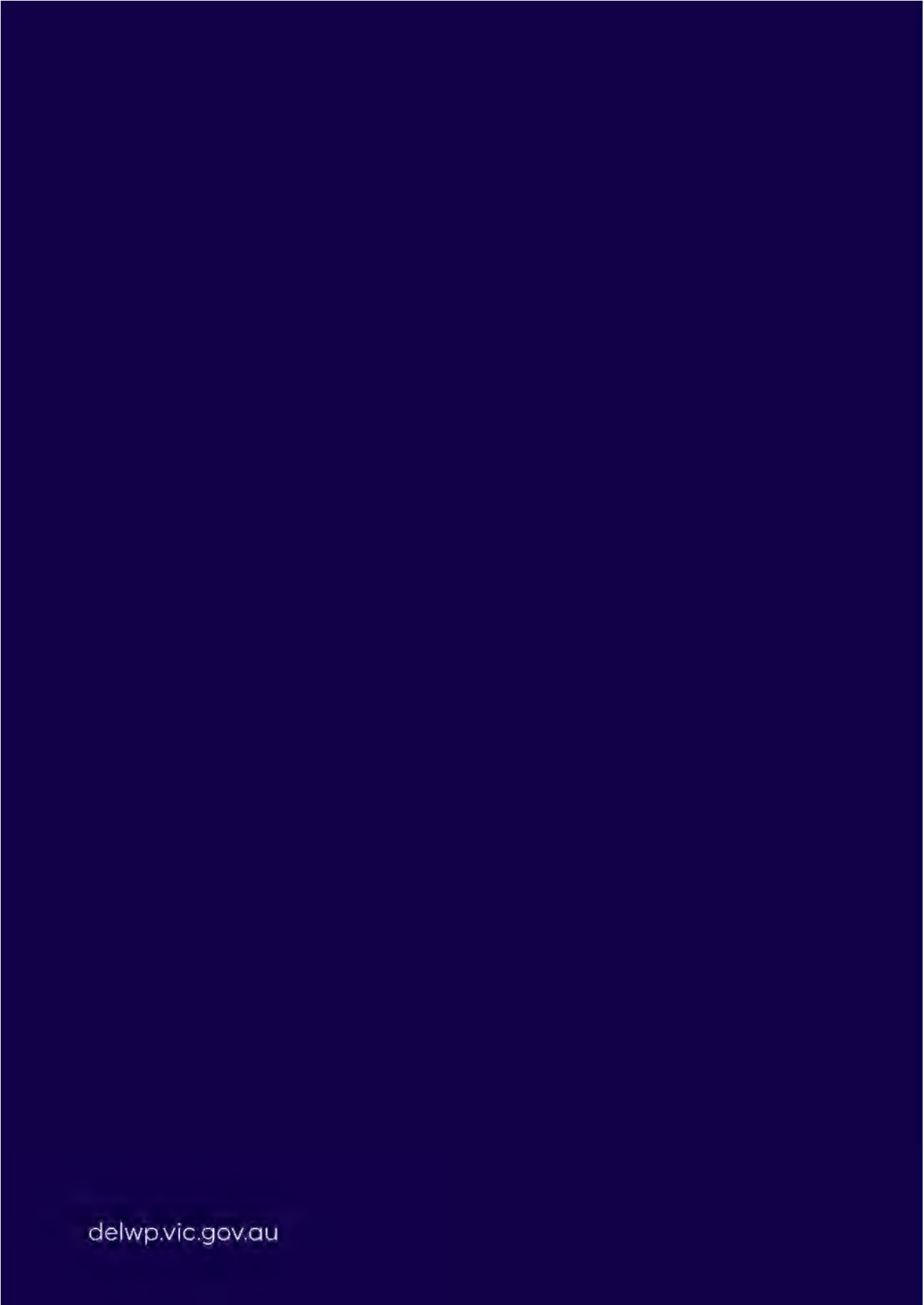
<b>Rural water corporations</b>	Provide a range of water services to customers within their service areas. The services comprise water supply, sewage and trade waste disposal and treatment, water delivery for irrigation and domestic and stock purposes, drainage, and salinity mitigation services.
<b>Statement of Obligations</b>	Statements made under section 41 of the <i>Water Industry Act 1994</i> that specify the obligations of Victoria's water corporations in relation to the performance of their functions and the exercise of their powers.
<b>Stormwater</b>	Runoff from urban areas. There is a net increase in runoff from urban development due to water not being able to seep into the ground because of impervious surfaces, such as roofs and roads.
<b>Streamflow</b>	The flow of water once it enters a river, stream or channel.
<b>Surface water</b>	Water on the surface of the planet, including streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and oceans.
<b>Table drains</b>	Table drains are normally earthen drains excavated next to, and running alongside, roadways and that are designed to ensure the road is properly drained. This term can also refer to communal drainage for rural drainage schemes.
<b>Traditional Owners</b>	<p>People who, through membership of a descent group or clan, are responsible for caring for Country. Aboriginal people with knowledge about traditions, observances, customs or beliefs associated with a particular area. A Traditional Owner is authorised to speak for Country and its heritage.</p> <p>For the purposes of application of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, a Traditional Owner is defined as:</p> <p>(a) the person is an Aboriginal person with particular knowledge about traditions, observances, customs or beliefs associated with the area; and</p> <p>(b) the person—</p> <p>has responsibility under Aboriginal tradition for significant Aboriginal places located in, or significant Aboriginal objects originating from, the area; or</p> <p>is a member of a family or clan group that is recognised as having responsibility under Aboriginal tradition for significant Aboriginal places located in, or significant Aboriginal objects originating from, the area.</p>
<b>Waste</b>	<p>In the context of the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) waste includes—</p> <p>(a) any matter whether solid, liquid, gaseous or radio-active which is discharged, emitted or deposited in the environment in such volume, constituency or manner as to cause an alteration in the environment;</p> <p>For example, rainfall runoff with contaminants from properties would be considered waste.</p>
<b>Wastewater</b>	Water that has had its quality affected by human influence, deriving from industrial, domestic, agricultural or commercial activities.
<b>Water corporations</b>	Government owned organisations that provide a range of water services to customers within their service areas, including water supply, sewage and trade waste disposal and treatment, water delivery for irrigation and domestic and stock purposes, drainage, and salinity mitigation services. Some water corporations have a regulatory function for the diversion of water from waterways and the extraction of groundwater. Formerly known as water authorities.
<b>Water sector</b>	The broad range of entities with a stake or role in water management. For example, water corporations, catchment management authorities, local government and environmental water holders.
<b>Water quality</b>	Refers to the chemical, physical, biological, and radiological characteristics of water. It is a measure of the condition of water relative to the requirements of one or more biotic species and or to any human need or purpose.

<b>Waterways</b>	Rivers and streams, their associated estuaries and floodplains (including floodplain wetlands) and non-riverine wetlands.
<b>Waterway managers</b>	Authorities with a waterway management district under the <i>Water Act 1989</i> – these are the nine regional catchment management authorities and Melbourne Water in the metropolitan region.
<b>Weirs</b>	A barrier across a river designed to alter flow characteristics.
<b>Wetlands</b>	Wetlands are areas, whether natural, modified or artificial, subject to permanent or temporary inundation, that hold static or very slow moving water and develop, or have the potential to develop, biota adapted to inundation and the aquatic environment. Wetlands may be fresh or saline.

## Endnotes

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[delwp.vic.gov.au](http://delwp.vic.gov.au)

### **B.17.143 FINAL DRAFT MALLEE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Director Infrastructure
<b>File Number:</b>	S13-24-08
<b>Attachments:</b>	1 Mallee FMS Final Draft Strategy 2018-28 2 Mallee FMS Regional Works Plan 2018-20

#### **Declarations of Interest:**

John McLinden - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

#### **Summary**

To seek endorsement of the Final Draft Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy (FMS) and Regional Works Plan.

#### **Discussion**

The Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy (VFMS) requires Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) to develop and periodically review Regional Floodplain Management Strategies, in partnership with Local Government Authorities, Victoria State Emergency Services and their local communities. The overarching purpose of the Regional Strategies is to provide a single, regional planning document for floodplain management and a high level regional work program to guide future investment priorities.

A steering committee was established in October 2016 to oversee the development of the Mallee FMS. Members of the steering committee included representatives from the following organisations:

- Mildura Rural City Council;
- Swan Hill Rural City Council;
- Buloke Shire Council;
- Yarriambiack Shire Council;
- Hindmarsh Shire Council;
- Vic SES;
- Lower Murray Water;
- GWM Water;
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (observer only); and
- Mallee Catchment Management Authority

Key tasks undertaken in the development of the strategy have included the following:

- Public consultation identified risks including local flood behaviour, important infrastructure that may be impacted by flooding, and any flood mitigation works that could reduce risks and/or impacts.

- Production of a regional risk assessment report to inform the prioritisation of floodplain management activities.
- Workshops to identify existing flood mitigation strategies under the two main themes of land use planning and flood mitigation infrastructure.
- Workshops to evaluate flood risks, including considering any existing service levels in place to mitigate flood risk, any gaps in service levels, the priority for consideration and the priority for action over the next three years.
- Workshops to determine lead agencies, delivery partners, approximate cost and timeframes for each priority action in the Regional Works Plan.
- Release of a „public consultation“ draft of the Mallee FMS to facilitate stakeholder and broader community feedback on the Strategy

A public consultation draft of the Mallee FMS was endorsed by the Steering Committee and released for stakeholder and broader community comment on the 11 September 2017. Promotion of the public consultation period included:

- Articles in local media, on the Mallee CMA Website and in social media posts;
- Targeted emails to stakeholder and community group representatives;
- Presentations to community advisory committees and organisations represented on the Mallee FMS Steering Committee.

The public consultation period closed on 6 October, with only minor comments received. This feedback was considered by the Steering Committee at their 24 October meeting, with agreed changes made to the Final Draft Mallee FMS.

### **Consultation**

Undertaken by the Mallee CMA as noted in report.

### **Financial Implications**

Council has the Robinvale Levee project in the current year's Capital Works Program.

### **Social Implications**

Not Applicable

### **Economic Implications**

Future flooding may impact on economy of towns subject to extent of flooding.

### **Environmental Implications**

Any works proposed to take into account the appropriate environmental regulations.

### **Risk Management Implications**

Undertaken as part of the Strategy document.

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

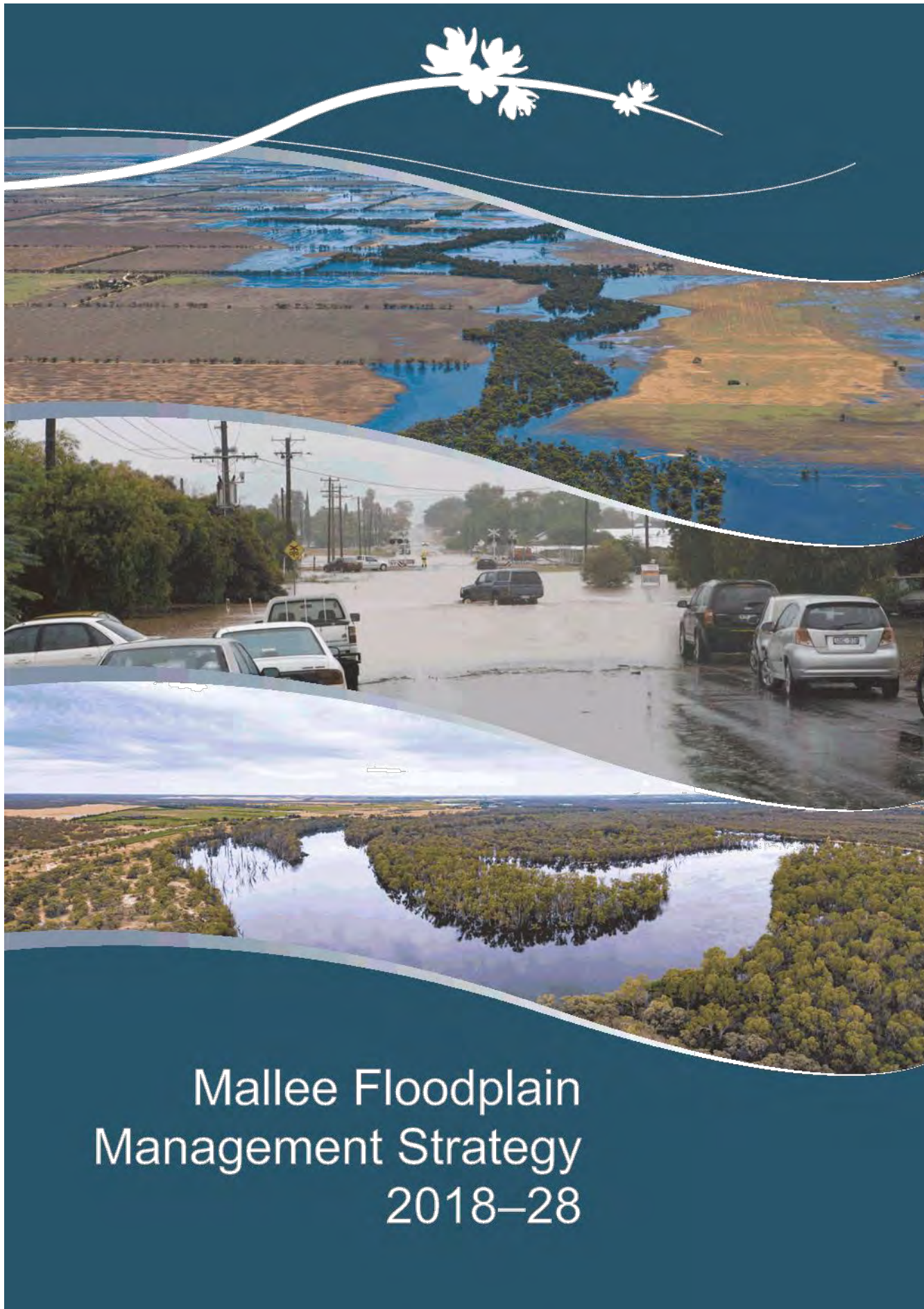
*Infrastructure* - A strong focus on asset management systems and planning.

### **Options**

1. That Council endorses the Final Draft Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy and Regional Works Plan.
2. That Council does not endorse the Final Draft Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy and Regional Works Plan.

### **Recommendation**

**That Council endorses the Final Draft Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy and Regional Works Plan.**



# Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy 2018–28



# Acknowledgements

The Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) acknowledges and respects Traditional Owners, Aboriginal communities and organisations. We recognise the diversity of their cultures and the deep connections they have with Victoria's lands and waters. We value partnerships with them for the health of people and country. The Mallee CMA Board, management and staff pay their respects to Elders past and present, and recognise the primacy of Traditional Owners' obligations, rights and responsibilities to use and care for their traditional lands and waters.

A Steering Committee involving key regional partners was established to oversee the development of this Floodplain Management Strategy. The committee was chaired by Nicholas Sheahan, Floodplain Manager at Mallee CMA, and had representation from: Mildura Rural City Council, Swan Hill Rural City Council, Yarriambiack Shire Council, Buloke Shire Council, Hindmarsh Shire Council, VicSES, Lower Murray Water and Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation (GWM Water). The project was also supported by the management and staff of the Mallee CMA, with technical input from many partner agencies.

The Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy was supported by the Mallee CMA, through funding from the Victorian Government.

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## Images

### Cover images:

Upper: Tyrrell Creek flooding, 2011.

Centre: Stormwater flooding, Irymple 2011.

Lower: Murray River Flooding at Bruce's Bend, 2016.

### Image credits:

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## Preface



The Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy has been developed to help communities within the Victorian Mallee be better prepared for future floods.

By providing a single regional planning document and a high level regional work plan, this strategy will support and guide future investment priorities over the next ten years, while building on past achievements and recognising future challenges.

An extensive consultation process was undertaken to inform the Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy, with stakeholder input integral to improving the understanding of how floods behave across our region; what important infrastructure may be impacted by flooding; and flood mitigation works that could reduce risks and/or impact of flooding.

Thank you to everyone who provided comment, attended workshops and meetings, and made individual submissions throughout the development of this strategy. Your local knowledge and expertise has been invaluable.

All sectors of our community including individual land managers, industry and community based groups, along with government agencies and authorities are fundamental to the success of the Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy. It will only be through sustained and collaborative efforts that our aspirations for the region's flood management priorities can be realised.

The Mallee has a proud history of identifying and addressing key natural resource management issues through practical solutions and effective partnerships. This capacity continues to be a vital resource for the region, and one which I believe can be further enhanced through the implementation of this Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy.

**Sharyon Peart**  
Mallee CMA Board Chair

XXX (date approved by DELWP)



# Our Vision

The Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy (Mallee FMS) has adapted the vision from the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy to reflect the Victorian Mallee’s long term (50-year) aspirations for flood management.

Our vision:  
*‘The Mallee community understands flooding and actively manages its flood risks.’*

To further define strategic directions for flood management in the Mallee region and help guide priorities for action planning, four long term (>10 years) objectives have also been established.

- These objectives are:
- To support a flood resilient community;
  - To reduce existing flood risks;
  - To avoid future flood risks; and
  - To manage residual flood risks.

The Mallee FMS also demonstrates a direct link to the Mallee Regional Catchment Strategy (2013-19) in delivering against a strategic (6 year) action of the long term objective for Mallee Waterway Assets, specifically:

- Action 1.1.2: Review, update and implement the Mallee Floodplain Management Plan



Tyrrell Creek at Culgoa.





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# 1 Strategic Context

## 1.1 About the strategy

The Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy (FMS) provides a single, regional planning document for floodplain management and a high level regional work program to guide future investment priorities over the next ten years (2018-2028).

Developed in partnership with regional stakeholders, the Mallee FMS supports and focuses the coordinated effort of land managers, government agencies and the wider community; while building on past achievements and recognising future challenges.

### 1.1.1 Purpose and scope

The Mallee FMS will interpret and apply the policies, actions and accountabilities outlined in the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy (VFMS) (DELWP 2016) at the regional and local levels (See Figure 1).

The VFMS was informed by the Victorian Floods Review and the Parliamentary Environment and Natural Resources Committee Inquiry into Flood Management Infrastructure of the 2010-11 floods. This state-wide strategy sets out actions and policies that will help to implement the Victorian Government's response to those inquiries. It also clarifies institutional arrangements to ensure continual improvement in all aspects of floodplain management.

The Mallee FMS is the starting point for implementing the policies, actions and accountabilities of the VFMS to manage local flood risks. The main role of the regional strategy is to help all agencies with flood emergency management functions align their priorities in the form of a rolling three year regional implementation plan.

Within this context, the Mallee FMS will deliver against:

- State-wide strategic directions for floodplain management, as detailed by the 2016 VFMS
- Regional objectives and priorities for the management of natural, cultural and productive landscapes (particularly those that relate to floodplains), as detailed by the 2013-19 Mallee Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS)<sup>1</sup>

To achieve this, the Mallee FMS:

- Applies a regional assessment of flood risks across the region;
- Identifies potential actions to mitigate identified flood risks;
- Documents regional priorities for the next three years and associated responsibilities, timeframes and costs in a Regional Work Plan;
- Establishes a monitoring and evaluation framework to determine the success of implementing the Strategy; and

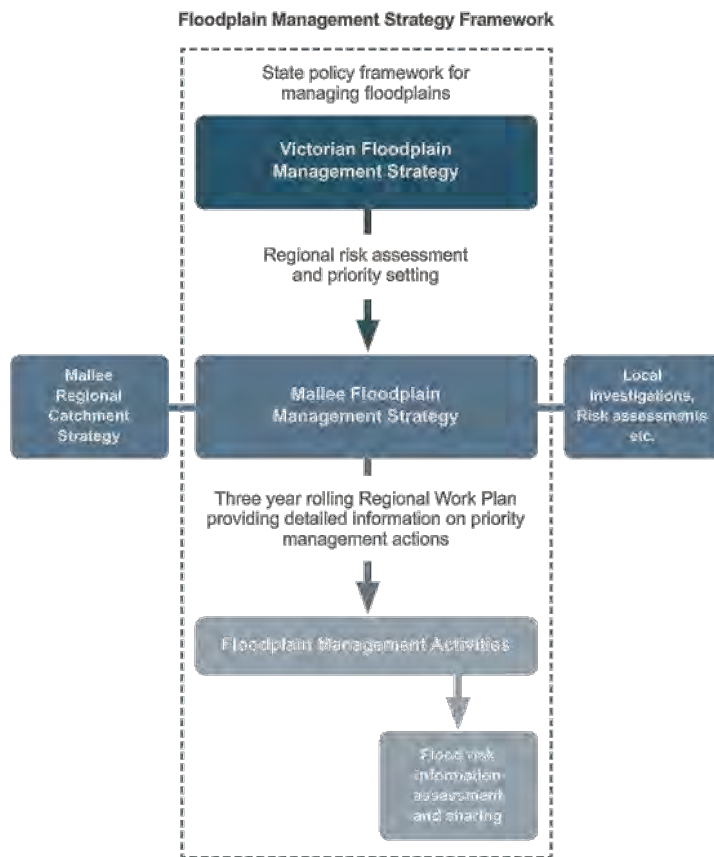


Figure 1 | Integrated Floodplain Management Planning Framework

<sup>1</sup> The 2013-19 Mallee RCS is the primary integrated planning framework for land, water and biodiversity management in the region.



Stormwater flooding in Cardross, 2011.

- Provides the framework for collaboration with cross boundary stakeholders (regional and state) for the management of floodplains and flood events.

### 1.1.2 History of the Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy

This 2018-28 Mallee FMS replaces the Mallee Regional Floodplain Strategy (MRFS) as the primary document to align the priorities of agencies with flood emergency management functions.

The MRFS was prepared as a requirement of the Victorian Government and was ministerially endorsed in March 2001.

A 2017 review of the MRFS found that 36 out of 39 actions were either completed or in progress. One action is ongoing, one action was not commenced and one action was partially completed.

Major achievements included:

- Comprehensive data collection, analysis and review of:
  - Levees and culverts
  - Development impacts on floodplains
  - Flood studies
  - Major flood events (mapped and maintained in a register)
  - Floodplain data
- Cooperation and communication with stakeholders:
  - Development of a formal process for landowners and stakeholders to realign, maintain or remove levees and/or culverts
  - Development of siting and design guidelines for pump sites
  - Circulation of floodplain information to local government bodies
  - Maintenance of relationships with local government organisations through regular meetings

- Establishment of floodplain development guidelines
- Installation of gauge boards in critical locations to improve flood warning distribution following 2011 flooding.

Risk management practices that were undertaken in the latter stage of strategy implementation included:

- Hydraulic modelling of 2009/2011 floods at Beulah and Culgoa to better identify flood risks;
- Assessment of the Robinvale levee;
- Regional input into the Review of 2010/2011 Flood Warnings & Response (Comrie Review);
- An update of 1% Annual Expenditure Probability Mapping;
- Management of a greater level of insurance enquiries in response to the 2011 flood events;
- Community engagement; and
- Development of a flood guide in response to the 2011 floods.

All risk management practices except the update of 1% AEP Mapping were implemented in response to flood events, and were deemed appropriate and effective for the events at the time.

The 2018-28 Mallee FMS builds on the outputs and outcomes achieved in the previous MRFS, and incorporates lessons learnt from the implementation of the previous strategy, specifically in regard to:

- **Planning** – To improve risk management practices in the future, the Strategy should provide for more frequent planning discussions to be conducted by relevant agencies (including cross border agencies) to both build and maintain relationships in between natural flooding events. Learnings from flood events need to be better incorporated into procedures, and properly documented to influence future actions;

- **Knowledge** – the Strategy should continue to be based on the best available information in order to provide confidence in investment and interventions;
- **Engagement** – facilitating a high level of regional understanding and ownership of the Strategy's purpose, objectives and priorities to provide the foundation for future implementation. Providing opportunities for all key stakeholders to have input into the Mallee FMS should be a key consideration in the development phase;
- **Accountability** – the Strategy should outline clear reporting mechanisms for evaluating and communicating the region's progress against long, medium and short term targets;
- **Feasibility** – the long, medium and short term targets detailed within the Strategy need to balance the region's ambitions for improved floodplain management and what is financially, physically and socially possible;
- **Partnerships** – collaborative arrangements between government, community, land owners and industry stakeholders have been a positive and rewarding feature of regional waterway management to date. The Strategy should continue to provide specific strategic support and encouragement for such arrangements;
- **Flexibility** – the Strategy should be sufficiently flexible and adaptable throughout its delivery timeframe to respond to changing conditions and circumstances; and
- **Relevance** – Formal reviews of the Strategy (e.g. mid-term review) are required to ensure it remains relevant and up to date with the latest information regarding flood events, accountabilities and key actions.

1 Strategic Context

1.2 Development of the Strategy

1.2.1 Development framework

The purpose of this regional strategy is to provide a single, regional planning document for floodplain management and a high level regional work plan to guide future investment priorities.

The development of the Mallee FMS has been led by the Mallee CMA, in partnership with stakeholders and the community.

A steering committee was established by the Mallee CMA, to guide the development of the Strategy. Membership on the steering committee included representatives from local government, Victorian State Emergency Service (VICSES), water authorities and the Mallee CMA.

- Key steps in the development of the Mallee FMS included:
- Establishing and applying regional objectives to ensure that all significant risks are captured;
  - Identifying both potential threats (hazards) and the causes of those threats;
  - Determining levels of risk by analysing both the impacts (consequences) and the probability/frequency (likelihood);
  - Making decisions about risk types that need treatment (intolerable, tolerable, acceptable) and treatment priorities; and
  - Documenting regional priorities for the next three years and associated responsibilities, timeframes and costs (Regional Work Plan).

1.2.2 Description of the approach to stakeholder engagement

The success of the Mallee FMS is dependent on meaningful and ongoing engagement with all stakeholders. Capturing the values, knowledge and aspirations of the region’s individuals, groups and organisations through the Mallee FMS development phase was a fundamental component of this process.

Figure 3 provides a summary of the communication and engagement framework employed in the development of the Mallee FMS. Key engagement activities conducted under this framework included media articles, workshops, surveys, email updates, and associated information resources. Further detail on activities delivered and the stakeholders engaged throughout the Mallee FMS development phase is provided in Appendix B.

- Through these activities a broad cross-section of the Mallee community provided valuable input into:
- The identification of regional and local scale flood risks and mitigation options;
  - The identification of existing flood mitigation strategies under two main themes: land use planning and flood mitigation infrastructure;

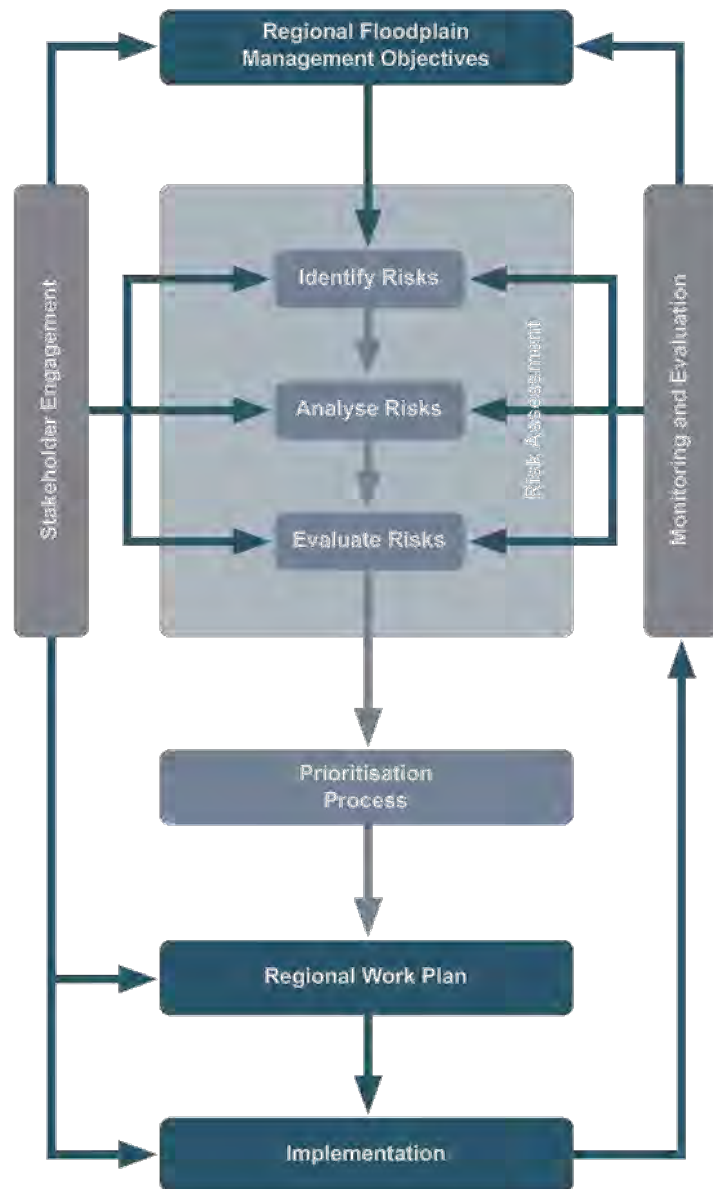


Figure 2 | Overview of the Mallee FMS development process



Flooded agriculture from stormwater, Red Cliffs, 2011.

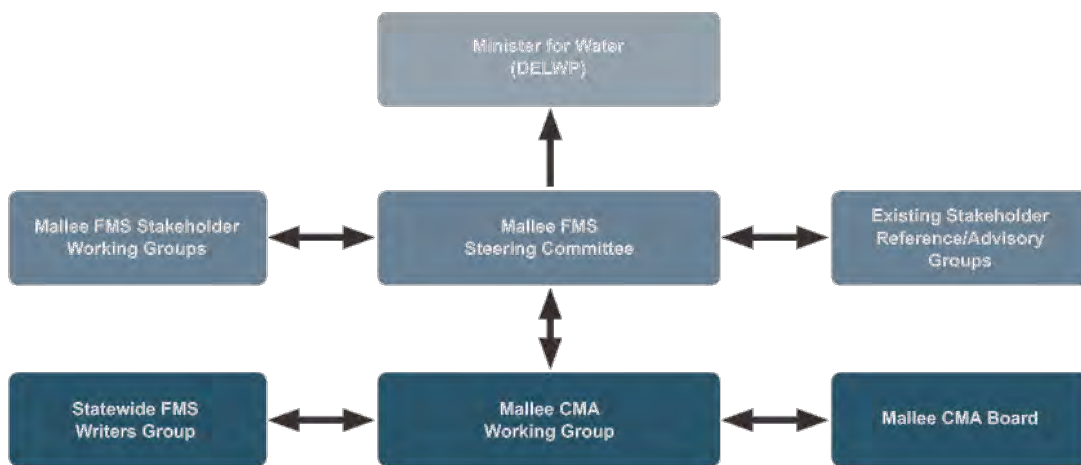


Figure 3 | Engagement mechanisms for the development of the Mallee FMS

- The prioritisation of floodplain management activities; and
- The evaluation of flood risks, including consideration of any existing service levels in place to mitigate flood risks, any gaps in service levels, the priority for consideration and the priority for action over the next three years.

A draft of the Mallee FMS was released for public comment in September 2017, with opportunities to provide feedback widely promoted. Comments were received on the draft at targeted workshops, through written submissions and personal communications (e.g. emails).

The final Mallee FMS was developed with consideration of the comments and feedback received throughout the consultation period.

Regional stakeholders will also be engaged throughout the Mallee FMS’s implementation and review phases. This ongoing consultation will utilise established partnership/engagement mechanisms as outlined in Figure 3.

### 1.3 Description of the region

The Mallee region covers 39,939km<sup>2</sup>, around one-fifth of Victoria. The largest catchment area in the state,

it runs along the Murray River from Nyah to the South Australian border and south through vast dryland cropping areas and public reserves. The Mallee region includes the entire Mildura Rural City Council municipality, plus portions of Swan Hill Rural City Council, Buloke Shire Council, Yarriambiack Shire Council, Hindmarsh Shire Council and small sections of West Wimmera Shire and Gannawarra Shire<sup>2</sup>.

The region is recognised nationally and internationally for the diversity and uniqueness of its natural, cultural and productive landscapes.

<sup>2</sup> As there are no significant waterways in the small areas of the West Wimmera and Gannawarra Shires that overlap with the Mallee region, these organisations were not included in the development of this strategy.

1 Strategic Context

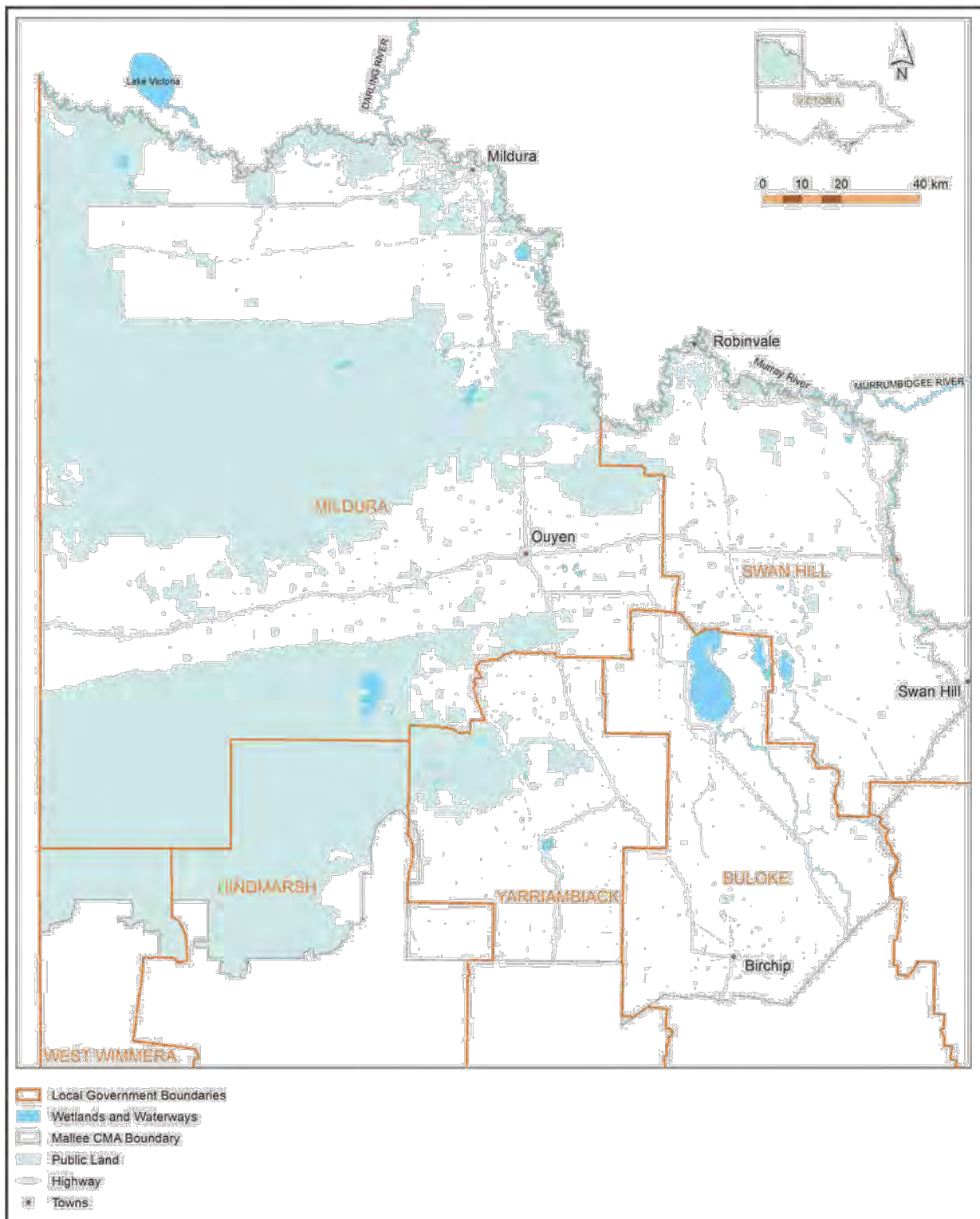


Figure 4 | The Mallee CMA region

**1.3.1 Cultural heritage**

The Mallee has been occupied for thousands of generations by Indigenous people with human activity dated as far back as 23,400 years ago. The region’s rich and diverse Indigenous heritage has been formed through the historical and spiritual significance of sites associated with this habitation, together with the strong connection Traditional Owners continue to have with the Mallee’s natural landscapes.

Given the semi-arid climate of the region, ready access to more permanent water has been a major determinant of human habitation, and as such the highest density of identified Indigenous cultural heritage sites are located around or close to areas of freshwater sources.

The Murray River and its associated waterways were important habitation areas for multiple Indigenous groups, containing many places of spiritual significance. The high number of Indigenous cultural heritage sites throughout the Murray floodplain is unique in Victoria, for both concentration and diversity. They

include large numbers of burial, middens and hunting sites.

In the south, waterways were focal points for the region’s Traditional Owners, with many lakes being the site for large gatherings of several social clan groups that afforded trade and cultural exchange.

**1.3.2 Exposure to flooding**

Flooding is a natural hazard in the Mallee region. Whether floods are caused by high rainfall, storms or inadequate drainage, they can severely disrupt communities by causing injury, loss of life, property damage, personal hardship, and disruptions to regional economies.

It is a question of when, not if, floods will occur. Fortunately, the location, the scale of effects and the probability of occurrence can be estimated with reasonable accuracy for a range of floods in the Mallee region.

Understanding flood behaviour enables us to assess the likely costs of flooding. It also enables us to assess the benefits of different

options for managing the community’s exposure to flood risk.

The variability of climate in the Mallee region ‘presents significant external risks’ (Mallee CMA 2013). Weather extremes are common, including drought, heavy frosts, hail, heat waves, high winds and flooding. The most recent flooding events include:

- the La Niña rains of 2010/11 summer which caused significant flooding and widespread damage;
- 2016 flooding in the Southern Creeks in September, which caused localised damage to crops and roads; and
- the 2016 Murray River flood event which peaked in the Mallee region in late November at the highest level recorded in over 20 years

The following figures show historic flooding along the Murray River and in the Southern Creeks in the Mallee region. See Section 5.3 for detail on flood class levels for each site. Appendix C provides further detail on the information in the following charts.

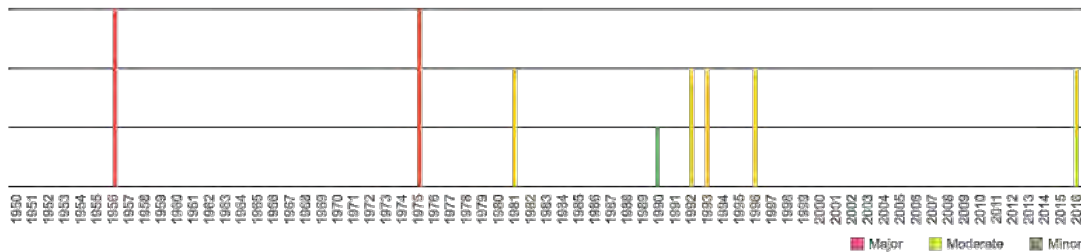


Figure 5 | Historic flooding, Murray River at Boundary Bend

The two largest recorded floods at Boundary Bend occurred in 1956, reaching a peak height of 56.63m Australian Height Datum (AHD), and 1975, reaching a peak height of 56.26m AHD.

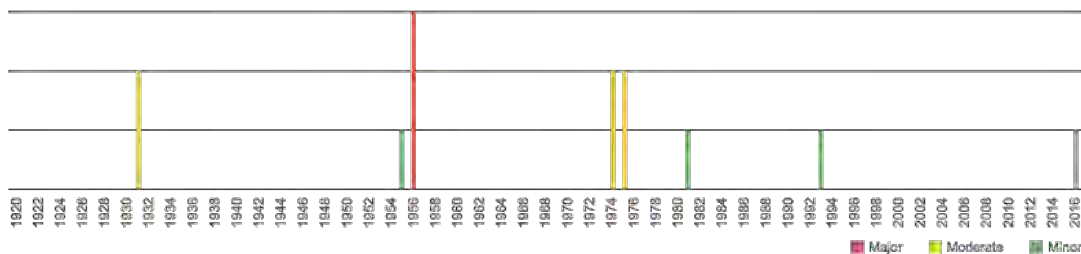


Figure 6 | Historic flooding, Murray river at Euston

The largest recorded flood at Euston occurred in 1956, reaching a peak height of 52.43m AHD.

1 Strategic Context

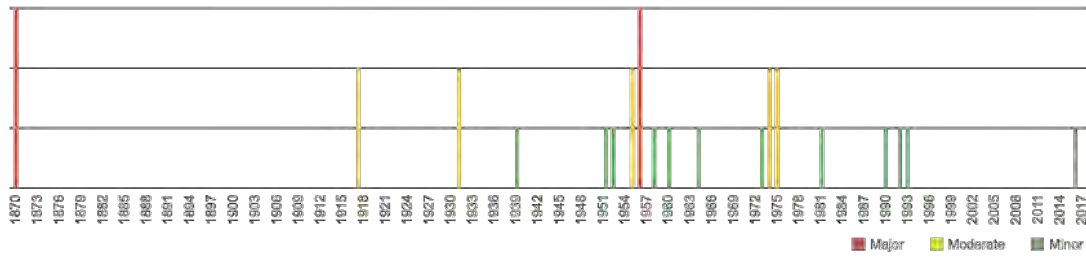


Figure 7 | Historic flooding, Murray River at Mildura

The two largest recorded floods at Mildura occurred in 1870, reaching a peak height of 39.29m AHD and in 1956, reaching a peak height of 39.26m AHD.

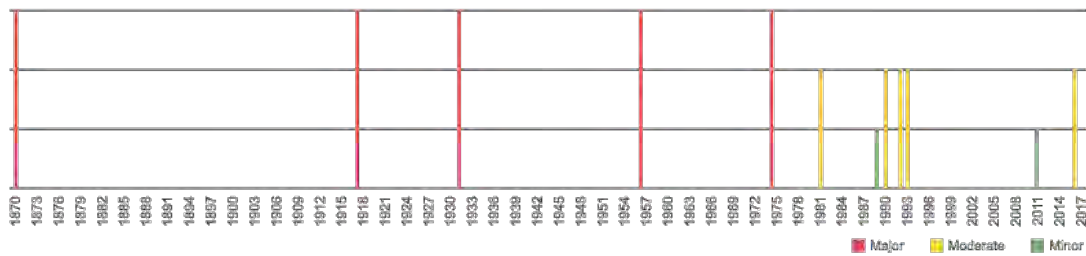


Figure 8 | Historic flooding, Murray River at Wentworth

The largest recorded flood at Wentworth occurred in 1956, reaching a peak height of 34.56m AHD.

Flood history in the Southern Creeks of the Mallee has limited records. As such, upstream gauges have been used to estimate flood classes, accompanied with other resources including testimonials and previous reports.

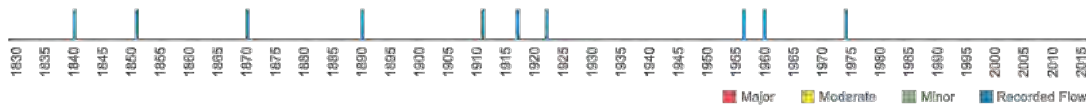


Figure 9 | Historic Flooding, Outlet Creek (southern Mallee)

For Outlet Creek to flow, Lake Albacutya must fill and overflow. This occurs irregularly, and has become less frequent since 1975. Reliable long-term data on actual inflows or water levels of Lake Albacutya does not exist. The data in the chart above has been collated from historical records based on incidental and anecdotal evidence (Cibilic & White 2010).

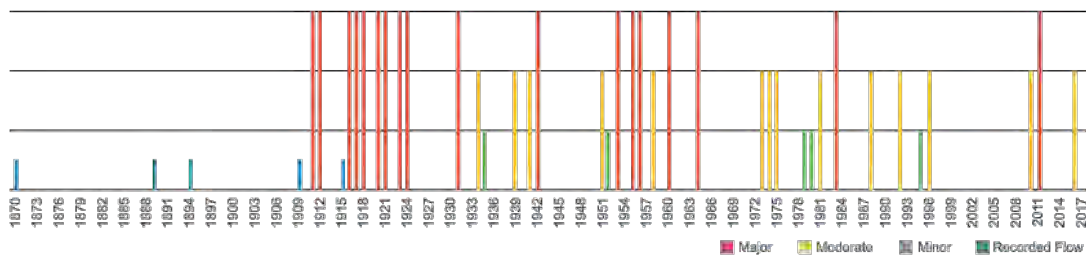


Figure 10 | Historic flooding, Yarriambiack Creek (southern Mallee)

Flooding in the Yarriambiack Creek is directly related to flooding in the Wimmera River. Flooding in the creek can also occur as a result of short duration, high intensity rain which causes localised flash flooding.



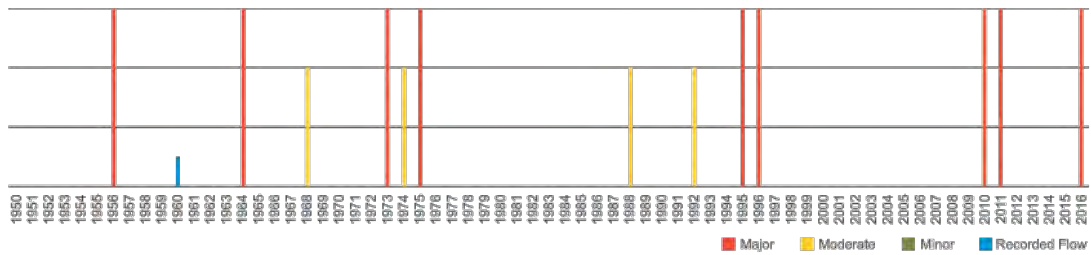


Figure 11 | Historic flooding, Tyrrell Creek (southern Mallee)

The Tyrrell Creek is ephemeral, only flowing after significant rainfall or flooding in the Avoca River. The 2011 flood event was the largest event in living memory in Culgoa.

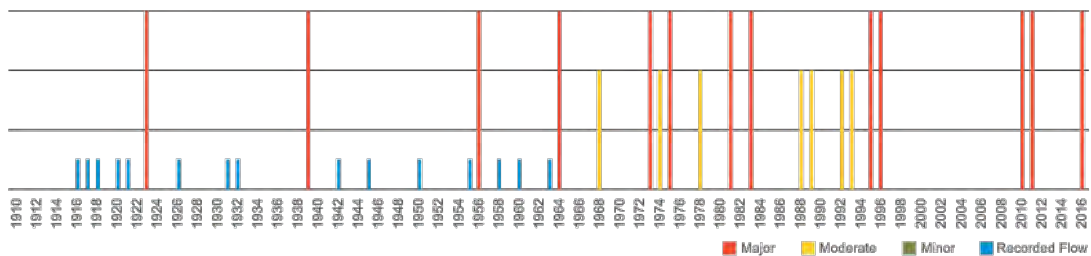


Figure 12 | Historic flooding, Lalbert Creek (southern Mallee)

Similarly to the Tyrrell Creek, the Lalbert Creek flows after significant rainfall or high flows in the Avoca River. The 2011 flood event was the first flow through the creek in around 15 years.

1.3.3 Climate change

The future climate of the Mallee region is projected to be warmer than it is today, with a higher frequency of hot days and longer durations of warm periods. Rainfall characteristics are expected to change with a shift towards more rain in the warmer months rather than during the cooler months; and increasing intensity of rainfall events. The frequency and duration of drought periods is also expected to increase and projected

changes to temperature and rainfall may result in harsher bushfire seasons. These will also be accompanied by changes in other weather and climate driven variables.

There is significant spatial variation in both temperature and rainfall in the Mallee region, with the north experiencing average maximum temperatures that are around two degrees warmer than the south, and the south receiving rainfall totals higher than those in the north-east.

Recent examples of weather extremes in the Mallee include the "Millennium Drought" and the La Niña rains of 2010/11 that caused significant flooding and widespread damage. Other weather extremes can occur in relation to frost, hail, temperature and wind events.



Beulah Weir on Yarrambiack Creek provides both flood mitigation and recreational benefits.

## 2 Assessment of regional flood risks

### 2.1 Overview

Flood risk is a combination of the likelihood of a flood occurring, the consequences when it does occur and the vulnerability of those affected.

Flood risks must be quantified to be able to rank their relative seriousness. This involves being able to measure:

- the probability of flood events;
- the population exposed to flood hazard; and
- the economic damage associated with different events.

The following sections detail the approach applied in identifying and prioritising flood risks in the Mallee region.

### 2.2 Key issues

#### 2.2.1 Limited ability to forecast flood impacts

The 2016 flood event along the Murray River, although only classified as a minor flood within the Mallee CMA region, was the first significant Murray River flood since Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) were established in 1997. While there is some flood data available for the Murray River within the CMA region, it is all based around the 1956 flood event which is considered the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood. Due to this limited data, predicted flood impacts along the Murray River were considerably inaccurate in some locations due to the difference between a 1% AEP and the estimated 5% event for 2016.

Similarly, contemporary modelling of various flood scenarios is required for Tyrrell and Lalbert Creeks in the southern Mallee to get a better understanding of how such events might impact on people in the future. This modelling should consider

increasing intensity of certain weather events and the changing nature of the landscapes through different farming methods, changing communities and built environments (e.g. channel decommissioning).

#### 2.2.2 Education and community engagement

It is recognised that the community has a desire for this information to be available. Ensuring the community is educated about this information is vital to ensuring people understand flood risk and take responsibility for their own protection.

There is a need for regional authorities to work together with VICSES to ensure education and engagement is coordinated and targeted to the greatest need.

Authorities will also ensure that local flood information is made available on websites so the community can access this information when needed.

#### 2.2.3 Cross-border flood management

The 2010-11 floods brought into focus long-standing issues about the lack of integration across state borders for the management of flood mitigation infrastructure. Border communities in both Victoria and New South Wales (NSW) expressed concerns that levees on one side had aggravated flood impacts on the other. They also had concerns that neither state was doing enough to share floodwaters and flood storage capacity through the integrated operation of regulators (Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy, DELWP 2016).

Cross-border issues are complex. Efforts to resolve these issues date back to 1910, when NSW and Victoria entered a formal Interstate Levees

Agreement. Centralised efforts to coordinate levee construction persisted, nominally at least, until 2008 when the Murray-Darling Basin Commission was abolished. They were not successful, partly because flood behaviour is more complex than envisaged more than a century ago (Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy, DELWP 2016).

For example, Mildura Rural City Council's submission to the "Inquiry into flood mitigation infrastructure in Victoria (2012)" raised concerns over the impact of existing levees and possible consequences from proposed levees and recommended that flood modelling should be on a "whole of floodplain basis". In the case of the Murray River, it was recommended flood modelling should include both the Victorian and NSW floodplains.

Similarly, floodplains that cross CMA boundaries should also be modelled and managed on a "whole of floodplain basis", in particular:

- Lalbert and Tyrrell Creeks – distributaries of the Avoca River originating in the North Central CMA
- Yarriambiack Creek – headwaters and upstream reaches originating in the Wimmera CMA.

#### 2.2.4 Stormwater

The impacts of urbanisation on the natural water cycle are many and varied. The most obvious is on rainfall run-off regimes and occurs because of alterations to land surfaces. Land clearing and the construction of impervious surfaces, such as roofs and paved areas, characterise urban development. Paved surfaces serve to limit and, in most cases, prevent infiltration of rainfall and dramatically reduce the attenuation and retention of surface flows. These two outcomes result in increased surface run-off volumes, increased peak flows and



Stormwater Flooding, Irymple 2011.

reduced times to peak flow (Mildura Stormwater Quality Improvement Plan, BMT WBM Pty Ltd 2009).

When surface runoff exceeds the capacity of an urban stormwater drainage system, stormwater flooding can occur.

In general, urban stormwater flooding risks arise from the legacy of previous drainage infrastructure design and planning practices. For example, the Sunraysia Drainage Strategy (SKM 2002) identified inadequate drainage infrastructure as a "driving issue" in meeting both existing and future short and long term urban stormwater runoff needs.

While the total amount of stormwater flooding will generally be less than from riverine flooding, stormwater flooding can cause just as much damage to an individual property as riverine flooding. It is the depth and velocity of water at each property which determines how destructive the flood waters are.

### 2.2.5 Rural drainage

Due to the relatively flat terrain of the Mallee and the scarcity of defined rural watercourses, there is limited scope for rural surface drainage infrastructure. Runoff from roads and rural properties following rainfall events tends to pond in localised areas and infiltrate through the soil profile.

Due to this lack of infrastructure, localised flooding has been highlighted as an important issue for some areas (e.g. the Sunraysia region).

DELWP is currently developing a rural drainage strategy that will provide strategic guidance for matters relating to rural drainage. This will include consideration of clearing a stream of debris or sediment that may have multiple benefits (e.g. flood mitigation,

rural drainage and waterway management) and involve the same activities and potential costs (Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy, DELWP 2016).

### 2.2.6 Channel decommissioning

High levels of evaporation and seepage from the Wimmera Mallee Domestic and Stock Channel System were key motivators for the regional push for a piped supply system, which led to the construction of the Northern Mallee Pipeline and the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline.

With the pipeline in operation, Grampians Wimmera Mallee (GWM) Water instigated a channel decommissioning program to eliminate large open channels from the landscape. This program was completed in 2014. However, full decommissioning remains incomplete with many smaller channels and structures still in place.

As some of the channels have been in place for longer than 80 years, it is unclear whether they mitigate or amplify flood risks.

### 2.2.7 Informal levees

The Mallee region has an existing ad-hoc series of largely unmaintained levees. These levees were constructed to protect various land uses including residential, agricultural, recreational and sewerage reserves. Historical records indicate that parts of the levee system have failed in recent major flood events.

In addition, during the 2010-11 flood events many new levees appeared which were not constructed to suitable standards, or in consideration of the broader floodplain context.

There were several examples of individuals protecting their own assets, but not understanding their potential liability due to the effect of their actions on others within the floodplain. For example, the concentration of flood flows by a levee system creating increased flooding for other parties.

### 2.2.8 Climate change

Victoria's weather and climate can change in response to a wide range of natural and human factors. Recent experience highlights the challenges posed to floodplain management by Victoria's climate. The prolonged drought from 1997 to 2009 was the worst on record. It was followed by severe floods in western and northern Victoria particularly during spring and summer in 2010-12 (Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy, DELWP 2016).

Estimates of the probability of a flood of a given magnitude occurring or being exceeded will change if the flood regime is altered. This could shift the likelihood and consequence of floods in different parts of Victoria (Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy, DELWP 2016).

These issues must be considered when assessing and treating flood risk.

## 2.3 Existing flood risk treatments

### 2.3.1 Planning scheme controls

The objectives of planning in Victoria are set out in the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act). The purpose of the Act is to establish a framework for planning the use, development and protection of land in Victoria in the present and long-term interests of all Victorians. The Act does not remove an applicant's responsibility

## 2 Assessment of regional flood risks

to apply for any authorisation or permission necessary under any other Act with respect to anything authorised by the permit. Any applicant proposing to undertake an activity must comply with any other legal obligation with respect to the proposed activity, such as those that protect Aboriginal cultural heritage under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* or restrict the removal of native vegetation.

### State Planning Policy Framework

The Victorian planning policy for floodplains (Clause 13.02) provides the broad framework for the integration of flood policy and provisions into planning schemes. It brings together various strands of policy and strategic planning from all areas of government that have a bearing on floodplain management. It also aims to provide consistency in planning controls for flood affected areas of the state.

The objective of the State Planning Policy for floodplain management is to assist in the protection of:

- life, property and community infrastructure from flood hazard;
- the natural flood-carrying capacity of rivers, streams and floodways;
- the flood storage function of floodplains and waterways; and
- floodplain areas of environmental significance or of importance to river health.

The policy states that flood risk must be considered in the preparation of planning schemes and in land use decisions, so as to avoid intensifying the impact of flooding through inappropriately located uses and developments. It also states that land affected by flooding should be shown on planning scheme maps and recognises that land affected by flooding is land inundated by the 1-in-100-year flood event or as determined by the floodplain management authority.

### Planning schemes

The Act provides for a single instrument of planning control for each municipality, which is referred to as the planning scheme. The planning scheme sets out the way land may be used or developed. It is a legal document, prepared and approved under the Act. It contains state and local planning policies, zones and overlays and other provisions that

affect how land can be used and developed.

Each of the four local government areas in the Mallee region is covered by a planning scheme.

Planning schemes include maps that show how the land is zoned (e.g. residential, industrial or rural) and any planning controls (overlays) affecting the land. Specific zones and overlays relevant to floodplain management are described below:

- *Urban Floodway Zone (Clause 37.03 and schedule)*. This zone is applied to urban land where the primary function of the land is to carry or store floodwater. It applies to high hazard areas with high flow velocities, where impediment of flood water can cause significant changes in flood flows and adversely affect flooding in other areas.
- *Floodway Overlay (Clause 44.03 and schedule)*. This overlay is applied to urban and rural land identified as part of an active floodway, or to a high hazard area with high flow velocities, where impediment of flood water can cause significant changes in flood flows and adversely affect other areas.
- *Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (Clause 44.04 and schedule)*. This overlay applies to land in either rural or urban areas that is subject to inundation, but is not part of the primary floodway.
- *Special Building Overlay (Clause 44.05 and schedule)*. This overlay applies to urban land that is subject to overland flow resulting from stormwater flooding where the capacity of the drainage system is exceeded during heavy rainfall. This land is not part of a primary floodway from a river or stream.

### Applying the Flood Provisions in Planning Schemes

The nature of the flood risk and the type of flood information available will determine how and to what extent the flood provisions are applied in the planning scheme.

The flood zone and overlay provisions ensure that the use and development of land subject to inundation is made compatible with the level of flood risk through the planning permit process.

The Mallee CMA provides advice to agencies and the public that encourages appropriate development and reduces the impacts of flooding on life, property and infrastructure. Information includes:

- General flood advice for property owners or potential property buyers. Advice may include the likelihood of flooding, or any restrictions for development on land.
- 1% AEP (the 100-year flood) level for a location.
- Likely conditions for a proposed development.
- Overlays or zoning on land and their implications with regards to flooding.

It should be noted that the flood provisions in planning schemes do not address the cause of flooding, but the way future land use and development will impact on the flooding problem or be impacted themselves by flooding. The cause needs to be dealt with by separate means. This may include other actions of council and/or the floodplain management authority, such as flood mitigation measures, that may be linked to a corporate plan or a floodplain management strategy (DELWP 2015<sup>3</sup>).

### 2.3.2 Structural flood mitigation infrastructure

A number of structural measures are used to mitigate the effects of flooding, including levees, channel modifications, bypass floodways, retention basins, dams and floodgates. Collectively, these measures are referred to as flood mitigation infrastructure (DELWP 2016).

Within the Mallee region, the majority of structural works that perform flood mitigation functions are in the form of levees.

When appropriately designed and maintained, flood mitigation infrastructure can be a useful tool in reducing or minimising existing flood risks. However, across Victoria, most flood mitigation infrastructure is not being formally managed. A 2004 audit of urban levees surrounding Mildura (Price Merrett Consulting 2004<sup>4</sup>) revealed ad-hoc management arrangements as the levees were originally constructed at relatively short notice of impending floods, with little consideration given to the

3 [https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/11538/PPN12-Applying-the-Flood-Provisions-in-Planning-Schemes\\_June-2016.pdf](https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/11538/PPN12-Applying-the-Flood-Provisions-in-Planning-Schemes_June-2016.pdf)



Ring levee at Culgoa, 2011.

engineering associated with the levee, its location, alignment and longevity.

In these cases, it is assumed that the infrastructure is privately managed (or not managed at all). A likely consequence of this is that the flood mitigation infrastructure will deteriorate and may be liable to failure during a flood, providing very little, if any, protection to those areas originally intended to be protected by the levees. This may, in turn, impact on emergency management planning and land use planning.

For example, DELWP (2016) states that where there is flood mitigation infrastructure that is not being formally managed:

- the relevant municipal planning scheme must not assume that the infrastructure will provide flood protection; and
- the relevant Municipal Flood Emergency Plan must provide for the potential for sudden and complete failure of that infrastructure.

Flood mitigation infrastructure that is not currently subject to formal management arrangements will remain that way unless the relevant Local Government Area (LGA) determines that the infrastructure should be brought into formal management arrangements through a Water

Management Scheme or other appropriate arrangements.

This would involve consideration of:

- the current governance arrangements;
- the costs and benefits of restoring the infrastructure (if required) to a reasonable standard of protection;
- the costs of ongoing management and maintenance;
- the costs and benefits of alternative solutions; and
- the community's willingness to pay.

Where the benefits of a particular rural levee do not meet Government investment criteria (and therefore would not be managed through a formal Water Management Scheme), there may be individuals who still see a benefit in that levee and wish to maintain it themselves. Where the levee is on private land, it will be for the beneficiaries to negotiate with landholders about management arrangements. Landholders opting to jointly manage their own scheme may request local government assistance, on terms negotiated directly between the local government and the group. DELWP will work with local governments to determine how these arrangements could work.

Where the levee is on Crown land, a new permit scheme created by

legislation in 2014 means beneficiaries are able to maintain that levee themselves. Previously, if they wanted to maintain the levee they needed to seek a variety of Crown land manager approvals and, in some instances, to have approval from multiple land managers, some of whom did not have the power to give any approval at all. Under the new scheme, people will only need a single permit from their local CMA DELWP (2016).

Permit holders will be authorised to access the Crown land and maintain the levee in accordance with conditions on the permit. Permit holders will not be authorised to change the levee's original location, height and width, build a new levee or remove an old one, as this could affect third parties. CMAs and land managers, such as DELWP and Parks Victoria, will set reasonable conditions on the permit to minimise the impact of maintenance activities on Crown land values. In most instances, a person holding a Crown land levee maintenance permit will not be required to also apply for a permit under the relevant municipal planning scheme. Nonetheless, their maintenance activities must comply with other legal obligations, such as those that protect Aboriginal cultural heritage.

4 Price Merrett Consulting (2004). Mildura Rural City Council Urban Levee Audit

## 2 Assessment of regional flood risks

### 2.3.3 Total Flood Warning System services

The goal of flood warnings is to help flood management agencies and the members of flood-prone communities to understand the nature of developing floods so that they can take action to mitigate flood impacts. To achieve this goal, flood warning systems must be established and operated (Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience, 2009<sup>5</sup>).

A flood warning system is made up of a number of components which must be integrated if the system is to operate effectively. The components of a 'total flood warning system' (TFWS) are:

- Monitoring of rainfall and river flows that may lead to flooding;
- Prediction of flood severity and the time of onset of particular levels of flooding;
- Interpretation of the prediction to determine the likely flood impacts on the community;
- Construction of warning messages describing what is happening and will happen, the expected impact and what actions should be taken;
- Dissemination of warning messages;
- Response to the warnings by the agencies involved and community members; and
- Review of the warning system after flood events.

A preliminary assessment of TFWS services for at-risk locations in the Mallee region (Cawood 2017<sup>6</sup>) has been completed for this strategy.

### 2.3.4 Municipal Flood Emergency Plans

VICSES is responsible for the community education and awareness that underpins flood preparedness. This includes facilitating the preparation of Municipal Flood Emergency Plans (MFEPs) with support from the relevant LGA (DELWP 2016).

The purpose of an MFEP is to detail agreed arrangements for the planning, preparedness/ prevention, response and recovery from flood incidents within a municipality. The objective of an MFEP is to ensure a coordinated response by all agencies having

responsibilities and functions in emergencies (EMV 2016<sup>7</sup>), including:

- Flood risk assessments, for all types of possible flood events (available flood intelligence);
- Flood monitoring data (data collection);
- Existing flood mitigation measures and their management;
- Community education and engagement;
- Flood warning and emergency information;
- Community flood guides.

In the Mallee region, the following MFEPs (and related plans) are currently available:

- Buloke Municipal Flood Emergency Plan;
- Mildura Rural City Council Municipal Flood Emergency Plan;
- Swan Hill Rural City Council Municipal Flood Emergency Plan;
- Robinvale Local Flood Guide;
- Yarriambiack Shire Council Flood Response Plan.

## 2.4 Regional risk assessment process

Like other natural resource management issues, there will always be more actions identified to mitigate flood impacts than resources (money, time, people) available. Additionally, the existing planning and funding cycles of delivery agencies may not align with some actions (at least in the short term). As such, a priority setting process is required to identify strategic actions that can be:

- Delivered in the short-term (over the next three years) using currently available resources; and
- Planned and delivered in the mid to long-term to maximise return on investments.

The key steps to assessing flood risk in the Mallee region involved:

- 1 Dividing the region into manageable sub-regions (management units);
- 2 Determining risk levels for each management unit (using a rapid assessment methodology); and
- 3 Refining the risk levels (by considering risks to community infrastructure).

### 2.4.1 Step 1 - management units

The Mallee region consists of several catchments (e.g. the Murray River, Tyrrell Creek, Little Yarriambiack Creek) with a varied mix of urban and rural areas with differing characteristics. It was therefore considered sensible to define smaller sub regions (or management units) to allow flood risks to be assessed in a manageable and systematic way.

For the Mallee FMS, the approach used to define management units involved:

- separating urban flooding from rural flooding;
- dividing rural flooding into practical management units where the assets at risk were comparable; and
- aligning management units to LGA boundaries.

This approach resulted in the Mallee region being divided into:

- 57 urban management units, and
- 30 rural management units.

These units are shown in Figure 13 and detailed in Appendix A: Relative risk assessment outputs.

<sup>5</sup> <https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/1664/manual-21-flood-warning.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Cawood, M. (2017). Total Flood Warning System Assessment Tool. Application to the Mallee CMA area. Report to Mallee Catchment Management Authority

<sup>7</sup> <http://files.portel.com.vic.gov.au/rctdocs/EMK-01.19-SERP-FloodSubplan.pdf>

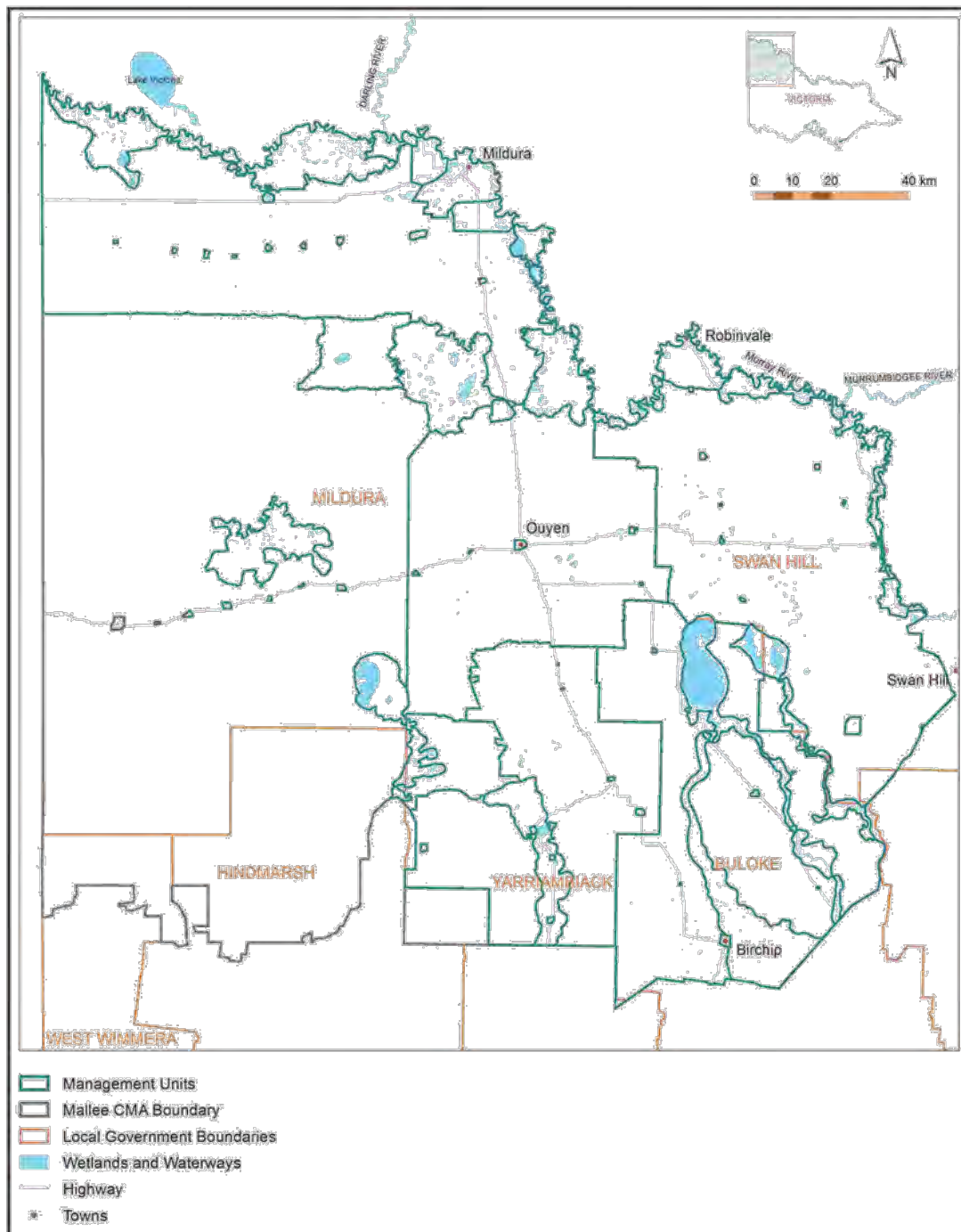


Figure 13 | This map illustrates the number and distribution of management units in the Mallee along with the various local government boundaries.

2 Assessment of regional flood risks



Train traversing flooded Murray River, Mildura, circa 1924. Credit: Museum Victoria

2.4.2 Step 2 - rapid risk assessment

The purpose of this step was to quantify and compare the relative flood risk (riverine and stormwater) for each management unit by applying DELWP’s rapid appraisal of flood risk methodology. This methodology is ‘fit for purpose’ and produces a relative measure of risk associated with agriculture, property, buildings, and emergency services.

For each management unit, flood damages were assessed and presented using three risk metrics:

- 1 Absolute damage - Average Annual Damages (AAD). This risk metric measures the absolute size of the flood risk.
- 2 Town resilience - the average annual population affected (AAPA) divided by the town population. This risk metric measures the proportion of the town that is flooded.
- 3 Damage density - flood risk calculated as average annual damage (AAD) divided by the flood extent for the 1% AEP event. This risk metric measures the density of damage

The flood metrics were presented on a 1 to 6 scale, where 1 is low risk and 6 is extreme risk (a 0 reflects no available data).

The management units with the highest relative flood risk are presented in Tables 1 and 2. Risk assessment outputs for all management units are presented in Appendix A.

Table 1 | Urban management units identified as having significant flood risks

No.	Name	LGA
2	Beulah	Yarriambiack
8	Nullawil	Buloke
9	Culgoa	Buloke
26	Robinvale	Swan Hill
29	Wood Wood	Swan Hill
30	Piangil	Swan Hill
32	Ouyen	Mildura
42	Murrayville	Mildura
45	Red Cliffs	Mildura
46	Mildura	Mildura

Table 2 | Rural management units identified as having significant flood risks

No.	Name	LGA
62	Karadoc RWS Unit	Mildura
71	Tyrrell RWS Unit	Buloke
82	Buloke LGA Central	Buloke
83	Buloke LGA East	Buloke

2.4.3 Step 3 - risk refinement

The results from the rapid appraisal provide a relative ranking of flood risk across all management units and can be used to inform flood risk management decisions. However, it should be acknowledged that the methodology is not designed to be an absolute assessment of flood risk.

In addition to the risks identified through Step 2, a number of local risks were also considered to refine the risk levels for each management unit.

Key stakeholders from across the region were invited to participate at a workshop on 6 December 2016 to identify additional flood risks under the following categories:

- Community infrastructure. This category can be defined as infrastructure that is essential for the ongoing functioning of local communities. Such infrastructure can include premises, assets, goods or social systems. It can exist at the town scale, locality scale or possibly the whole of region scale. It is infrastructure that is relied upon by residents, businesses and industry on a day to day basis.
- At-risk populations. This category considered populations who may have additional needs before, during and after a flood (e.g. hospitals, nursing homes, disability support services, kindergartens, pre-schools).
- Areas of high-risk to life. This category considered areas where floodwaters are likely to cause a significant risk to life (e.g. floodways with high flood velocities or flood water depths).
- Other risks (e.g. areas with minimal or no flood hazard data (extent, depth, duration) or areas earmarked for new developments).

Using a series of A0 maps of the region overlaid with the 1% AEP flood extent, workshop participants located important infrastructure where either the infrastructure or its access was within this flood extent.



Including these additional risks in the risk assessment process ensured that an appropriate risk category was allocated to each management unit.

## 2.5 Priority risk areas

The regional risk assessment process identified 12 priority risk areas for the Mallee region. These risk areas are presented in Tables 3 to 6 (by municipality) and include the areas' location (urban or rural), flood type (riverine or stormwater) and summary of flood risks.



Road damage caused by Tyrrell Creek flooding, Culgoa 2011.

**Table 3 |** Priority risk areas within the Mildura Rural City Council boundary

No.	Name	Location	Flood Type	Flood Risk
32	Ouyen	urban	stormwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate drainage of the Matheson St, Ritchie St, Emmett St and Mitchell St catchment area.</li> <li>Flooding issue at the Mallee Deli Shop - runoff water over the kerb (front) and channel and overland flow (rear).</li> <li>Inadequate drainage capacity of existing swale along Farrell Street.</li> <li>Reduced flow capacity in side entry pits and box culverts under Farrell St (Calder Highway).</li> </ul>
42	Murrayville	urban	stormwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water ponding in front of shops along Mallee Highway.</li> <li>Flooding of the Murrayville Hotel by runoff water from Milde Lane. Other business owners along the section of the Mallee Highway have to sandbag their back doors to avoid flooding.</li> <li>Capacity of existing kerb and channel drainage along Reed Street and Sharrock Street.</li> <li>Capacity and safety of grated pits and culverts under the Mallee Highway near Reed Street and the Murrayville Hotel.</li> <li>Condition and capacity of formed and unformed swales and culverts used to direct runoff from the Mallee Highway to Recreation Road.</li> </ul>
45	Red Cliffs	urban	stormwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Older township.</li> <li>Stormwater system utilises decommissioned irrigation infrastructure (not specifically designed for stormwater management).</li> </ul>
46	Mildura	urban	stormwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council currently cleaning and inspecting existing network.</li> <li>New infrastructure is required for new developments (e.g. pipes, detention basins).</li> </ul>
46	Mildura	urban	riverine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited ability to forecast flood impacts – flood information is based on the 1956 flood event.</li> </ul>
62	Karadoc RWS Unit	rural	riverine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to properties can be disrupted for up to six weeks during river flooding.</li> </ul>

**Table 4 |** Priority risk areas within the Buloke Shire Council boundary

No.	Name	Location	Flood Type	Flood Risk
8	Nullawil	urban	stormwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drainage improvement works required at Nullawil North Road and Bart Street.</li> <li>Shire has completed preliminary design plans and quantities/estimates to resolve urban drainage issues.</li> </ul>
9	Culgoa	urban	riverine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flood study completed - overflow from Avoca at Charlton.</li> <li>Cannot predict flood timing and height at Culgoa.</li> </ul>
71	Tyrrell RWS Unit	rural	riverine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing flood study does not account for recent irrigation channel decommissioning OR the impact of informal levees (as experienced in 2010/11 flood events).</li> <li>Not all flood mapping in planning scheme.</li> </ul>
72	Lalbert RWS Unit			
82	Buloke LGA Central			
83	Buloke LGA East			

## 2 Assessment of regional flood risks

**Table 5 | Priority risk areas within the Swan Hill Rural City Council boundary**

No.	Name	Location	Flood Type	Flood Risk
26	Robinvale	urban	riverine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a high risk from rain events due to all drainage systems being gravity leading to floodwater becoming trapped behind the current levee.</li> <li>This leads to flooding in low sections of the town.</li> <li>There are design concepts completed to resolve this issue.</li> </ul>
29	Wood Wood	urban	riverine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The likelihood of a flood event impacting Wood Wood is low but possible (with a low number of properties impacted).</li> <li>Limited ability to forecast flood impacts – flood information is based on the 1956 flood event.</li> </ul>
30	Piangil	urban	riverine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The likelihood of a flood event impacting Piangil is very low (e.g. the river would need to be at a high level to impact the town however, if the highway was overtopped, there would be extensive damage to properties).</li> <li>Limited ability to forecast flood impacts – flood information is based on the 1956 flood event.</li> </ul>

**Table 6 | Priority risk areas within the Yarriambiack Shire Council boundary**

No.	Name	Location	Flood Type	Flood Risk
2	Beulah	urban	riverine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2007 flood study revealed floodwater from Little Yarriambiack Creek would enter township (with 4-5 houses flooded above floor level).</li> <li>Prior to the 2011 flood, the shire in partnership with local landholders built a small (1ft) levee to protect houses and buildings (east bank of creek).</li> <li>There is normally an 11-12 day lead time to prepare for flooding.</li> <li>Flood risk is higher if flooding is from a local storm event i.e. lack of time to prepare.</li> </ul>



Yarriambiack Creek in flood, 2011.

## 3 Regional Works Plan

The information from Part 2 of this strategy was used to determine priority actions for managing flood risks in the Mallee region. These particular actions were given priority because:

- i. The Regional Risk Assessment identified a significant risk of flooding for the location;
- ii. The existing risk treatments for the location are considered inadequate;
- iii. Additional risk treatment(s) are available and achievable in the short term (e.g. the next three years); and
- iv. Additional risk treatment(s) are financially, socially and environmentally feasible.

Flood risks and priority actions for the region and each municipality are summarised in the following sections. This information has been derived from a number of sources, including the relevant MFEP, flood studies, current funding applications, community engagement and discussions with local government authorities (LGAs) and VICSES.

### 3.1 Region-wide priority actions

#### 3.1.1 Background

The Mallee is home to over 61,000 people. The largest centre is Mildura and its surrounds (Irymple, Merbein and Red Cliffs). Other population centres of the region include Robinvale, Ouyen, Sea Lake, Hopetoun, Murrayville and Birchip. Population growth is uneven across the region, with strong growth in urban Mildura, matched by parallel losses in smaller communities.

There are approximately 1,600 km of waterways and associated floodplains in the Mallee region including the Murray River, approximately 555 km

of Murray River anabranches and tributaries, Tyrrell and Lalbert Creeks, Outlet Creek and Yarriambiack Creek.

#### 3.1.2 Identified flood risks

##### *Flood data and information*

Flood data including hydrographic records and flood impacts in the Mallee is difficult to find and inconsistent in quality. The lack of high quality data regarding historic events presents difficulties for emergency response agencies in predicting the impact of flood events.

Existing flood studies proved valuable during the 2010/11 flood event; however, there was inconsistent coverage of the affected areas. Furthermore, any minor or major landscape changes made after the study was completed significantly reduced the accuracy of the flood mapping.

To mitigate these issues, flood studies need to be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect changes in the nature of the floodplain and to include the community to ensure they understand the principles for any flood protection works.

Detailed flood studies should utilise Geographic Information System (GIS) data including Light Detection and Radar (LiDAR) that provides data for Digital Elevation Modelling (DEM) and satellite/aerial imagery to provide predictions of possible flooding extents and flood contours to help inform flood prediction and emergency response.

##### *Cultural heritage*

Floods and floodplain management activities can present risks to Aboriginal cultural heritage. Past flood events have resulted in damage to significant sites through prolonged inundation, soil erosion, and mitigation works.

Regional flood assessments, local flood studies and flood mitigation works must take into account culturally significant places, sites and landscapes.

The Aboriginal Heritage Register is an invaluable resource, but Traditional Owners have a much broader information base about Aboriginal cultural heritage than is available to government. It is essential to consult with Traditional Owners and local Aboriginal communities in assessing and mapping flood risks.

##### *Structural flood mitigation infrastructure*

Across the Mallee region, local councils own most levees protecting townships; however, the ownership and maintenance of rural levees is ambiguous and requires government clarification and accurate flood mapping to determine their value. The Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy (2016) states that any flood mitigation infrastructure that is not being formally managed should not be recognised as being functional in Municipal Planning Schemes, and MFEPs must consider the potential for sudden and complete failure of that infrastructure.

During the 2010/11 flood events the majority of the pre-existing rural levees were found to be in poor condition and many new levees appeared which were not constructed to suitable standards, or in consideration of the broader floodplain context.

To minimise the potential of this occurring in the future there needs to be consideration of the principle that beneficiaries should bear the cost of the construction and maintenance of flood mitigation works, including public assets.

Consideration should also be given to roads and decommissioned channels to determine if they are mitigating or amplifying flood risks.

### 3 Regional Works Plan

Regular updating of LIDAR would improve assessments of levee development on the floodplain by enabling modelling of their impact at a catchment scale. This data would significantly enhance the review of flood studies and ensure that alterations to flood passage are being regularly captured and analysed.

#### **Flood warnings**

Flood warnings provide communities and emergency management agencies with information about when flooding may occur, its likely impacts and what to do to reduce damages.

There are a number of gauges across the Mallee to assist with flood predictions, and modelling at various locations is based on historic readings from these sites. However, many of these gauges are old and require maintenance and updating. The 2010/11 flood events also highlighted locations where a number of additional gauges would greatly assist flood modelling and predictions.

Stream gauges have also proved to be unreliable in some cases where they malfunctioned, as flood peaks passed due to the accumulation of debris in flood waters and minimal maintenance over the 14-15 years of drought during late 1990s-early 2000s.

There is a need for old gauges to be renewed, including both AHD elevation and height from bottom of the river/stream bed. The installation of height gauges at new sites is also required to assist with flood predictions and modelling.

Strategically placed automated gauging stations that are able to provide real-time data (telemetry) to the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), incident control centres and the community would allow for more informed and timely decision making. To ensure this capability exists during times of flood, funding and resources need to be made available on an ongoing basis to provide for maintenance and upkeep.

#### **Land use planning**

Planning scheme controls include measures such as minimum floor levels, minimum fill levels, land zoning based on flood hazard, building requirements such as material types and structural integrity, and access and egress requirements.

Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) is the mechanism currently in place in parts of municipal areas to identify land in an area affected by a 1% AEP flood. The overlay does not only protect potential development from flood impacts, but also aims to ensure that infrastructure does not cause a rise in flood level or flow velocity. The overlay also seeks to maintain or improve river and wetland health.

The current flood mapping available in the region is based on historical information that is not accurate. The availability and incorporation of new flood data/mapping into the planning scheme is critical to managing flood risks. Inaccurate flood mapping could obstruct town growth and give a false sense of security to communities.

Other region-wide land use planning issues include:

- Negative environmental impacts (native veg removal, developments, effluent disposal etc.) on floodplains and rivers caused by inappropriate developments;
- Establishing the current floodplain uses (what land uses are located in the floodplains);
- Ensuring the right overlay and zone controls are used. There is the LSIO but also the more serious Floodway Overlay control, and for exceptional areas the Urban Flood Zone, so it is important the most suitable controls are used; and
- Including Insurance Council Australia in any mapping change proposals.

#### **Emergency management**

Currently there are significant gaps in flood intelligence information for the whole Murray River region, from Nyah to the South Australian border. No flood studies have been undertaken and these are needed to generate detailed flood intelligence that would be invaluable to guide decisions when undertaking response activities during flood events.

Specific flood studies are needed for Mildura, Red Cliffs, Robinvale and Nyah. Undertaking these studies would provide detailed flood information such as damage to buildings, flood depths, travel times, time to inundation of roads, people isolated at a range of flood magnitudes, impact to school bus routes etc.

Access to this information would greatly improve community confidence in flood response activities and enable the VICSES to better support the community.

#### **3.1.3 Priority actions**

Based on the above, the following region-wide priority actions have been identified:

##### **Flood data and information**

- Undertake a detailed Murray River flood study (including stormwater modelling, where appropriate to investigate various riverine and stormwater flooding scenarios for different flood magnitudes).
- Develop a community flood portal with an interactive reporting functionality which allows a user to search for a particular address, obtain a property report and visually identify flood information related to that address.
- Support the BoM and regional monitoring partnerships in the renewal of old gauges, including both AHD elevation and height from bottom of the waterway.
- Develop processes to share data with cross border (regional, further upstream and state) agencies.

##### **Cultural heritage**

- Work to incorporate Aboriginal cultural heritage values in emergency management planning and response activities via consultation with Aboriginal Victoria and other relevant stakeholders.
- Consult with Traditional Owners when floodplain management activities are carried out.

##### **Structural flood mitigation infrastructure**

- Undertake a LIDAR survey to identify and map all flood mitigation infrastructure (e.g. levees, channels, roads), which alters the flow of flood water within the region, with detailed assessment of infrastructure as required/where relevant.
- Investigate the positive and negative flood impacts presented by road infrastructure and decommissioned channels.
- Undertake three yearly LIDAR updates across the broader landscape at appropriate scales for future flood and storm water planning.



Murray River in flood, Robinvale, 1956.

#### **Flood warnings**

- Enhance the real-time transmission of rainfall and stream flow data from key flood monitoring sites by ensuring that data is remotely accessible by at least two telemetry pathways.
- Evaluate the potential to provide localised neighbourhood-scale flash flood warning services where there is a history of flash flooding.

#### **Land use planning**

- Complete updated flood mapping and distribute to local governments.
- Investigate opportunity to develop region-wide flood mapping.
- Develop process to streamline the ability for the CMA to provide local government bodies with latest updated flood information as it is developed.
- Identify funding opportunities to assist in costs associated with updating planning schemes.

#### **Emergency management**

- Incorporate updated flood mapping, flood intelligence and local knowledge into MFEP for all flood affected communities, incorporating new flood studies, townships, levees, surveys required etc.
- Develop catchment plans to summarise main points out of MFEPs.

- Develop pre-plans for public warnings – informing communities of impending flood.
- Undertake operational readiness training/exercises for all Local Flood Guides that incorporate MFEPs into operation responses (in Incident Control Centres), using a risk based approach to prioritise within current VICSES resources.
- Pre-develop community messaging tailored for relevant towns/communities with known impacts for various AEPs, using a risk based approach to prioritise within current VICSES resources.
- Develop community engagement activities and/or awareness products relating to high flood risk townships and communities. This may include installing community signs, gauge boards or community led response plans.

### **3.2 Priority actions for Mildura Rural City Council**

#### **3.2.1 Background**

Mildura Rural City Council covers an area of 22,330 square kilometres and includes the city of Mildura and the towns of Merbein, Red Cliffs, Irymple,

Ouyen, Werrimull, Murrayville, Walpeup and Hattah. Agriculture in the area is comprised of a mixture of irrigated and dryland farming. Fruit and vegetable production are the most significant industries in Mildura with more than 80% of Victoria's grapes and much of Victoria's citrus fruit produced in the region. The municipality's population is approximately 53,500 and this is expected to increase by approximately 6,000 in the next 15 years (source: Victoria in Future 2016 - Population and Household Projections to 2031).

The major waterway and associated floodplain within the municipality is the Murray River, which forms the northern boundary of the municipality. Flooding from the Murray River was a severe threat at the end of the last century; however, this risk has been somewhat mitigated with the construction of levees of varying heights to 3.0m along most of the river (although this levee system is considered old and possibly unreliable).

In addition to riverine flooding, the relatively flat terrain and scarcity of defined rural watercourses results in flash flooding from rain events in some parts of the municipality.

3 Regional Works Plan

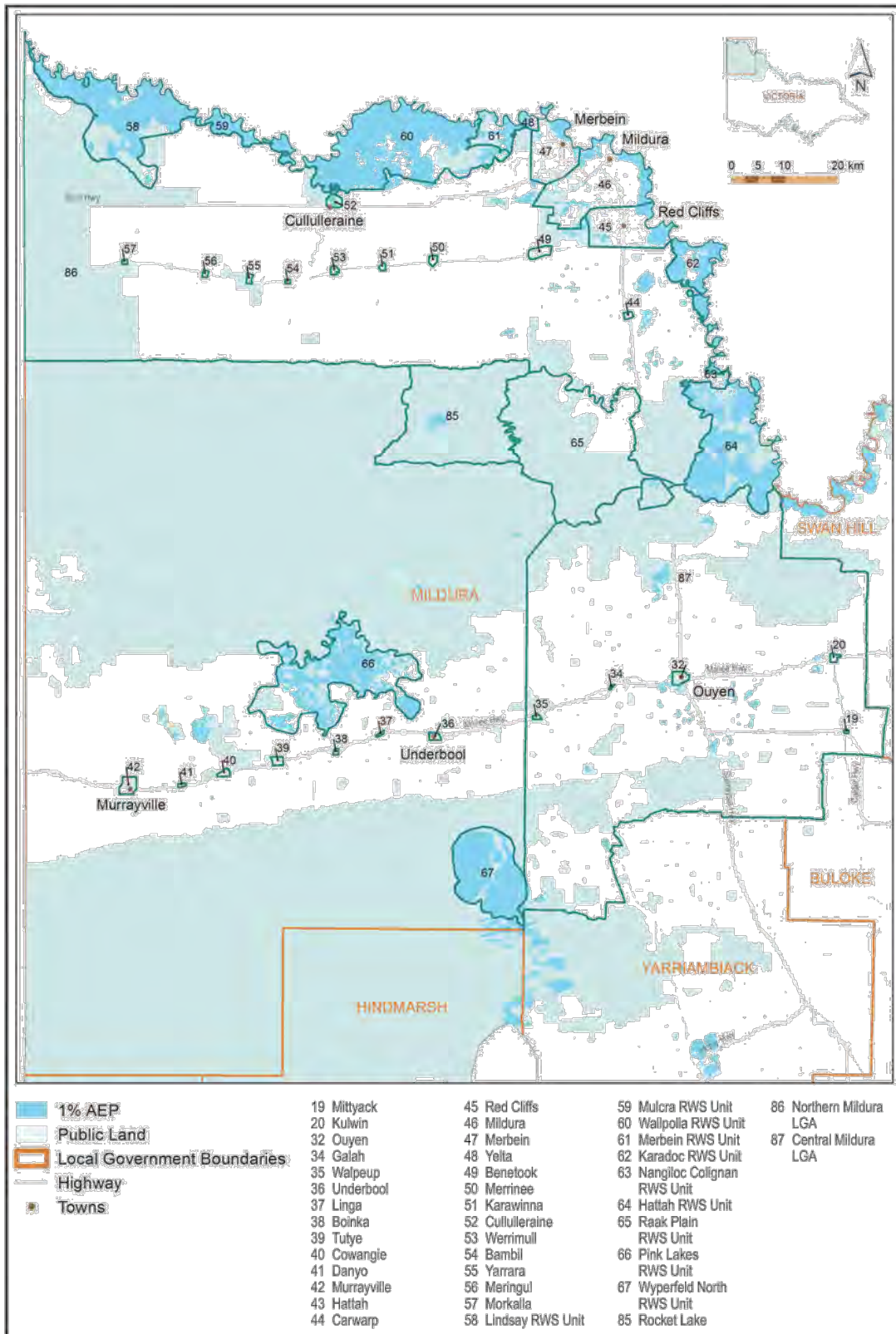


Figure 14 | Mildura Rural City Council Management Units

### 3.2.2 Identified flood risks

#### **Murray River floodplain**

The six largest riverine floods on record at Mildura occurred (in order of decreasing magnitude) 1870, 1956, 1917, 1931, 1975, and 1974. The 1870 flood at Mildura was above normal river level for about seven months with a flow rate of 367,000 ML/day. The second largest flood on record was observed in 1956 and was approximately 0.2m lower than the 1870 event with a flow rate of 308,000 ML/day. The two levees, one on the Victorian side and one on the New South Wales side, failed in this event and resulted in an increase to the flood extent.

The benchmark flood extent adopted for the Murray River is based on the 1956 flood event. Analysis of flood records indicates that this flood is very close to the 1% AEP event. However, without detailed modelling based on current conditions, flood levels and risks to the municipality under various flood scenarios are limited.

#### **Stormwater/flash flooding**

Short duration, high intensity rainfall (usually associated with thunderstorms) can cause flooding within the urbanised areas and some rural areas of the municipality. Blocked or capacity impaired stormwater drains can lead to overland flows and associated flooding: the drain surcharges and excess water flows above ground.

Such flood events, which are mainly confined to the summer months, do not generally create widespread flooding since they only last for a short time and affect limited areas. However, flooding from these storms occur with little warning and localised damage can be severe.

A Regional Risk Assessment identified significant stormwater risks for the following locations in the municipality:

- Mildura: Stormwater impacts through the township can be significant as the stormwater drainage system struggles to cope with the excessive flows (e.g. the February 2011 event inundated both residential and industrial areas). Council is currently undertaking an annual program of cleaning and inspecting the existing drainage network to mitigate future impacts. With the projected population increase, additional drainage infrastructure will be required for

new developments (e.g. pipes, detention basins).

- Red Cliffs: This is an older township in the municipality that utilises decommissioned irrigation infrastructure (not specifically designed for stormwater management) as part of its stormwater system.
- Ouyen: Due to inadequate drainage and flow capacity of the drainage system, a number of properties, bounded by Matheson Street, Ritchie Street, Emmett Street and Mitchell Street, are impacted by flooding whenever significant rainfall events occur.
- Murrayville: A number of drainage issues have been identified within the township of Murrayville. Some of these issues can be solved through maintenance; however, there are a number of issues that require significant design work and remodelling of the existing drainage system to mitigate flood risks.

### 3.2.3 Priority actions

#### **Murray River floodplain**

The risk of a flood from the Murray River impacting one or more townships within the municipality is low to very low as the towns are located on high ground, well above any recorded flood levels. There are, however, some small pockets of residential and industrial development that were established after 1956 and could be subject to flooding if the existing levee bank system was breached.

In addition, access to some properties on the floodplain (e.g. Johns Way at Karadoc) can be disrupted for a number of weeks during floods.

Of potentially greater concern is a large flood event combining with an extreme rainfall event. Under this scenario, high river levels can submerge stormwater drainage outlets, restricting outflows and causing the drainage discharge to back up and flood residential and industrial developments.

Based on the above, the following priority actions have been identified for the Murray River floodplain:

- Short term:
  - Utilise the Murray River flood study to confirm likely flood levels and risks to the municipality.
  - Incorporate stormwater modelling into the Murray River flood study to investigate various riverine and

stormwater flooding scenarios for different flood magnitudes.

- Develop a flood management plan for Mildura. This plan will:
  - provide improved flood intelligence and information to enable more accurate and meaningful flood predictions; and
  - identify options to reduce the impact of future floods.
- Formalise management responsibilities for the Murray River levees based on the flood study.
- Investigate feasibility (cost/benefit analysis) of improving access to properties at Johns Way during flood.
- Longer term:
  - Install permanent telemetered stream gauge at Colignan.
  - Install isolation valves to prevent floodwater movement up stormwater assets (based on riverine and stormwater flooding investigation).
  - Amend the Mildura planning scheme to incorporate the Mildura Flood Management Plan.

#### **Mildura**

Depending on the location, stormwater from Mildura's residential, commercial and industrial areas is diverted either to:

- The Murray River (directly from urban drains or via Etiwanda Wetland);
- Bob Corbould Wetland;
- Lake Ranfurly; and/or
- Lake Hawthorn (via Mildura South Wetlands Drainage Scheme).

To ensure that the stormwater system is managed efficiently and effectively, the following priority actions have been identified:

- Short term:
  - Continue Council's annual program of cleaning, inspecting and renewing the existing drainage network to mitigate future impacts.
  - Implement the key stormwater actions of the Lake Hawthorn Management Plan. Lake Hawthorn is an integral part of Mildura Rural City Council's urban stormwater drainage strategy. The Lake Hawthorn Management Plan was completed in 2015 and includes an overall framework for the management of the lake.
  - Investigate tailored flash flooding warning systems.
- Longer term:
  - Upgrade drainage systems where required to enable further development and manage stormwater effectively.

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- Investigate the design and installation of an extended rain gauge network at selected key sites in the Sunraysia irrigated area to better inform stormwater drainage designs and severe rain event responses. Include opportunities to develop a telemetered rain gauge network to better inform stormwater response.

#### Red Cliffs

Stormwater from Red Cliffs is discharged mainly into Basin 12 which is a floodplain wetland. At high levels, basin 12 discharges to the Murray River via pipeline.

To ensure that the stormwater system is managed efficiently and effectively, the following priority actions have been identified:

- Short term:
  - Investigate stormwater impacts under various design storm events (ie. where does flooding occur, to what height, for how long?)
- Longer term:
  - Develop solutions to minimise significant flood impacts based on investigation and risk modelling (e.g. construction of non-return valves to limit irrigation surcharges).
  - Investigate the design and installation of an extended rain gauge network at selected key sites in the Sunraysia irrigated area to better inform stormwater drainage designs and severe rain event responses.

#### Ouyen

Mildura Rural City Council has recently investigated design options to resolve key drainage issues in Ouyen along the Calder Highway near the Mallee Deli. The objective is to direct runoff water quickly and efficiently to the swale along the rail line, thereby decreasing the amount of water ponding in Farrell Street and the backyard of the Mallee Deli Shop. An increase in the outfall pipe size under the railway line to the south of Ouyen Saleyards is scheduled for completion by the end of 2017, removing an existing choke point in the current system.

Based on this investigation, the following priority actions have been identified:

- Short term:
  - investigate known drainage issues within the Ouyen township;

- Undertake modelling and/or surveying of affected areas;
- Produce designs to rectify or mitigate the known drainage issues;
- Produce a drainage plan for the Ouyen township; and
- Investigate tailored flash flooding warning systems.
- Longer term:
  - Implement priority actions.

#### Murrayville

Mildura Rural City Council has recently investigated design options to resolve key drainage issues in Murrayville. The objective is to direct runoff water quickly and efficiently to the north side of Recreation Road, thereby decreasing the amount of water ponding in the township and the likelihood of businesses flooding.

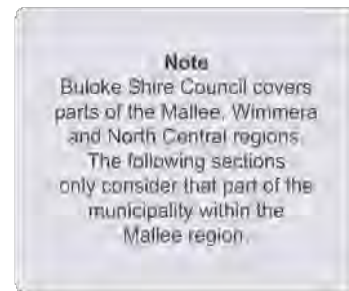
Based on this investigation, the following priority actions have been identified:

- Short term:
  - Investigate known drainage issues within the Murrayville township;
  - Undertake modelling and/or surveying of affected areas;
  - Produce designs to rectify or mitigate the known drainage issues;
  - Produce a drainage plan for the Murrayville township; and
  - Investigate tailored flash flooding warning systems.
- Longer term:
  - Implement priority actions.

### 3.3 Priority actions for Buloke Shire Council

#### 3.3.1 Background

Buloke Shire Council covers an area of 8,004 square kilometres and includes the towns of Birchip, Charlton, Donald, Sea Lake, Wycheproof, Berrillock, Culgoa, Nandaly, Nullawil and Watchem. The main industry is agriculture, especially grain and sheep production. The Shire's population is approximately 5,900 and this is expected to decrease by approximately 1,000 in the next 15 years (source: Victoria in Future 2016 - Population and Household Projections to 2031).



The major waterways and associated floodplains within the Mallee region are:

- Tyrrell Creek (an effluent stream of the Avoca River system which flows north through farmland and the township of Culgoa before terminating at Lake Tyrrell)
- Lalbert Creek (another effluent stream of the Avoca River system).
- Dunmunkle Creek
- Haddon Creek

#### 3.3.2 Identified flood risks

The following information has been adapted from the following documents:

- Submission to the Inquiry into Flood Mitigation Infrastructure in Victoria - Submission no.95 Buloke Shire Council (2011)
- Stories of the Flood, Buloke Shire Council (2014)
- Flood Emergency Plan Buloke Shire Council (VicSES 2013).

#### Tyrrell Creek floodplain

Flows in Tyrrell Creek can be generated from two major sources:

- Tyrrell Creek catchment rainfall, which leads to runoff directly entering the waterway.
- Avoca River flows distributed to Tyrrell Creek at the off take point downstream of Charlton.

In flood conditions the Tyrrell Creek becomes a very wide fast-flowing water mass. The Tyrrell Creek flood of January 2011 resulted in:

- Three rural homesteads near Culgoa being severely impacted by flood waters;
- Extensive damage to road infrastructure;
- Widespread pasture damage;
- Inundation and significant crop loss. Surrounding farmland was inundated, with the November 2010 and January 2011 floods resulting in significant losses in grain quality, livestock, fencing, infrastructure and



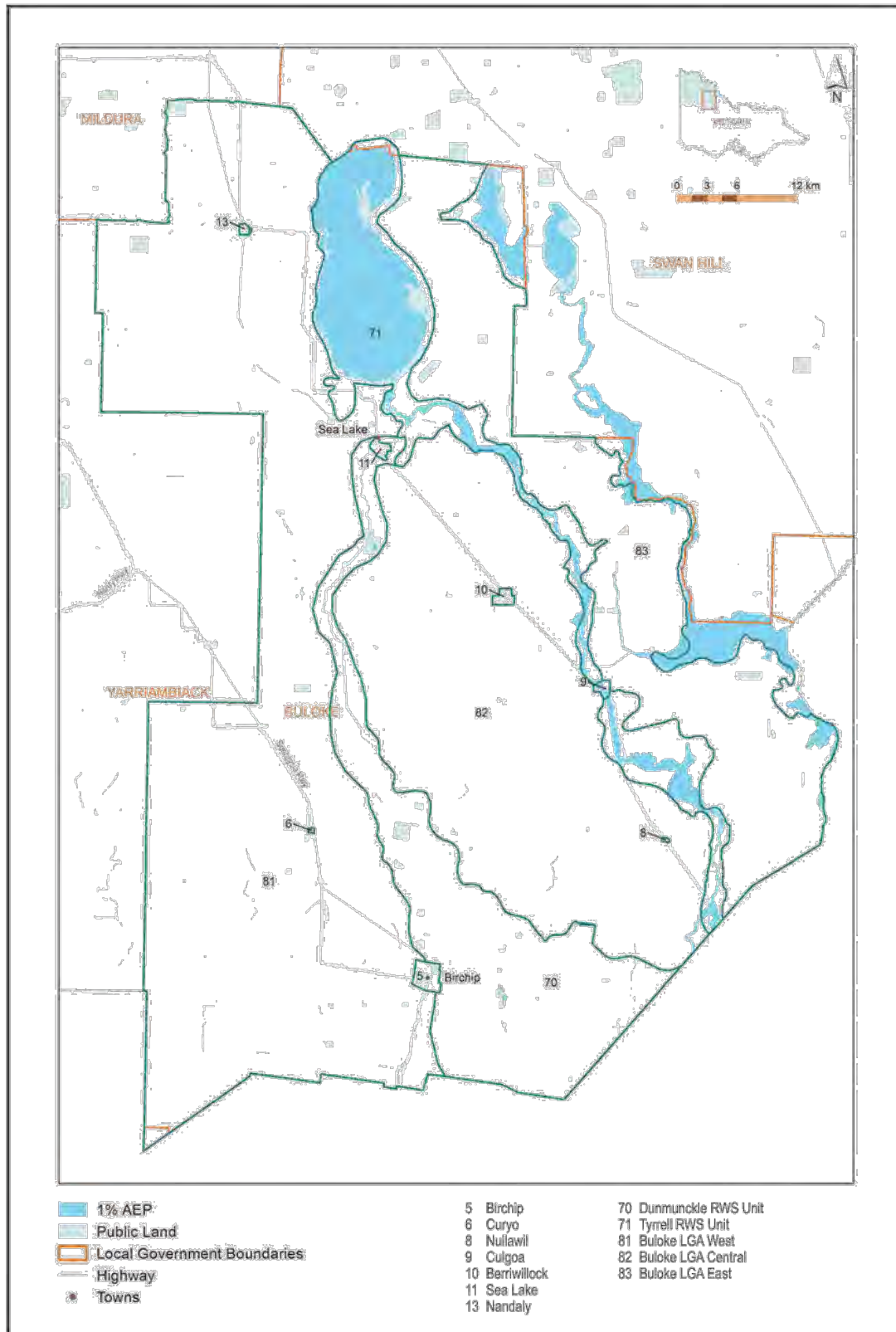


Figure 15 | Buloke Shire Council Management Units

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subsequent effects on the incomes of farming families; and

- Closure of arterial roads (e.g. Calder Highway at various locations, Sea Lake-Swan Hill Road and Sea Lake Robinvale Road) and numerous local roads.

#### **Culgoa**

Culgoa sits adjacent to the Tyrrell Creek. During floods the creek can inundate homes and rural properties on the eastern and western sides of the Calder Highway as it passes through Culgoa. The Calder Highway is also impassable during flood conditions.

The January 2011 flood peak in the Culgoa area was the highest in recorded history, resulting in an evacuation notice being served on residents on 15 January 2011. Late on Sunday 16 January 2011 some water arrived in the northern part of Culgoa and by Monday morning, 17 January 2011 twelve homes (fifty percent of the town) were inundated by flood waters with water around a further ten homes. Essential infrastructure such as health, electricity, telephone, internet/communications, water and septic sewerage services were all compromised during the flood.

Large areas of public land around Culgoa were still inundated many months after the event.

#### **Nullawil**

While Nullawil was also impacted by the January 2011 Tyrrell Creek flood with inundation of one home, the greater flood risk is from stormwater. This occurs when heavy localised rainfall exceeds the capacity of the town's stormwater drainage systems.

#### **Lalbert Creek floodplain**

The Lalbert Creek and its floodplain within the shire boundary (i.e. both banks from Glenloth to just north of Towaninny then only the west bank to Lake Lalbert and the Rural City of Swan Hill boundary) receive floodwaters from Avoca River overflows.

During small floods in the Avoca River (i.e. around the 2 or 3 year annual recurrence interval (ARI) event at Yawong Weir and peaking at around the 5 year ARI), floodwaters enter relatively well defined floodways feeding into the Tyrrell Marshes before draining into Lalbert Creek below the Wycheproof-Goshen Channel.

From here, Lalbert Creek becomes a well-defined channel and has a relatively narrow floodplain as far as Tillybong. From Tillybong to Lake Lalbert, the floodplain widens considerably.

During high flows, the Haddon Creek (an overflow) links to the Lalbert Creek with the Tyrrell Creek. This overflow has the potential to further inundate Culgoa and surrounding areas.

Levee construction along Lalbert Creek has had a major impact on the natural distribution of flood flows.

#### **3.3.3 Priority actions**

##### **Tyrrell Creek floodplain**

There are currently no stream flow gauges, specific flood warning systems or arrangements in place for the Tyrrell Creek system. The Charlton downstream gauge (located on the Avoca River upstream of the Tyrrell Creek off take) is considered a good indicator of likely downstream flooding into the Tyrrell Creek system. To ensure that the Tyrrell Creek community is adequately prepared, improved information is required regarding the likelihood and impacts of flood events in the system.

There is also a clear need to model various flood scenarios along the Tyrrell Creek to inform planning and implementation of response and recovery activities. In particular, modelling needs to consider the impact of GWM Water's channel decommissioning project and low level informal levees (as identified during the 2010/11 flood events).

This updated information then needs to be included in Buloke Shire's planning scheme and MFEP. Based on the above, the following priority actions have been identified for the Tyrrell Creek floodplain:

- Short term:
  - Review/update 2011 flood mapping. This review should include an assessment of the benefits and risks of:
  - the channel decommissioning project. Some landholders consider channel retention as an important part of future flood mitigation whereas other landholders see these channels as possible contributors to future flood scenarios; and

- the existing informal levee bank network.
- Risk assessment process to review flood risks of channels and levees;
- Amend the Buloke planning scheme to incorporate the updated Tyrrell Creek Flood Study mapping.
- Longer term:
  - Install permanent telemetered stream gauge/s along Tyrrell Creek;
  - Incorporate updated Tyrrell Creek Flood Study mapping, flood intelligence and local knowledge into the Buloke MFEP; and
  - Formalise or decommission channels and levees (based on the risk assessment above).

##### **Culgoa**

In addition to the priority actions for the Tyrrell Creek floodplain, the following actions are recommended for Culgoa:

- Short term:
  - Review Culgoa flood study;
  - Develop a flood management plan for Culgoa. This plan will:
    - provide improved flood intelligence and information (to enable more accurate and meaningful flood predictions; and
    - identify options to reduce the impact of future flood.
  - investigate the establishment of TFWS and prediction services for high risk community of Culgoa.
- Longer term:
  - Amend the Buloke planning scheme to incorporate the Culgoa Flood Management Plan; and
  - Incorporate the Culgoa Flood Management Plan mapping, flood intelligence and local knowledge into the Buloke MFEP.

##### **Nullawil**

Buloke Shire has recently completed preliminary design plans and quantities/estimates to resolve these drainage issues.

Based on these design plans, the following priority actions have been identified for Nullawil:

- Short term:
  - implement drainage improvements works at Nullawil North Road and Bart Street.

##### **Lalbert Creek floodplain**

Similar to Tyrrell Creek, there is a clear need to model various flood scenarios along the Lalbert Creek to inform planning and implementation of response and recovery activities. In particular, modelling needs to



Tyrrell Creek In Flood, 2011.

consider the impact of GWM Water’s channel decommissioning project and low level informal levees (as identified during the 2010/11 flood events).

This updated information then needs to be included in Buloke Shire’s planning scheme and MFEP.

Based on the above, the following priority actions have been identified for Lalbert:

- Short term:
  - Review/update 2011 flood mapping. This review should include an assessment of the benefits and risks of:
    - the channel decommissioning project. Some landholders consider channel retention as an important part of future flood mitigation whereas other landholders see them as possible contributors to future flood scenarios; and
    - the existing informal levee bank network.
  - Formalise or decommission channels and levees (based on the review); and
  - Amend the Buloke planning scheme to incorporate the updated Lalbert Creek Flood Study mapping.

- Longer term:
  - incorporate updated Lalbert Creek Flood Study mapping, flood intelligence and local knowledge into the Buloke MFEP.

### 3.4 Priority actions for Swan Hill Rural City Council

#### 3.4.1 Background

Swan Hill Rural City Council covers an area of 6,096 square kilometres and includes the city of Swan Hill and the towns of Lake Boga, Manangatang, Nyah, Nyah West, Piangil, Robinvale, Ultima and Woorinen South. The main industry is agriculture, including both dryland farming areas in the west and irrigated areas in the east. The municipality’s population is approximately 20,500 and this is not expected to change significantly in the next 15 years (source: Victoria in Future 2016 - Population and Household Projections to 2031).

**Note**

Swan Hill Rural City Council covers parts of the Mallee and North Central regions. The following sections only consider that part of the municipality within the Mallee region.

The major waterways and associated floodplains within the Mallee region are:

- The Murray River (which forms the northern boundary of the municipality). The Murray River floodplain is influenced by flows from the Murray, Wakool and Murrumbidgee Rivers and includes some rural levee systems.
- The lower Lalbert Creek. This waterway carries the overflow from the Avoca River into the terminal Lake Timboram. The floodplain includes uncontrolled levees along its entire length.

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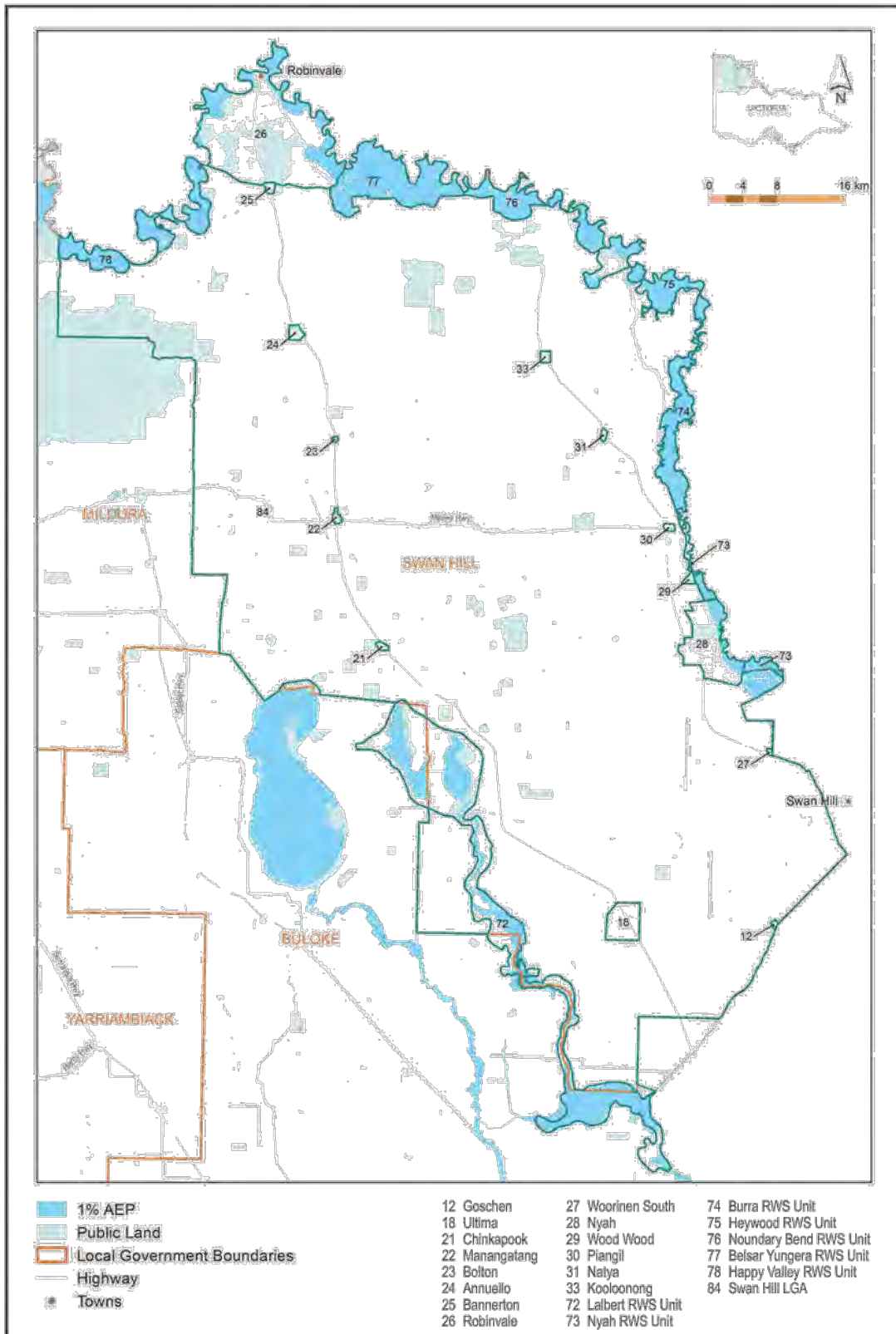


Figure 16 | Swan Hill Rural City Council Management Units

### 3.4.2 Identified flood risks

The following information has been adapted from Municipal Flood Emergency Plan - Swan Hill Rural City (VICSES 2014).

#### **Murray River floodplain, Nyah Forest to the Wakool Junction**

The Wakool River connects with the Murray River on the New South Wales side midway between Swan Hill and Robinvale. The area from Nyah to the junction is alternating high loamy land and outbreaks of low lying land. Properties in this area are generally large and sparsely populated. Some of this agricultural land is vulnerable, but in the main the individual levee banks and significant areas of available floodplain provide reasonable protection from floodwaters.

A number of properties located between the Murray River and the Murray Valley Highway may become isolated for >24 hours, with the following information provided as a rough guide to the general locations:

- Seven properties in the Piangil/ Wood Wood area
- Five properties in the Nyah area
- Five properties in the Vinifera area

#### **Robinvale**

Areas south of Robinvale are prone to significant outflows from the Murray, however there is no risk to homes or roads. West of Robinvale is generally high land which does not come under threat and only pumping sites need protection. The eastern section of the Robinvale township is protected by a significant but unmaintained levee bank.

The Robinvale levee extends approximately 5 kilometres and runs from Ninth Road to the south to the Murray River Bridge at Robinvale. The levee was constructed over 50 years ago with no formal maintenance program in place. It has poor compaction and is constructed out of material of varying quality. It also has a large number of irrigation and drainage pipelines passing through it. Due to its condition, it is uncertain what level of protection is currently provided by the levee.

In addition, if the river is high there may be issues of flash flooding due to urban storm water retention behind the levee system and its inability to exit the stormwater system.

#### **Cloverdale**

Cloverdale, a small village south-west of Robinvale, lies at the base of a localised depression. During typical rain events, local stormwater accumulates on Crown land to the north of Sanananda Road (the lowest point of the depression). However, in severe storms (i.e. >5% AEP), water levels rise to flood Arafura Street and the houses to the west of Arafura Street (e.g. 2011 flash flooding impacted 10-15 houses near Bogadjim Road).

#### **Lalbert Creek floodplain**

An uncontrolled levee exists along its entire length which passes through large acreage farmland. Flows are also impacted upon by extensive lignum growth which flourishes on the creek bed; this may have the effect of holding back the natural flow of the floodwaters and is not subject to any maintenance.

In larger floods concern often arises about the Ultima-Culgoa Road, and also the Sea Lake Swan Hill Road, where water will impact on the roads and these may become impassable; this is due to constrictions at the culverts where the creeks bisect the roads.

### 3.4.3 Priority actions

#### **Murray River floodplain, Nyah Forest to the Wakool Junction**

While the likelihood of a flood event impacting the townships of Piangil and Wood Wood is low to very low, this assessment is based on data from the 1956 flood event. If the 1% AEP is in fact higher than the 1956 flood event and resulted in the overtopping of the Murray Valley Highway, extensive damage to properties could occur, particularly at Piangil. This could also be the case if the existing levee system is not functioning as assumed.

As such, the following priority actions have been identified:

- Short term:
  - Utilise the Murray River flood study to confirm likely flood level and risk to townships;
  - Review and update local flood mapping based on study results;
- Longer term:
  - Update planning scheme maps; and
  - Incorporate updated flood study mapping, flood intelligence and local knowledge into the Swan Hill MFEP.

#### **Robinvale**

Swan Hill Rural City Council has recently submitted a funding application to upgrade the Robinvale Levee. The project seeks to:

- Remove the informal levee and reconstruct it to an acceptable standard;
- Remove pipelines through the levee and improve drainage across the levee;
- Formalise management responsibility for the levee; and
- Remove the LSIO from the land protected by the levee (the LSIO is in the Swan Hill Planning Scheme as the current informal levee is considered unreliable).

Based on the funding application, the following priority actions have been identified for Robinvale:

- Short term:
  - Complete reconstruction of the Robinvale levee. This will involve removal of the existing levee and construction of a new levee to an acceptable standard with proper section, service crossings, compaction, freeboard and crest width;
  - Formalise management responsibilities for the reconstructed Robinvale levee;
- Update the Robinvale Flood Study to include the reconstructed Robinvale levee;
- Amend the Swan Hill planning scheme based on the reconstructed Robinvale levee (i.e. remove the LSIO from the land protected by the levee);
- Complete drainage study for Robinvale.
- Longer term:
  - Incorporate updated Robinvale flood study mapping, weir operating procedures, flood intelligence and local knowledge into the Swan Hill MFEP; and
  - Design and construct pump station solution to transfer stormwater from low sections of the town to the river side of the Robinvale levee.

#### **Cloverdale**

Based on its location and flash flooding history, the following priority actions have been identified for Cloverdale:

- Short term:
  - Investigate options to store and release stormwater. There is a subsurface drain owned by Lower Murray Water (LMW) but it does not have the capacity to

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include significant stormwater inputs. There may be an option to install a retarding basin within the Crown land north of Sanananda Road with a low flow rate discharge to the subsurface drain when capacity is available.

- Long term:
  - Implement preferred option.

#### Lalbert Creek floodplain

Similar to the reach of Lalbert Creek in the Buloke Shire, there is a clear need to model various flood scenarios to inform planning and implementation of response and recovery activities. In particular, modelling needs to consider the impact of GWM Water's channel decommissioning project and low level informal levees, as identified during the 2010/11 flood events.

This updated information then needs to be included in the Swan Hill Rural City Council's planning scheme and MFEP.

Based on the above, the following priority actions have been identified for the Lalbert Creek floodplain:

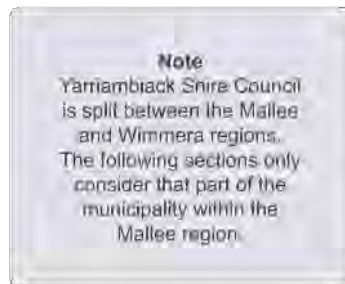
- Short term:
  - Review/update 2011 flood mapping. This review should include an assessment of the benefits and risks of:
    - the channel decommissioning project; and
    - the existing informal levee bank network.
  - Formalise or decommission channels and levees (based on the review); and
  - Amend the Swan Hill planning scheme to incorporate the updated Lalbert Creek Flood Study mapping.
- Longer term:
  - Incorporate updated Lalbert Creek Flood Study mapping, flood intelligence and local knowledge into the Swan Hill MFEP.

### 3.5 Priority actions for Yarriambiack Shire Council

#### 3.5.1 Background

Yarriambiack Shire Council covers an area of 7,158 square kilometres and includes the towns of Warracknabeal, Hopetoun, Murtoa, Rupanyup, Brim

and Beulah. The main industry is agriculture, with the Shire described as the heartland of grain production and handling in the Wimmera and Mallee. The shire's population is approximately 6,500 people and this is expected to decrease by approximately 1,000 in the next 15 years (source: Victoria in Futura 2016 - Population and Household Projections to 2031).



The major waterway and associated floodplains within the Mallee region is the lower Yarriambiack Creek which flows through the township of Beulah and near the township of Hopetoun.

#### 3.5.2 Identified flood risks

Flood behaviour in Beulah along Yarriambiack Creek is primarily influenced by upstream and downstream weir structures. Floodplain flow to the east of Henty Highway is controlled by the set of culverts under the railway track to the south to the township.

The 2007 Beulah flood study (*Warracknabeal and Beulah Flood Study, Water Technology 2007*) did not recommend any structural changes to these structures as modelling revealed minimal reductions to flood levels or extents and adverse flood related impacts due to flow re-direction east of the township.

However, during the 2011 flood the Council and local residents did construct an informal 'levee' (a line of earth pushed up by earthmoving machinery) along the eastern edge of Yarriambiack Creek. This was achieved as Beulah had sufficient warning of the flood peak.

#### 3.5.3 Priority actions

Based on the knowledge gained from the 2011 flood, the following priority actions have been identified for Beulah:

- Short term:
  - Update the 2007 Beulah flood study (*Warracknabeal and Beulah Flood Study, Water Technology 2007*). Since the 2010/11 floods, a number of flood mitigation activities have been undertaken (e.g. increasing flood capacity under the Birchip-Rainbow-Road by replacing the old pipes with larger culverts);
  - Amend the Yarriambiack Shire Council planning scheme to incorporate the updated Beulah flood study mapping;
  - Develop formal operating procedures for the weirs upstream and downstream of Beulah; and
  - Upgrade the 'informal' flood levee (if required) based on the findings of the updated flood study.
- Longer term:
  - Install two permanent telemetered stream gauge: one south of Beulah and one south of Warracknabeal; and
  - Incorporate updated Beulah flood study mapping, weir operating procedures, flood intelligence and local knowledge into the Yarriambiack MFEP.

### 3.6 Regional works plan – summary

To allow ongoing reviews and prioritisation processes, the priority actions detailed in the previous sections will be captured in a three-year regional works plan, as a supporting document to the Mallee FMS. This will allow the region to review and renew our management priorities on an annual basis, and to ensure that best available information is informing the delivery of activities.

A summary of the regional works plan is presented in Table 7.

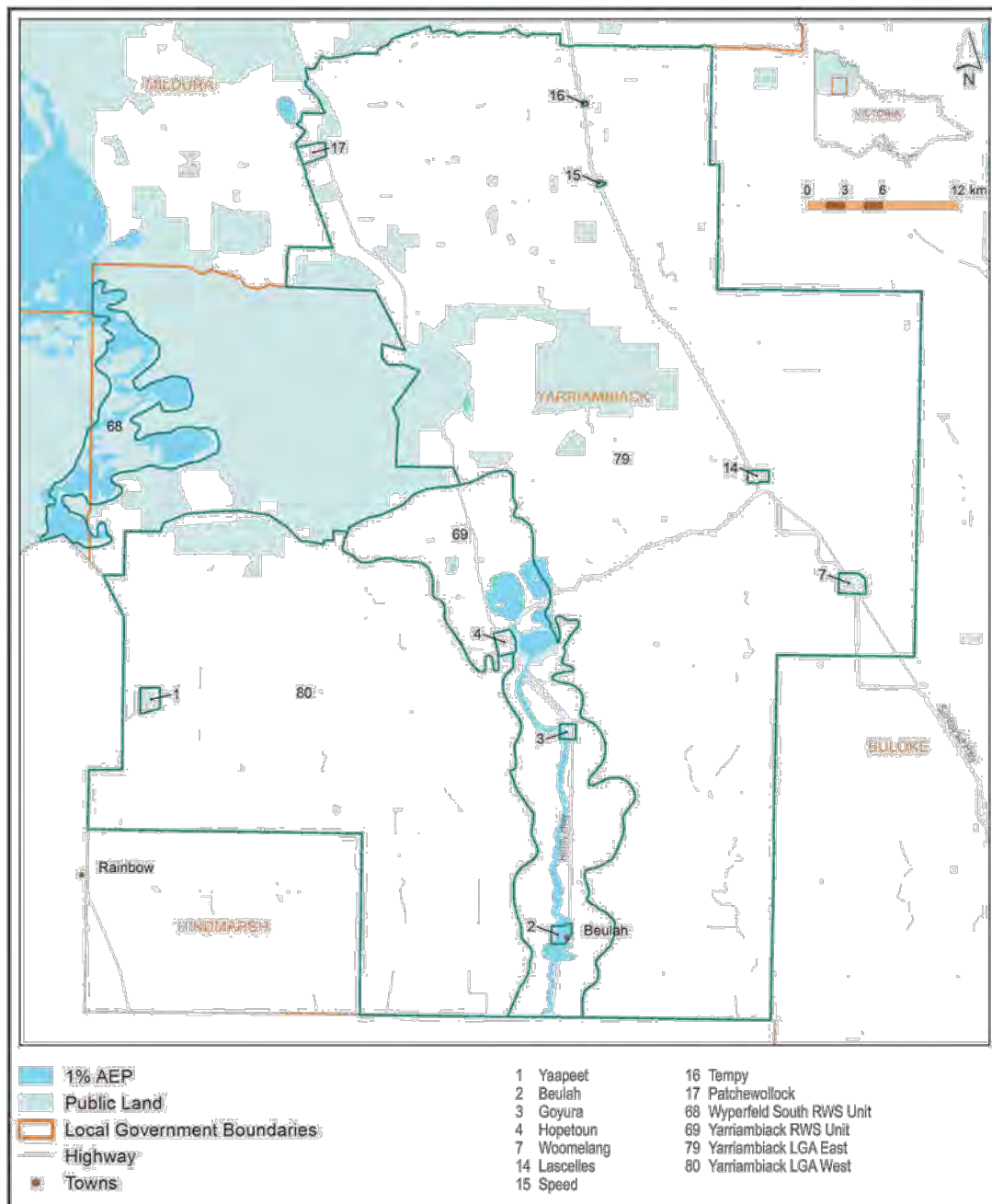


Figure 17 | Yarrriambiack Shire Council Management Units

### 3 Regional Works Plan

Table 7 | Regional works plan 2018-2020

Management Action		Location	Lead Agency
No.	Description		
R1	Develop a community flood portal with an interactive reporting functionality which allows a user to search for a particular address, obtain a property report and visually identify flood information related to that address.	Region-wide	MCMA
R2	Support the Bureau of Meteorology and regional monitoring partnerships in the renewal of old gauges including both AHD elevation and height from bottom of the creek.	Region-wide	DELWP
R3	Develop processes to share data with cross border (regional, further upstream and state) agencies.	Region-wide	DELWP
R4	Work to incorporate Aboriginal cultural heritage values in emergency management planning and response activities via consultation with Aboriginal Victoria and other relevant stakeholders.	Region-wide	All
R5	Consult with Traditional Owners when floodplain management activities are carried out.	As required	All
R6	Undertake a LiDAR survey to identify and map all flood mitigation infrastructure (e.g. levees, channels, roads) which alters the flow of flood water within the region, with detailed assessment of infrastructure as required/where relevant.	Region-wide	MCMA
R7	Investigate the positive and negative flood impacts presented by road infrastructure and decommissioned channels.	Region-wide	MCMA
R8	Undertake three yearly LiDAR updates across the broader landscape at appropriate scales for future flood and storm water planning.	Region-wide	MCMA
R9	Enhance the real-time transmission of rainfall and stream flow data from key flood monitoring sites by ensuring that data is remotely accessible by at least two telemetry pathways.	Region-wide	DELWP
R10	Evaluate the potential to provide localised neighbourhood-scale flash flood warning services where there is a history of flash flooding.	Region-wide	DELWP, VICSES
R11	Complete updated flood mapping and distribute to Councils.	As required	MCMA
R12	Investigate opportunity to develop region wide flood mapping.	Region-wide	MCMA
R13	Develop process to streamline the ability for the CMA to provide Councils with latest updated flood information as it is developed.	Region-wide	MCMA
R14	Identify funding opportunities to assist in costs associated with updating planning schemes.	Region-wide	MCMA
R15	Incorporate updated flood mapping, flood intelligence and local knowledge into MFEP for all flood affected communities, incorporating new flood studies, townships, levees, survey required etc.	As required	VICSES
R16	Develop catchment plans to summarise main points out of Municipal Flood Emergency Plans.	Region-wide	VICSES
R17	Develop pre-plans for public warnings – informing communities of impending flood.	Region-wide	VICSES
R18	Undertake operational readiness training/exercises for all Local Flood Guides that incorporate MFEPs into operation responses (in Incident Control Centres), using a risk based approach to prioritise within current VICSES resources.	Region-wide	VICSES
R19	Pre-develop community messaging tailored for relevant towns/communities with known impacts for various AEPs, using a risk based approach to prioritise within current VICSES resources.	As required	VICSES
R20	Develop community engagement activities and/or awareness products, relating to high flood risk townships and communities. This may include installing community signs, gauge boards or community led response plans.	As required	VICSES
M/S1	Undertake a detailed Murray River flood study (including stormwater modelling (where appropriate) to investigate various riverine and stormwater flooding scenarios for different flood magnitudes).	Murray River floodplain	MCMA
M1	Utilise the Murray River flood study to confirm likely flood levels and risks to the municipality and townships.	Mildura municipality	MRCC
M2	Incorporate stormwater modelling into the Murray flood study to investigate various riverine and stormwater flooding scenarios for different flood magnitudes.	Murray River floodplain	MRCC
M3	Develop a flood management plan for Mildura. This plan will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide improved flood intelligence and information to enable more accurate and meaningful flood predictions; and</li> <li>• identify options to reduce the impact of future floods.</li> </ul>	Mildura	MRCC
M4	Formalise management responsibilities for the Murray River Levees (based on the Flood Study).	Murray River floodplain	DELWP
M5	Investigate feasibility (cost/benefit analysis) of improving access to properties at Johns Way during flood.	Johns Way	MRCC
M6	Continue Council's annual program of cleaning, inspecting and renewing the existing drainage network to mitigate future impacts.	Mildura	MRCC
M7	Implement the key stormwater actions of the Lake Hawthorn Management Plan.	Mildura	MRCC
M8	Investigate tailored flash flooding warning systems.	Mildura, Ouyen and Murrayville	MRCC
M9	Investigate stormwater impacts under various design storm events - where does flooding occur, to what height, for how long?	Red Cliffs	MRCC
M10	Investigate known drainage issues within the Ouyen Township.	Ouyen	MRCC



Table 7 | Regional works plan 2018-2020 *Continued...*

Management Action		Location	Lead Agency
No.	Description		
M11	Undertake modelling and/or surveying of affected areas.	Ouyen	MRCC
M12	Produce designs to rectify or mitigate the known drainage issues.	Ouyen	MRCC
M13	Produce a drainage plan for the Ouyen Township.	Ouyen	MRCC
M14	Investigate known drainage issues within the Murrayville Township.	Murrayville	MRCC
M15	Undertake modelling and/or surveying of affected areas.	Murrayville	MRCC
M16	Produce designs to rectify or mitigate the known drainage issues.	Murrayville	MRCC
M17	Produce a drainage plan for the Murrayville Township.	Murrayville	MRCC
B/S1	Review/update 2011 Tyrrell/Lalbert flood mapping. This review should include an assessment of the benefits and risks of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the channel decommissioning project. Some landholders consider channel retention as an important part of future flood mitigation whereas other landholders see them as possible contributors to future flood scenarios; and</li> <li>the existing informal levee bank network.</li> </ul>	Tyrrell and Lalbert floodplains	MCMA
B1	Formalise or decommission channels and levees (based on the review).	Tyrrell and Lalbert floodplains	TBD
B2	Amend the Buloke planning scheme to incorporate the updated Tyrrell/Lalbert Creeks Flood Study mapping.	Tyrrell and Lalbert floodplains	BSC
B3	Review Culgoa flood study.	Culgoa	MCMA
B4	Develop a flood management plan for Culgoa. This plan will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide improved flood intelligence and information to enable more accurate and meaningful flood predictions; and</li> <li>identify options to reduce the impact of future flood.</li> </ul>	Culgoa	BSC
B5	Investigate the establishment of TFWS and prediction services for high risk community of Culgoa.	Culgoa	BSC
B6	Implement drainage improvements works at Nultawil North Road and Bart Street.	Nultawil	BSC
S1	Utilise the Murray River flood study to confirm likely flood levels and risks to the municipality and townships.	Swan Hill municipality	SHRCC
S2	Review and update local flood mapping based on study results.	Swan Hill municipality	SHRCC
S3	Complete reconstruction of the Robinvale Levee. This will involve removal of the existing levee and construction of a new levee to an acceptable standard, with proper section, service crossings, compaction, freeboard and crest width.	Robinvale	SHRCC
S4	Formalise management responsibilities for the reconstructed Robinvale Levee.	Robinvale	DELWP
S5	Update the Robinvale Flood Study to include the reconstructed Robinvale Levee.	Robinvale	MCMA
S6	Amend the Swan Hill planning scheme based on the reconstructed Robinvale Levee i.e. remove the LSIO from the land protected by the levee.	Robinvale	SHRCC
S7	Complete drainage study for Robinvale.	Robinvale	SHRCC
S8	Investigate options to store and release stormwater.	Cloverdale	SHRCC
S9	Amend the Swan Hill planning scheme to incorporate the updated Tyrrell/Lalbert Creeks Flood Study mapping.	Tyrrell and Lalbert floodplains	SHRCC
Y1	Update the 2007 Beulah flood study (Warracknabeal and Beulah Flood Study, Water Technology 2007).	Beulah	MCMA
Y2	Amend the Yarriambiack Shire Council planning scheme to incorporate the updated Beulah flood study mapping.	Beulah	YSC
Y3	Develop formal operating procedures for the weirs upstream and downstream of Beulah.	Beulah	YSC
Y4	Upgrade the 'informal' flood levee (if required) based on the findings of the updated flood study.	Beulah	YSC

### 3.6.1 Identifying integrated catchment management threats and opportunities

Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) is the co-ordinated involvement of agencies, stakeholders and the community in policy making, planning, and management to promote sustainable use of natural resources from a catchment wide perspective, in contrast to artificially separating land management from water management. Our Catchments

Our Communities – Integrated Catchment Management in Victoria 2016-19 (Victoria State Government, 2015) recommends the following ICM approach:

- Strengthen community engagement in regional planning and priority setting.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities of key agencies.
- Strengthen coordination between key management partners.

- Improve accountability of partners implementing Regional Floodplain Management Strategies.
- Improve state and regional floodplain management reporting using a consistent set of indicators.

In order to manage floodplains in a responsible and sustainable manner, implementation of the regional works program will adopt this recommended approach and will seek to minimise the potential negative impacts (economic, social and environmental)

### 3 Regional Works Plan



Pumping stormwater to restore access, Kulkynne Way 2011.

of proposed actions and where possible maximise the benefits.

#### **Threats to floodplains**

As described in Part 2, a number of actions within a catchment can have significant impacts on the flood storage and conveyance functions of floodplains. For example, levee construction can constrict the floodplain area causing afflux upstream and increased flow volumes and rates downstream. Levees can also effectively disconnect the floodplain from the waterway, reducing the retention of water in wetlands, decreasing habitat diversity, and destroying riparian vegetation.

Identification of activities and/or induced processes that create threats to floodplains is a critical step in determining appropriate management responses.

For the Mallee region, the key catchment based threats to floodplain management are:

- Residential and commercial development. Development of 'greenfield' sites on floodplains without consideration of ecological processes and ecosystem structure can impact a number of beneficial functions, including:
  - Habitat. Urbanisation often replaces natural vegetation, wetlands and depressions with streets, parking lots, houses and drains.
  - Flood storage and conveyance. Extensive filling of the floodplain, which is often related to urbanisation, removes the flood storage capacity and blocks the natural conveyance properties of floodplains, which can lead to increased flooding.
- Agriculture. Cropping and horticulture can significantly alter the floodplain landscape and

consequently, limit the value of floodplain functions. For example, to increase available productive land: native vegetation may be removed, resulting in reduced habitat availability; or wetlands may be drained, resulting in reduced habitat availability, and flood storage capacity.

- River regulation (i.e. changes to natural flow regimes from dams holding back water and releases for economic use). Large reservoirs, such as Hume Dam, have had profound effects on floodplains through reductions in inundation frequency and/or extent which in turn has impacted the ecological values of floodplains.
- Climate change and severe weather. Flooding is the key natural process that creates, develops and maintains a floodplain, increases in frequency and severity of extreme flood events can impact floodplain functions, particularly soil retention (as rapid floods tend to scour rather than replenish).

#### **Threats from floodplain management**

In protecting or enhancing the lives of humans, floodplain management can lead to changes in natural processes. The main type of flood control in the Mallee region is levee construction.

Levees are constructed to protect occupied floodplain land (rural and urban) from problem flooding. The majority of what is classed as problem flooding occurs when urban development and infrastructure (such as roads) constrict the floodplain or block natural drainage lines and flow paths.

Subsequently, the location of levees is generally dictated by existing development and land use, particularly in urban areas.

Levee systems create drier conditions on the protected floodplain, which may contribute to the loss of wetlands. Levees also typically raise the water surface elevation on the river side during flood conditions, causing further inundation that can lead to soil, vegetation and habitat loss.

#### **Opportunities**

Development and implementation of this Strategy provides an opportunity to strengthen floodplain management. In particular, this includes improved stakeholder engagement in regional planning, coordination between partner agencies, and accountability of partner agencies based on the roles and responsibilities outlined in the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy (Victoria Government, 2016).

Opportunities to strengthen floodplain management could include:

- Environmental watering, particularly where it includes inundation of the floodplain to mimic natural flow regimes;
- Road upgrades, including modification of existing bridges and/or culverts; and
- Enhancement of the ecological value of floodplains, including revegetation, and/or pest, plant and animal control

An example that demonstrates this integrated approach is the improved management of the weir pool and increased amenity and environmental outcomes of the Yarriambiack Creek at Beulah.

Opportunities to strengthen floodplain management may arise from policy changes, emerging technology, collaboration within CMAs and improved stakeholder engagement.

# 4 Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting



Tyrnell Creek Flooding, 2016.

The Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Framework for Land, Water and Biodiversity (DSE, 2012) states that well planned MER plays an important role in supporting decision making that focuses on continuous improvement, and more specifically, that MER can provide information related to:

- Resource condition - the condition of natural resources.
- External drivers - the impact of environmental events and social changes (e.g. floods, population growth) on resource condition.
- Management - the location, impact and effectiveness of management in contributing to management outcomes and resource condition change.

A detailed MER plan will be developed upon release of the Mallee FMS. The following sections outline the MER framework for the Strategy.

## 4.1 MER Framework

The management of floodplains in the Mallee region is conducted within an adaptive management framework. This requires both regular review and learning from previous experience.

At its core, adaptive management involves flexible decision making that can be adjusted in the face of uncertainties as outcomes from management actions and flood events become better understood (National Research Council, 2004<sup>8</sup>). This allows responsible agencies and the community to alter management approaches and decisions as new knowledge is gained.

The MER plan will support the adaptive management framework for the Strategy by:

- Presenting a detailed program logic underpinning the Strategy;
- Clarifying any assumptions associated with the program logic and identifying strategies to manage potential risks;
- Identifying the key questions for evaluation and establishing processes to monitor progress;
- Clarifying the communication and reporting needs and identifying the processes required to support these needs; and
- Enabling lessons learned from monitoring and evaluation to be gathered and inform improvement.

The MER plan will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it remains

current and relevant to informing adaptive management.

Key elements to be addressed in the MER plan are presented in the following sections.

### 4.1.1 Program logic

Program logic is an approach to planning that uses a diagram to demonstrate the rationale for a program and express how change is expected to occur.

The detailed program logic for the Strategy will show how each year, specific management actions will be delivered to head toward particular management outcomes measured through the attainment of Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets. Over time (generally longer than the life of the Strategy), these management actions and outcomes collectively contribute to achieving the regional objectives.

A simplified program logic for the Strategy is shown in Figure 18 on the following page.

<sup>8</sup> National Research Council (2004). Adaptive management for water resources planning. National Academies Press, Washington DC.

4 Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting



Figure 18 | Simplified program logic for the Mallee FMS.

**Program logic assumptions**

The program logic (Figure 18) articulates the series of events that are expected to occur over the life of the Strategy and beyond. However, within each of the levels of the logic there are a range of assumptions. During the development of the MER plan, a risk analysis of the assumptions will be undertaken to determine whether a management response is required.

**4.1.2 Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation will be consistent with the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy’s MER framework (to be developed). This framework will include:

- Processes for monitoring, evaluating and reporting delivery of actions at the local, regional and state levels;
- A process to update the Strategy if required; and
- A three-yearly progress review of the Strategy’s implementation.

**Monitoring**

Monitoring activities are targeted to inform evaluation and reporting on Strategy implementation. In accordance with the program logic, most monitoring activities will focus on collating data and information relating to the lower section of the program logic (i.e. from foundational activities to outcomes).

Monitoring activities also include the collection of information relating to foundational influences and externalities that impact on the Strategy implementation. Foundational influences include factors such as climatic variability, drought, flood and potential impacts of climate change. Externalities include factors such as land use change, population growth, government support, economic conditions, community expectations and landholder attitudes.

**Evaluation questions**

Evaluation questions will be developed to assess the effectiveness of the regional strategy and gain new knowledge and information. These questions provide the basis for evaluation design and associated monitoring processes.

Evaluation of the Strategy will include an assessment of the extent to which the outcomes have been achieved at each level of the program logic. This will be undertaken through the tracking of KPI targets for outcomes, management actions and foundational activities.

It will also address any assumptions in the program logic and provide direction and improved knowledge for subsequent planning cycles.

The evaluation questions developed for the Strategy will address the following five categories (DSE, 2012<sup>9</sup>):

- Impact - changes to resource condition, management activities or institutions.
- Appropriateness - addressing the needs of beneficiaries and against best practice.
- Effectiveness - achievement of desired management outputs and objectives.
- Efficiency - value or return from investment.
- Legacy - after the activity/program ends.

**Evaluation process**

The scale and frequency of evaluation will vary throughout the life of the Strategy, and will include an annual review cycle and more detailed reviews after three years and in the final year of the Strategy.

The annual reviews will assess progress towards the planned management activities and KPIs, and associated financials. These reviews will consider any new knowledge and information that may require changes to the planned management activities (via the risk assessment or prioritisation processes). The annual review will be led by the Mallee CMA and will align with regional investment processes.

<sup>9</sup> DSE (2012). Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework for Land, Water and Biodiversity. Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne.



Stormwater flooding, Dow Avenue, Red Cliffs, 2011.

The three-year review will also assess progress towards management activities and KPIs, and where possible, review progress towards management outcomes. This review may also provide new knowledge and information that may lead to an update of the Strategy to support an adaptive approach.

The final review of the Strategy will focus on capturing all of the knowledge gained during implementation, and an assessment of achievements and progress towards the management outcomes and objectives. This will ensure that there is a clear record of achievements and lessons learned, and an evidence base for updating or changing programs and management approaches in the future.

#### 4.1.3 Reporting

Reporting is an important tool to ensure accountability for the investment of funds. Over the long-term, consistent and effective reporting provides evidence to evaluate and communicate the effectiveness of the Strategy.

Annual management reporting is a component of the annual review cycle, and includes reporting on the activities and KPIs achieved for the year and associated financials. For CMAs, this reporting is delivered through the CMA Annual Report, and annual investment reports for existing funding arrangements with the State Government.

Key stakeholders at organisational, community, regional, state and Commonwealth levels who should

be kept informed of the progress of the regional strategy will be identified and appropriate communication tools developed.

Public reporting against outcome KPI targets will occur, at a minimum, at the three-year review phase and the final review. The CMA will also support reporting of management outcome targets for the VFMS at its five-year review phase.

#### 4.1.4 Knowledge gaps and research

The MER plan will specify the key knowledge gaps identified through the development of the program logic and drafting of the evaluation questions. It will also identify the strategies to address these gaps which may involve further analysis of existing information or proposing new areas for research.

New information will be used to review and update priorities and required activities as it becomes available. For example, findings from the development or update of flood plans.

## 4.2 Governance and accountability

Governance and accountability for implementation of the MER Plan are essential for achieving the desired outcomes. The following sections outline the agencies that should be responsible for driving improvements in accordance with monitoring and evaluation outcomes.

### 4.2.1 Responsibility agencies

Responsibility for implementation of the Strategy will be shared by the Mallee CMA and its delivery partners, particularly Mildura Rural City Council, Swan Hill Rural City Council, Buloke Shire, Yarriambiack Shire and VicSES.

Accountability for implementation of specific actions from the Strategy will rest with the organisations nominated to lead the delivery of that action. The Mallee CMA will coordinate the development and implementation of the MER Plan monitoring and evaluation program.

### 4.2.2 Mallee Flood Committee

A committee comprising representatives of the partner agencies with primary responsibility for the management of floodplains in the region will be convened and co-ordinated by the Mallee CMA.

Each partner organisation will be responsible for developing annual implementation plans for the actions that they have lead responsibility for in the Strategy. Bi-annual meetings of the committee will seek to ensure that the responsibilities for individual management actions are clearly established, priorities and sequencing is logical, implementation is focused and coordinated, and funding opportunities are identified.

## 5 Reference Material

### 5.1 Acronyms

Acronym	Full Name
AAD	Average Annual Damage
AEP	Annual Exceedance Probability
ARI	Average Recurrence Interval
ARR	Australian Rainfall and Runoff
BCA	Building Code of Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
BSC	Buloke Shire Council
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DFE	design flood event
MFMS	Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy
GWM Water	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water
HSC	Hindmarsh Shire Council
LGA	Local Government Authority

Acronym	Full Name
LPPF	Local Planning Policy Framework
LMW	Lower Murray Water
MFEP	Municipal Flood Emergency Plan
MRCC	Mildura Rural City Council
SHRCC	Swan Hill Rural City Council
SPPF	State Planning Policy Framework
TFWS	Total Flood Warning System
VCS	Victorian Coastal Strategy
VFD	Victorian Flood Database
VFMS	Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy
VICSES	Victoria State Emergency Service
VPP	Victoria Planning Provisions
WMS	Water Management Scheme
YSC	Yarriambiack Shire Council

### 5.2 Glossary

#### Adaptation

Adjustment in response to actual or expected climate change or its effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.

#### Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP)

The likelihood of the occurrence of a flood of a given or larger size occurring in any one year, usually expressed as a percentage. For example, if a peak flood flow of 500 m<sup>3</sup>/s has an AEP of 5%, it means that there is a 5% (one-in-20) chance of a flow of 500 m<sup>3</sup>/s or larger occurring in any one year (see also average recurrence interval, flood risk, likelihood of occurrence, probability).

#### Average annual damage (AAD)

Depending on its size (or severity), each flood will cause a different amount of flood damage to a flood-prone area. AAD is the average damage per year that would occur in a nominated development situation from flooding over a very long period of time. If the damage associated with various annual events is plotted against their probability of occurrence, the AAD is equal to the area under the consequence–probability curve. AAD provides a basis for comparing the economic effectiveness of different management measures (i.e. their ability to reduce the AAD).

#### Average Recurrence Interval (ARI)

A statistical estimate of the average number of years between floods of a given size or larger than a selected event. For example, floods with a flow as great as or greater than the 20-year ARI (5% AEP) flood event will

occur, on average, once every 20 years. ARI is another way of expressing the likelihood of occurrence of a flood event (see also Annual Exceedance Probability).

#### Australian Rainfall and Runoff (ARR)

ARR is a national guideline for the estimation of design flood characteristics in Australia published by Engineers Australia. ARR aims to provide reliable (robust) estimates of flood risk to ensure that development does not occur in high risk areas and that infrastructure is appropriately designed. The 1987 edition is currently being revised. The revision process includes 21 research projects, which have been designed to fill knowledge gaps that have arisen since the 1987 edition was published.

#### Catchment

The area of land draining to a particular site. It is related to a specific location and includes the catchment of the main waterway as well as any tributary streams.

#### Consequence

The outcome of an event or situation affecting objectives, expressed qualitatively or quantitatively. Consequences can be adverse (e.g. death or injury to people, damage to property and disruption of the community) or beneficial.

#### Design flood event (DFE)

In order to identify the areas that the planning and building systems should protect new development from the risk of flood, it is necessary to decide which level of flood risk should be used. This risk is known as the design flood event.



Tyrrell Creek flooding, Culgoa 2011.

### Development

Development may be defined in jurisdictional legislation or regulation. It may include erecting a building or carrying out work, including the placement of fill; the use of land, or a building or work; or the subdivision of land.

New development is intensification of use with development of a completely different nature to that associated with the former land use or zoning (e.g. the urban subdivision of an area previously used for rural purposes). New developments generally involve rezoning, and associated consents and approvals. Major extensions of existing urban services, such as roads, water supply, sewerage and electric power may also be required.

Infill development refers to the development of vacant blocks of land within an existing subdivision that are generally surrounded by developed properties and is permissible under the current zoning of the land.

Redevelopment refers to rebuilding in an existing developed area. For example, as urban areas age, it may become necessary to demolish and reconstruct buildings on a relatively large scale. Redevelopment generally does not require either rezoning or major extensions to urban services.

Greenfield development refers to building in a currently undeveloped area or development that is unrestrained by prior work.

### Flash flooding

Flooding that is sudden and unexpected, often caused by sudden local or nearby heavy rainfall. It is generally not possible to issue detailed flood warnings for flash flooding. However, generalised warnings may be possible. It is often defined as flooding that peaks within six hours of the causative rain.

### Flood

A natural phenomenon that occurs when water covers land that is normally dry. It may result from coastal or catchment flooding, or a combination of both (see also catchment flooding and coastal flooding).

### Flood awareness

An appreciation of the likely effects of flooding, and a knowledge of the relevant flood warning, response and evacuation procedures. In communities with a high degree of flood awareness, the response to flood warnings is prompt and effective. In communities with a low degree of flood awareness, flood warnings are liable to be ignored or misunderstood, and residents are often confused about what they should do, when to evacuate, what to take with them and where it should be taken.

### Flood class levels

The terms minor, moderate and major flooding are used in flood warnings to give a general indication of the types of problems expected with a flood.

*Minor flooding:* Causes inconvenience. Low-lying areas next to watercourses are inundated. Minor roads may be closed and low-level bridges submerged. In urban areas inundation may affect some backyards and buildings below the floor level as well as bicycle and pedestrian paths. In rural areas removal of stock and equipment may be required.

*Moderate flooding:* In addition to the above, the area of inundation is more substantial. Main traffic routes may be affected. Some buildings may be affected above the floor level. Evacuation of flood-affected areas may be required. In rural areas removal of stock is required.

*Major flooding:* In addition to the above, extensive rural areas and/or urban areas are inundated. Many buildings may be affected above the floor level. Properties and towns are likely to be isolated and major rail and traffic routes closed. Evacuation of flood-affected areas may be required. Utility services may be impacted.

### Flood damage

The tangible (direct and indirect) and intangible costs (financial, opportunity costs, clean-up) of flooding. Tangible costs are quantified in monetary terms (e.g. damage to goods and possessions, loss of income or services in the flood aftermath). Intangible damages are difficult to quantify in monetary terms and include the increased levels of physical, emotional and psychological health problems suffered by flood-affected people that are attributed to a flooding episode.

### Flood education

Education that raises awareness of the flood problem to help individuals understand how to manage themselves and their property in response to flood warnings and in a flood event. It invokes a state of flood readiness.

### Flood emergency management

Emergency management is a range of measures to manage risks to communities and the environment. In the flood context, it may include measures to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from flooding.

### Flood hazard

Potential loss of life, injury and economic loss caused by future flood events. The degree of hazard varies with the severity of flooding and is affected by flood behaviour (extent, depth, velocity, isolation, rate of rise of floodwaters, duration), topography and emergency management.

## 5 Reference Material

### Flood peaks

The maximum flow occurring during a flood event past a given point in the river system (see also flow and hydrograph). The term may also refer to storm-induced flood peaks and peak ocean or peak estuarine conditions.

### Flood-prone land

Land susceptible to flooding by the largest probable flood event. Flood-prone land is synonymous with the floodplain. Floodplain management plans should encompass all flood-prone land rather than being restricted to areas affected by defined flood events.

### Flood proofing of buildings

A combination of measures incorporated in the design, construction and alteration of individual buildings or structures that are subject to flooding, to reduce structural damage and potentially, in some cases, reduce contents damage.

### Flood readiness

An ability to react within the effective warning time (see also flood awareness and flood education).

### Flood risk

The potential risk of flooding to people, their social setting, and their built and natural environment. The degree of risk varies with circumstances across the full range of floods. Flood risk is divided into three types – existing, future and residual. Existing flood risk refers to the risk a community is exposed to as a result of its location on the floodplain. Future flood risk refers to the risk that new development within a community is exposed to as a result of developing on the floodplain. Residual flood risk refers to the risk a community is exposed to after treatment measures have been implemented. For example: a town protected by a levee, the residual flood risk is the consequences of the levee being overtopped by floods larger than the design flood; for an area where flood risk is managed by land-use planning controls, the residual flood risk is the risk associated with the consequences of floods larger than the DFE on the community.

### Flood severity

A qualitative indication of the 'size' of a flood and its hazard potential. Severity varies inversely with likelihood of occurrence (i.e. the greater the likelihood of occurrence, the more frequently an event will occur, but the less severe it will be). Reference is often made to major, moderate and minor flooding (see also flood class levels).

### Flood study

A comprehensive technical assessment of flood behaviour. It defines the nature of flood hazard across the floodplain by providing information on the extent, depth and velocity of floodwaters, and on the distribution of flood flows. The flood study forms the basis for subsequent management studies and needs to take into account a full range of flood events up to and including the largest probable flood. Flood studies should provide new flood mapping for Planning Scheme Inclusion, data and mapping for MEMPs, and a preliminary assessment into possible structural and non-structural flood mitigation measures.

### Flood warning

A Total Flood Warning System (TFWS) encompasses all the elements necessary to maximise the effectiveness of the response to floods. These are data collection and prediction, interpretation, message construction, communication and response. Effective warning time refers to the time available to a flood-prone community between the communication of an official warning to prepare for imminent flooding and the loss of evacuation routes due to flooding. The effective warning time is typically used for people to move farm equipment, move stock, raise furniture, transport their possessions and self-evacuate.

### Floodplain

An area of land that is subject to inundation by floods up to, and including, the largest probable flood event.

### Floodplain management

The prevention activities of flood management together with related environmental activities (see also floodplain).

### Flow

The rate of flow of water measured in volume per unit time, for example, megalitres per day (ML/day) or cubic metres per second (m<sup>3</sup>/sec). Flow is different from the speed or velocity of flow, which is a measure of how fast the water is moving, for example, metres per second (m/s).

### Freeboard

The height above the DFE or design flood used, in consideration of local and design factors, to provide reasonable certainty that the risk exposure selected in deciding on a particular DFE or design flood is actually provided. It is a factor of safety typically used in relation to the setting of floor levels, levee crest heights and so on. Freeboard compensates for a range of factors, including wave action, localised hydraulic behaviour and levee settlement, all of which increase water levels or reduce the level of protection provided by levees. Freeboard should not be relied upon to provide protection for flood events larger than the relevant design flood event. Freeboard is included in the flood planning controls applied to developments by LGAs.

### Frequency

The measure of likelihood expressed as the number of occurrences of a specified event in a given time. For example, the frequency of occurrence of a 20% Annual Exceedance Probability or five-year average recurrence interval flood event is once every five years on average (see also Annual Exceedance Probability, Average Recurrence Interval, likelihood and probability).

### Hazard

A source of potential harm or a situation with a potential to cause loss.

### Hydraulics

The study of water flow in waterways; in particular, the evaluation of flow parameters such as water level, extent and velocity.

### Hydrology

The study of the rainfall and runoff process, including the evaluation of peak flows, flow volumes and the derivation of hydrographs for a range of floods.



**Intolerable risk**

A risk that, following understanding of the likelihood and consequences of flooding, is so high that it requires consideration of implementation of treatments or actions to improve understanding of, avoid, transfer or reduce the risk.

**Likelihood**

A qualitative description of probability and frequency (see also frequency and probability).

**Likelihood of occurrence**

The likelihood that a specified event will occur (see also Annual Exceedance Probability and average recurrence interval).

**Local overland flooding**

Inundation by local runoff on its way to a waterway, rather than overbank flow from a stream, river, estuary, lake or dam. Can be considered synonymous with stormwater flooding.

**Mitigation**

Permanent or temporary measures (structural and non-structural) taken in advance of a flood aimed at reducing its impacts.

**Municipal Flood Emergency Plan**

A sub-plan of a flood-prone municipality's Municipal Emergency Management Plan. It is a step-by-step sequence of previously agreed roles, responsibilities, functions, actions and management arrangements for the conduct of a single or series of connected emergency operations. The objective is to ensure a coordinated response by all agencies having responsibilities and functions in emergencies.

**Planning Scheme zones and overlays**

Planning Schemes set out the planning rules – the state and local policies, zones, overlays and provisions about specific land uses that inform planning decisions. Land use zones specify what type of development is allowed in an area (e.g. urban (residential, commercial, industrial), rural, environmental protection). Overlays specify extra conditions for developments that are allowed in a zone. For example, flooding overlays specify that developments must not affect flood flow and storage capacity of a site, must adhere to freeboard requirements, and not compromise site safety and access.

**Probability**

A statistical measure of the expected chance of flooding. It is the likelihood of a specific outcome, as measured by the ratio of specific outcomes to the total number of possible outcomes. Probability is expressed as a number between zero and unity, zero indicating an impossible outcome and unity an outcome that is certain. Probabilities are commonly expressed in terms of percentage. For example, the probability of 'throwing a six on a single roll of a dice is one in six, or 0.167 or 16.7% (see also Annual Exceedance Probability).

**Rainfall intensity**

The rate at which rain falls, typically measured in millimetres per hour (mm/h). Rainfall intensity varies throughout a storm in accordance with the temporal pattern of the storm (see also temporal pattern).

**Regional Coastal Boards**

Members of Victoria's three coastal boards have been appointed by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change because of their experience and expertise in areas such as local government, coastal planning and management, tourism and recreational use of the coast. The functions of the Western, Central and Gippsland Coastal Boards, set out under the Coastal Management Act 1995, include developing regional coastal plans and providing advice to the Minister on regional coastal development issues.

**Risk analysis**

Risk is usually expressed in terms of a combination of the consequences of an event and the associated likelihood of its occurrence. Flood risk is based upon the consideration of the consequences of the full range of flood events on communities and their social settings, and the natural and built environment. Risk analysis in terms of flooding is a combination of defining what threat exists (see flood risk) and what steps are taken (see risk management); (see also likelihood and consequence).

**Risk management**

The systematic application of management policies, procedures and practices to the tasks of identifying, analysing, assessing, treating and monitoring flood risk.

**Riverine flooding**

Inundation of normally dry land when water overflows the natural or artificial banks of a stream, river, estuary, lake or dam. Riverine flooding generally excludes watercourses constructed with pipes or artificial channels considered as stormwater channels.

**Runoff**

The amount of rainfall that drains into the surface drainage network to become stream flow; also known as rainfall excess.

**Storm surge**

The increases in coastal water levels above the predicted tide level resulting from a range of location dependent factors such as wind and waves, together with any other factors that increase tidal water level.

**Stormwater flooding**

The inundation by local runoff caused by heavier than usual rainfall. It can be caused by local runoff exceeding the capacity of an urban stormwater drainage systems, flow overland on the way to waterways or by the backwater effects of mainstream flooding causing urban stormwater drainage systems to overflow (see also local overland flooding).

**Vulnerability**

The degree of susceptibility and resilience of a community, its social setting, and the natural and built environments to flood hazards. Vulnerability is assessed in terms of ability of the community and environment to anticipate, cope and recover from flood events. Flood awareness is an important indicator of vulnerability (see also flood awareness).

**Water Management Scheme**

The formal process set out in the Water Act 1989 that can be applied to a flood mitigation infrastructure development and its ongoing management. It can be based on and carried out in parallel with a floodplain management study.

## 5 Reference Material



Goods trucks beside floodwaters of the Murray River, Mildura, 1931. Credit: Museum Victoria

## 5.3 Flood Classes

Table 8 | Flood Classes for Murray Basin

Flood Type	Boundary Bend AWRC No: 414201		Euston AWRC No: 414213		Mildura AWRC No: 414210		Wentworth AWRC No: 425010	
	M	AHD	M	AHD	M	AHD	M	AHD
Minor	8.0	55.694	9.1	50.94	N/A	36	7.3	32.06
Moderate	8.5	56.194	9.8	51.64	N/A	37.5	7.9	32.66
Major	9.0	56.694	10.3	52.14	N/A	38.5	9.1	33.86

Table 9 | Flood Classes for Southern Creeks

Flood Type	Yarriambiack Creek (Jung) AWRC No: 415241		Wimmera River at Horsham (Walmer) AWRC No: 415200		Charlton Town AWRC No: 408900 Charlton Downstream AWRC No: 408212		Yawong Weir (Avoca River at Coonooer) AWRC No: 408200	
	M	AHD	M	AHD	M	AHD	M	AHD
Minor	1.8	132.67	2.8	2.3	3.5	N/A	2.3	145.019
Moderate	2.0	132.87	3.1	3.4	5.0	N/A	3.4	146.119
Major	2.1	132.97	3.6	5.0	7.0	N/A	5.0	147.719

## 5.4 References

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## 6 Appendices

### Appendix A: Relative risk assessment outputs

Each measure of flood risk (damage density, absolute damage and town resilience) is assigned a score, where 1 is low risk and 6 is extreme risk (a 0 reflects no available data).

The overall relative risk is based on the highest score from the three measures and is presented as:



In a small number of cases, the Steering Committee adjusted the relative risks based on local knowledge. These adjusted risks are indicated with an asterisk (\*).

For more information on the relative risk method and its application see: Aither, 2016, Mallee CMA Regional Flood Risk Assessment, Report to the Mallee Catchment Management Authority.

Table A.1 | Risk assessment results for riverine flooding in urban areas

No.	Name	LGA	Damage density	Absolute Damage	Town resilience	Relative Risk
46	Mildura	Mildura	1.3	4.6	1.1	H
9	Culgoa	Buloke	3.4	2.9	4.6	H
30	Piangil	Swan Hill	4.5	2.5	4.5	H
26	Robinvale	Swan Hill	1.1	3.5	2.0	M
29	Wood Wood	Swan Hill	0.0	1.0	2.9	M
2	Beulah	Yarriambiack	1.8	1.2	2.5	M
47	Merbein	Mildura	1.0	1.4	1.2	L
45	Red Cliffs	Mildura	1.0	1.2	0.0	L
48	Yelta	Mildura	1.0	1.1	0.0	L
28	Nyah	Swan Hill	1.0	1.0	0.0	L
3	Goyura	Yarriambiack	1.0	1.0	0.0	L
52	Cullulleraine	Mildura	1.0	1.0	0.0	L
4	Hopetoun	Yarriambiack	1.0	1.0	0.0	L
24	Annuello	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
54	Bambill	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
25	Bannerton	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
49	Benetook	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
10	Berrwilllock	Buloke	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
5	Birchip	Buloke	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
38	Boinka	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
23	Bolton	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
44	Carwarp	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
21	Chinkapook	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
40	Cowangle	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
6	Curya	Buloke	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
41	Danyo	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
34	Galah	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
12	Goschen	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
43	Hattah	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
51	Karawinna	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
33	Kooloonong	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
20	Kulwin	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
14	Lascelles	Yarriambiack	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data



Public consultation in Nyah, 2011 Flood Event.

Table A.1 | Risk assessment results for riverine flooding in urban areas *Continued...*

No.	Name	LGA	Damage density	Absolute Damage	Town resilience	Relative Risk
37	Linga	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
22	Manangatang	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
56	Meringul	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
50	Merrinee	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
19	Mittyack	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
57	Morkalla	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
42	Murrayville	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
13	Nandaly	Buloke	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
31	Natya	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
8	Nullawil	Buloke	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
32	Ouyen	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
17	Patchewollock	Yarriambiack	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
11	Sea Lake	Buloke	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
15	Speed	Yarriambiack	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
16	Tempy	Yarriambiack	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
39	Tutye	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
18	Ultima	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
36	Underbool	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
35	Walpeup	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
53	Werrimull	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
7	Woomelang	Yarriambiack	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
27	Woorinen South	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
1	Yaapeet	Yarriambiack	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
55	Yarrara	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data

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Table A.2 | Risk assessment results for riverine flooding in rural areas

No.	Name	LGA	Damage density	Absolute Damage	Town resilience	Relative Risk
71	Tyrrell RWS Unit	Buloke	1.0	3.5	0.0	M
62	Karadoc RWS Unit	Mildura	1.1	3.5	0.0	M
83	Buloke LGA East	Buloke	1.1	3.5	0.0	M
82	Buloke LGA Central	Buloke	1.1	2.7	0.0	M
72	Lalbert RWS Unit	Buloke	1.0	1.4	0.0	M*
84	Swan Hill LGA	Swan Hill	1.3	4.5	0.0	L*
86	Northern Mildura LGA	Mildura	1.1	3.5	0.0	L*
73	Nyah RWS Unit	Swan Hill	1.3	2.5	0.0	L*
74	Burra RWS Unit	Swan Hill	1.1	2.7	0.0	L*
60	Wallpolla RWS Unit	Mildura	1.0	2.7	0.0	L*
69	Yarriambiack RWS	Yarriambiack	1.0	1.9	0.0	L
58	Lindsay RWS Unit	Mildura	1.0	1.8	0.0	L
76	Boundary Bend RWS Unit	Swan Hill	1.0	1.6	0.0	L
63	Nangiloc Colignan RWS Unit	Mildura	1.1	1.5	0.0	L
64	Hattah RWS Unit	Mildura	1.0	1.6	0.0	L
61	Merbein RWS Unit	Mildura	1.0	1.3	0.0	L
70	Dunmunkle RWS Unit	Buloke	1.3	1.0	0.0	L
77	Belsar Yungera RWS	Swan Hill	1.0	1.3	0.0	L
75	Heywood RWS Unit	Swan Hill	1.0	1.2	0.0	L
68	Wyperfeld South RWS Unit	Yarriambiack	1.2	1.0	0.0	L
59	Mulcra RWS Unit	Mildura	1.0	1.2	0.0	L
78	Happy Valley RWS Unit	Swan Hill	1.0	1.1	0.0	L
80	Yarriambiack LGA West	Yarriambiack	1.0	1.0	0.0	L
81	Buloke LGA West	Buloke	1.0	1.0	0.0	L
66	Pink Lakes RWS Unit	Mildura	1.0	1.0	0.0	L
87	Central Mildura LGA	Swan Hill	1.0	1.0	0.0	L
65	Raak Plain RWS Unit	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
85	Rocket Lake	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
67	Wyperfeld North RWS Unit	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
79	Yarriambiack LGA East	Yarriambiack	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data

Table A.3 | Risk assessment results for stormwater flooding in urban areas

No.	Name	LGA	Damage density	Absolute Damage	Town resilience	Relative Risk
46	Mildura	Mildura	1.3	3.6	1.1	M
8	Nullawil	Buloke	3.4	1.1	2.7	M
45	Red Cliffs	Mildura	1.0	1.1	1.0	M*
32	Ouyen	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	M*
42	Murrayville	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	M*
9	Culgoa	Buloke	1.4	1.3	2.6	L*
15	Speed	Yarriambiack	2.6	1.0	2.5	L*
11	Sea Lake	Buloke	2.8	1.1	1.2	L*
49	Benetook	Mildura	3.4	1.0	0.0	L*
4	Hopetoun	Yarriambiack	1.9	1.1	1.2	L
10	Berrwilllock	Buloke	1.4	1.1	1.7	L
13	Nandaly	Buloke	1.4	1.0	1.6	L
28	Nyah	Swan Hill	1.1	1.2	1.8	L
18	Ultima	Swan Hill	1.2	1.1	1.5	L
2	Beulah	Yarriambiack	1.3	1.1	1.5	L
5	Birchip	Buloke	1.3	1.2	1.3	L
14	Lascelles	Yarriambiack	1.2	1.0	1.4	L
7	Woomelang	Yarriambiack	1.3	1.0	1.3	L
27	Woorinen South	Swan Hill	1.4	1.0	1.1	L
47	Merbein	Mildura	1.0	1.1	1.0	L
12	Goschen	Swan Hill	1.0	1.0	0.0	L
3	Goyura	Yarriambiack	1.0	1.0	0.0	L
48	Yelta	Mildura	1.0	1.0	0.0	L
44	Carwarp	Mildura	1.0	1.0	0.0	L
6	Curyo	Buloke	1.0	1.0	0.0	L
21	Chinkapook	Swan Hill	1.0	1.0	0.0	L
24	Annuello	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
54	Bambill	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
25	Bannerton	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
38	Boinka	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
23	Bolton	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
40	Cowangie	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
52	Cullulleraine	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
41	Danyo	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
34	Galah	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
43	Hattah	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
51	Karawinna	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
33	Kooloonong	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
20	Kulwin	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
37	Linga	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
22	Manangatang	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
56	Meringul	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
50	Merrinee	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
19	Mittyack	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
57	Morkalla	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
31	Natya	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
17	Patchewollock	Yarriambiack	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
30	Piangil	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
26	Robinvale	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
16	Tempy	Yarriambiack	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
39	Tutye	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
36	Underbool	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
35	Walpeup	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
53	Werrimull	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
29	Wood Wood	Swan Hill	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
1	Yaapeet	Yarriambiack	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data
55	Yarrara	Mildura	0.0	0.0	0.0	no data

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### Appendix B: Mallee FMS engagement and communications activities conducted

Overview of stakeholders 'directly' engaged to inform the development of this 2018–28 Mallee FMS.

Audience	Representation
Mallee CMA Board	Ministerially appointed community members
Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy Steering Committee	Comprised of representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mildura Rural City Council;</li> <li>• Swan Hill Rural City Council</li> <li>• Yambiack Shire Council</li> <li>• Buloke Shire Council</li> <li>• Hindmarsh Shire Council</li> <li>• GWM Water</li> <li>• Lower Murray Water</li> <li>• VICSES</li> <li>• Mallee CMA</li> </ul>
Relevant Stakeholders	Comprised of representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bairnsdale Shire Council</li> <li>• Country Fire Authority</li> <li>• Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning</li> <li>• Department of Health and Human Services</li> <li>• Emergency Management Victoria</li> <li>• Goulburn Murray Water</li> <li>• Murray Darling Basin Authority</li> <li>• Office and Environment and Heritage (NSW)</li> <li>• Parks Victoria</li> <li>• SA Water</li> <li>• VicRoads</li> <li>• Victoria Policy</li> <li>• VicTrack</li> <li>• WaterNSW</li> <li>• Wentworth Shire Council</li> </ul>
Mallee Land and Water Advisory Committee	10 Mallee community members
Mallee Aboriginal Reference Group	Aboriginal Elders Traditional Owner Representatives Mallee CMA Parks Victoria
Traditional Owner Groups and Indigenous Stakeholders	Barengi Gadjin Land Council First People of the Millewa Mallee Aboriginal Corporation
Other Interest Groups/Organisations	Mildura Rural City Council Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee Buloke Shire Council Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.

Overview of communications 'indirectly' used to promote the Mallee FMS development process and to encourage feedback from all stakeholders as it was being developed.

Medium	Media	Audience
Media Articles	Local papers, social media posts	Mallee Community
Newsletter Articles	Mallee CMA E-Newsletter	Mallee Community
Surveys	Online	Mallee stakeholders and broader community
Progress updates	Emails	Mallee stakeholders and community groups
Fact Sheets	Handouts at relevant forums	Mallee stakeholders and community groups



**Appendix C: Historic Flooding in the Mallee**

**Table 10 | Flood History of Murray River, Boundary Bend – Wentworth**

Year	River	Flood Class	Comment
1870	Murray River (Mildura)	Major	
	Murray River(Wentworth)	Major	
1917	Murray River (Mildura)	Moderate	
	Murray River(Wentworth)	Major	
1931	Murray River (Euston)	Moderate	
	Murray River (Mildura)	Moderate	
	Murray River (Wentworth)	Major	
1939	Murray River (Mildura)	Minor	
1951	Murray River (Mildura)	Minor	
1952	Murray River (Mildura)	Minor	
1955	Murray River (Euston)	Minor	
	Murray River (Mildura)	Moderate	
1956	Murray River (Boundary Bend)	Major	
	Murray River (Euston)	Major	
	Murray River (Mildura)	Major	
	Murray River (Wentworth)	Major	
1958	Murray River (Mildura)	Minor	
1960	Murray River (Mildura)	Minor	
1964	Murray River (Mildura)	Minor	
1973	Murray River (Mildura)	Minor	
1974	Murray River (Euston)	Moderate	
	Murray River (Mildura)	Moderate	
	Murray River (Wentworth)	Major	
1975	Murray River (Boundary Bend)	Major	
	Murray River (Euston)	Moderate	
	Murray River (Mildura)	Moderate	
1981	Murray River (Boundary Bend)	Moderate	
	Murray River (Euston)	Minor	
	Murray River (Mildura)	Minor	
	Murray River (Wentworth)	Moderate	
1989	Murray River (Wentworth)	Minor	
1990	Murray River (Boundary Bend)	Minor	
	Murray River (Mildura)	Minor	
	Murray River (Wentworth)	Moderate	
1992	Murray River (Boundary Bend)	Moderate	
	Murray River (Mildura)	Minor	
	Murray River (Wentworth)	Moderate	
1993	Murray River (Boundary Bend)	Moderate	
	Murray River (Euston)	Minor	
	Murray River (Mildura)	Minor	
	Murray River (Wentworth)	Moderate	
1996	Murray River (Boundary Bend)	Moderate	
2011	Murray River (Wentworth)	Minor	
2016	Murray River (Boundary Bend)	Moderate	
	Murray River (Euston)	Minor	
	Murray River (Mildura)	Minor	
	Murray River (Wentworth)	Moderate	

## 6 Appendices

Table 11 | Flood History of the Southern Creeks

Year	River/Stream	Flood Class	Comment
1830	Outlet Creek	N/A	
1851	Outlet Creek	N/A	
1870	Outlet Creek	N/A	
	Yarriambiack Creek	N/A	
1889	Yarriambiack Creek	N/A	
1890	Outlet Creek	N/A	
1894	Yarriambiack Creek	N/A	
1909	Yarriambiack Creek	N/A	
1911	Outlet Creek	N/A	
	Yarriambiack Creek	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1915	Yarriambiack Creek	N/A	
1916	Yarriambiack Creek	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
	Lalbert Creek	N/A	
1917	Outlet Creek	N/A	
	Lalbert Creek	N/A	
	Yarriambiack Creek	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1918	Lalbert Creek	N/A	
	Yarriambiack Creek	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1920	Lalbert Creek	N/A	
	Yarriambiack Creek	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1921	Lalbert Creek	N/A	
	Yarriambiack Creek	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1922	Outlet Creek	N/A	
1923	Lalbert Creek	Major	Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
	Yarriambiack Creek	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1924	Yarriambiack Creek	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1926	Lalbert Creek	N/A	
1931	Lalbert Creek	N/A	
	Yarriambiack Creek	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1932	Lalbert Creek	N/A	
1934	Yarriambiack Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1935	Yarriambiack Creek	Minor	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1939	Lalbert Creek	Major	Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
	Yarriambiack Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1941	Yarriambiack Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1942	Lalbert Creek	N/A	
	Yarriambiack Creek	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1945	Lalbert Creek	N/A	
1950	Lalbert Creek	N/A	
1951	Yarriambiack Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1952	Yarriambiack Creek	Minor	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1953	Yarriambiack Creek	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1955	Lalbert Creek	N/A	
	Yarriambiack Creek	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1956	Outlet Creek	N/A	
	Yarriambiack Creek	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
	Tyrrell Creek	Major	Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
	Lalbert Creek	Minor	Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
1958	Lalbert Creek	N/A	
	Yarriambiack Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1960	Outlet Creek	N/A	
	Tyrrell Creek	N/A	
	Lalbert Creek	N/A	
	Yarriambiack	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1963	Lalbert Creek	N/A	
1964	Tyrrell Creek	Major	Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
	Lalbert Creek	Major	Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
	Yarriambiack	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1968	Tyrrell Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Coonooer
	Lalbert Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Coonooer
1973	Yarriambiack Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
	Tyrrell Creek	Major	Flood Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
	Lalbert Creek	Major	Flood Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)

Table 11 | Flood History of the Southern Creeks *Continued...*

Year	River/Stream	Flood Class	Comment
1974	Outlet Creek	N/A	
	Yarriambiack Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
	Tyrrell Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Coonooer
	Lalbert Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Coonooer
1975	Tyrrell Creek	Major	Flood Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
	Lalbert Creek	Major	Flood Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
	Yarriambiack Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1978	Lalbert Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Coonooer
1979	Yarriambiack Creek	Minor	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1980	Yarriambiack Creek	Minor	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1981	Yarriambiack Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
	Lalbert Creek	Major	Flood Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
1983	Yarriambiack Creek	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
	Lalbert Creek	Major	Flood Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
1988	Yarriambiack Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
	Tyrrell Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Coonooer
	Lalbert Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Coonooer
1989	Lalbert Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Coonooer
1992	Tyrrell Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Coonooer
	Lalbert Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Coonooer
	Yarriambiack Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1993	Lalbert Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Coonooer
1995	Tyrrell Creek	Major	Flood Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
	Lalbert Creek	Major	Flood Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
	Yarriambiack Creek	Minor	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
1996	Yarriambiack Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
	Tyrrell Creek	Major	Flood Height at Coonooer
	Lalbert Creek	Major	Flood Height at Coonooer
2010	Tyrrell Creek	Major	Flood Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
	Lalbert Creek	Major	Flood Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
	Yarriambiack Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
2011	Yarriambiack Creek	Major	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham
	Dunmunkle Creek	N/A	
	Tyrrell Creek	Major	Flood Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
	Lalbert Creek	Major	Flood Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
2016	Tyrrell Creek	Major	Flood Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
	Lalbert Creek	Major	Flood Height at Charlton (James Paterson Bridge)
	Yarriambiack Creek	Moderate	Flood Height at Wimmera River, Horsham













## Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy Regional Works Plan 2018-20

No.	Management Action Description	Location	Responsibility		Cost \$,000	Timeframe		
			Lead	Partners		2018	2019	2020
R1	Develop a community flood portal with an interactive reporting functionality which allows a user to search for a particular address, obtain a property report and visually identify flood information related to that address.	Region-wide	MCMA	LGAs, VICSES	\$50-\$300,000			x
R2	Support the Bureau of Meteorology and regional monitoring partnerships in the renewal of old gauges including both AHD elevation and height from bottom of the creek.	Region-wide	DELWP	all	n/a	x	x	x
R3	Develop processes to share data with cross border (regional), further upstream and state) agencies.	Region-wide	DELWP		n/a	x	x	x
R4	Work to incorporate Aboriginal cultural heritage values in emergency management planning and response activities via consultation with Aboriginal Victoria and other relevant stakeholders.	Region-wide	All		n/a	x	x	x
R5	Consult with Traditional Owners when floodplain management activities are carried out.	As required	All		n/a	x	x	x
R6	Undertake a LiDAR survey to identify and map all flood mitigation infrastructure (e.g. levees, channels, roads) which alters the flow of flood water within the region, with detailed assessment of infrastructure as required/where relevant.	Region-wide	MCMA	DELWP	\$50-\$300,000	x		
R7	Investigate the positive and negative flood impacts presented by road and rail infrastructure and decommissioned channels.	Region-wide	MCMA	LGAs, WAs, VicTrack, VicRoads	\$50-\$300,000		x	x
R8	Undertake three yearly LiDAR updates across the broader landscape at appropriate scales for future flood and storm water planning.	Region-wide	MCMA	DELWP	\$50-\$300,000	x		
R9	Enhance the real-time transmission of rainfall and stream flow data from key flood monitoring sites by ensuring that data is remotely accessible by at least two telemetry pathways.	Region-wide	DELWP		n/a	x	x	x
R10	Evaluate the potential to provide localised neighbourhood-scale flash flood warning services where there is a history of flash flooding.	Region-wide	DELWP, VICSES	LGAs, BoM	< \$50,000			x
R11	Complete updated flood mapping and distribute to Councils.	As required	MCMA		< \$50,000	x	x	x
R12	Investigate opportunity to develop region wide flood mapping.	Region-wide	MCMA		< \$50,000			x
R13	Develop process to streamline the ability for the CMA to provide Councils with latest updated flood information as it is developed.	Region-wide	MCMA		< \$50,000	x		
R14	Identify funding opportunities to assist in costs associated with updating planning schemes.	Region-wide	MCMA		< \$50,000	x		
R15	Incorporate updated flood mapping, flood intelligence and local knowledge into MFEP for all flood affected communities, incorporating new flood studies, townships, levees, survey required etc.	As required	VICSES		< \$50,000	x	x	x
R16	Develop catchment plans to summarise main points out of Municipal Flood Emergency Plans.	Region-wide	VICSES	MCMA	< \$50,000			x
R17	Develop pre-plans for public warnings – informing communities of impending flood.	Region-wide	VICSES		< \$50,000	x	x	x

R19	Undertake operational readiness training/exercises for all Local Flood Guides that incorporate MFEPs into operation responses (in Incident Control Centres), using a risk based approach to prioritise within current VICSES resources.	Region-wide	VICSES	LGAs, DELWP, MCMA, CFA	\$50-\$300,000	x	x	x
R20	Pre-develop community messaging tailored for relevant towns/communities with known impacts for various AEPs, using a risk based approach to prioritise within current VICSES resources.	As required	VICSES		< \$50,000	x	x	x
R21	Develop community engagement activities and/or awareness products, relating to high flood risk townships and communities. This may include installing community signs, gauge boards or community led response plans	As required	VICSES		< \$50,000	x	x	x
M/S1	Undertake a detailed River Murray flood study (including stormwater modelling (where appropriate) to investigate various riverine and stormwater flooding scenarios for different flood magnitudes).	River Murray floodplain	MCMA	SHRCC, MRCC, VICSES, DELWP	\$50-\$300,000	x	x	
M1	Utilise the River Murray flood study to confirm likely flood levels and risks to the municipality and townships.	Mildura municipality	MRCC		n/a			x
M2	Incorporate stormwater modelling into the Murray flood study to investigate various riverine and stormwater flooding scenarios for different flood magnitudes.	River Murray floodplain	MRCC	MCMA	< \$50,000			x
M3	Develop a flood management plan for Mildura. This plan will: • provide improved flood intelligence and information to enable more accurate and meaningful flood predictions; and • identify options to reduce the impact of future floods.	Mildura	MRCC	MCMA	\$50-\$300,000			x
M4	Formalise management responsibilities for the Murray River Levees (based on the Flood Study).	River Murray floodplain	DELWP	MRCC, MCMA, levee beneficiaries	\$50-\$300,000	x	x	x
M5	Investigate feasibility (cost/benefit analysis) of improving access to properties at Johns Way during flood.	Johns Way	MRCC	levee beneficiaries	\$50-\$300,000		x	
M6	Continue Council's annual program of cleaning, inspecting and renewing the existing drainage network to mitigate future impacts.	Mildura	MRCC		>\$300,000	x	x	x
M7	Implement the key stormwater actions of the Lake Hawthorn Management Plan.	Mildura	MRCC	LMW, GMW, MCMA	< \$50,000	x	x	x
M8	Investigate tailored flash flooding warning systems.	Mildura, Ouyen and Murrayville	MRCC	VicSES, BoM	< \$50,000			x
M9	Investigate stormwater impacts under various design storm events - where does flooding occur, to what height, for how long?	Red Cliffs	MRCC		< \$50,000		x	
M10	Investigate known drainage issues within the Ouyen Township.	Ouyen	MRCC		< \$50,000	x		
M11	Undertake modelling and/or surveying of affected areas.	Ouyen	MRCC		< \$50,000		x	
M12	Produce designs to rectify or mitigate the known drainage issues.	Ouyen	MRCC		< \$50,000		x	
M13	Produce a drainage plan for the Ouyen Township.	Ouyen	MRCC		< \$50,000		x	
M14	Investigate known drainage issues within the Murrayville Township.	Murrayville	MRCC		< \$50,000	x		
M15	Undertake modelling and/or surveying of affected areas.	Murrayville	MRCC		< \$50,000		x	
M16	Produce designs to rectify or mitigate the known drainage issues.	Murrayville	MRCC		< \$50,000		x	
M17	Produce a drainage plan for the Murrayville Township.	Murrayville	MRCC		< \$50,000		x	

B/S1	Review/update 2011 Tyrrell/Lalbert flood mapping. This review should include an assessment of the benefits and risks of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the channel decommissioning project. Some landholders consider channel retention as an important part of future flood mitigation whereas other landholders see them as possible contributors to future flood scenarios; and</li> <li>the existing informal levee bank network.</li> </ul>	Tyrrell and Lalbert floodplains	MCMA	BSC, SHRCC, GWMW	\$50-\$300,000	x		
B1	Formalise or decommission channels and levees (based on the review).	Tyrrell and Lalbert floodplains	TBD	TBD	>\$300,000	x	x	x
B2	Amend the Buloke planning scheme to incorporate the updated Tyrrell/Lalbert Creeks Flood Study mapping.	Tyrrell and Lalbert floodplains	BSC		< \$50,000		x	
B3	Review Culgoa flood study.	Culgoa	MCMA	BSC, GWMW	< \$50,000	x		
B4	Develop a flood and drainage management plan for Culgoa. This plan will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide improved flood intelligence and information to enable more accurate and meaningful flood predictions; and</li> <li>identify options to reduce the impact of future flood.</li> </ul>	Culgoa	BSC	MCMA	< \$50,000		x	
B5	Investigate the establishment of TFWS and prediction services for high risk community of Culgoa	Culgoa	BSC		< \$50,000	x		
B6	Implement drainage improvements works at Nullawil	Nullawil	BSC		\$50-\$300,000	x		
S1	Utilise the River Murray flood study to confirm likely flood levels and risks to the municipality and townships.	Swan Hill municipality	SHRCC		n/a			x
S2	Review and update local flood mapping based on study results.	Swan Hill municipality	SHRCC		< \$50,000	x		
S3	Complete reconstruction of the Robinvale Levee. This will involve removal of the existing levee and construction of a new levee to an acceptable standard, with proper section, service crossings, compaction, freeboard and crest width.	Robinvale	SHRCC	DELWP	>\$300,000	x	x	
S4	Formalise management responsibilities for the reconstructed Robinvale Levee.	Robinvale	SHRCC	MCMA, levee beneficiaries	< \$50,000		x	
S5	Update the Robinvale Flood Study to include the reconstructed Robinvale Levee.	Robinvale	MCMA	SHRCC, LMW	< \$50,000	x		
S6	Amend the Swan Hill planning scheme based on the reconstructed Robinvale Levee i.e. remove the LSIO from the land protected by the levee.	Robinvale	SHRCC		< \$50,000			x
S7	Complete drainage study for Robinvale.	Robinvale	SHRCC	MCMA	< \$50,000			x
S8	Investigate options to store and release stormwater.	Cloverdale	SHRCC		< \$50,000			x
S9	Amend the Swan Hill planning scheme to incorporate the updated Tyrrell/Lalbert Creeks Flood Study mapping.	Tyrrell and Lalbert floodplains	SHRCC		< \$50,000		x	
Y1	Update the 2007 Beulah flood study (Warracknabeal and Beulah Flood Study, Water Technology 2007).	Beulah	MCMA	YSC	< \$50,000	x		
Y2	Amend the Yarriambiack Shire Council planning scheme to incorporate the updated Beulah flood study mapping.	Beulah	YSC		< \$50,000	x		
Y3	Develop formal operating procedures for the weirs upstream and downstream of Beulah.	Beulah	YSC	MCMA	< \$50,000	x		
Y4	Upgrade the 'informal' flood levee (if required) based on the findings of the updated flood study.	Beulah	YSC	MCMA	< \$50,000	x		

## **B.17.144 SWAN HILL TOWN HALL PERFORMING ARTS AND CONFERENCE CENTRE**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Community & Cultural Services  
**File Number:** AST-BU-37515-07  
**Attachments:** Nil

### **Declarations of Interest:**

Bruce Myers - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

### **Summary**

This report provides Council with a proposal to simplify the fees and charges for annual hirers of the Swan Hill Town Hall Performing Arts and Conference Centre. The report also confirms the allowable capacity for the auditorium.

Recent attempts to implement a subsidy scheme and concerns raised about capacity in the auditorium created a large amount of disquiet in the community about the Town Hall PACC. It is vital that this situation be resolved by the introduction of a simplified fee structure which will streamline the booking and budgeting processes for community users.

### **Discussion**

The Swan Hill Town Hall Performing Arts and Conference Centre is the only high-quality performing arts venue within 2 hours of Swan Hill, and is used by both the Swan Hill Council and community and therefore needs to be flexible to allow for a range of functions. Users of the Town Hall include local schools, community groups, local sporting clubs, dance groups, individual community members, businesses and groups from inside and outside the region, in addition to „internal“ usage by Council programs.

Built in 1929, the historic art deco venue underwent a major \$3million refurbishment in 2000-01, with the purchase and installation of new technical equipment (via a \$300,000 State Government grant and \$115,000 Council contribution) completed in 2013. The technical upgrades provide the venue with a high-quality range of sound and lighting for international-standard performances, both coordinated by Council's Performing Arts program, and booked independently by external promoters.

The Town Hall is used for a variety of functions such as shows from Council's Performing Arts program, meetings, seminars, workshops, staff training, debutante balls, birthday parties, weddings, wine shows, concerts by local groups and schools, shows by external promoters, and weekly Councillor assemblies.

The main functions of the venue are:

- To support the Performing Arts program, cultural and community projects, events and activities occurring within the Swan Hill Rural City Council

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- To increase the participation of the local community in arts, leisure and cultural activities
- To maximise the use of the Swan Hill Town Hall by making the venue available to local community groups and organisations for community events.

Usage

Over 60% of the usage of the Town Hall PACC is Council-related, with Council Meetings, Assemblies, staff training, forums and community engagement events. There are also approximately 10 debutante balls, 4 dance company performances, school concerts and presentations, the week-long Fairfax Youth Initiative events, 2-3 weddings and other miscellaneous locally-coordinated events requiring a range of the facility's equipment and spaces.

Some events require minimal setting-up and no cleaning, others require extensive planning and coordination, rehearsals, sound and lighting plans, security, alcohol management, catering via seated meals, finger foods, and BYO foods.

Council subsidies and fee structure

The venue is expensive to operate, clean and maintain, as it is large building with multiple uses, and has been fitted-out for national and international standard performing arts equipment.

Finding the balance between cost-recovery and community access is the ongoing challenge, and Council proposed the introduction of a subsidy process to allow for a better understanding of the „true“ cost of the venue for events, and to allow for an assessment of the level of subsidy.

Regular users were not supportive of the proposed subsidy scheme, which requires paperwork and documentation; during consultations users acknowledged that prices will increase over time, but they strongly expressed their need to know the price for their events well in advance without additional administration.

Four organisations undertook the draft subsidy paperwork as a trial, and their responses, in addition to previously-known levels of subsidy, showed that the discount in fees and charges for bookings ranges between 40% and 70%.

Proposed fees and charges for 2018-19 have been developed following a close analysis of the costs for the venue. Looking at minimum safe staffing requirements, actual cleaning costs, and placing each of the bookable rooms in the venue into cleaning zones, accurate averages for costs can be allocated for events.

Based on the forms returned and the feedback from recent consultation with regular users, it is proposed to provide a „debutante ball package“ rate, which allows for all features of most debutante balls. Additional requirements would be charged at the full rate, as they attract real costs to Council and are not absorbed in normal operating costs.

The principles of the debutante package can then be applied to the other regular annual users of the venue, such as dance school recitals and school performances, in addition to one-off events.

All costs for a debutante ball, including rehearsals, necessary staff, cleaning costs and technical support are approximately \$6,000. Applying a 70% discount to Council fees and charges, and charging the full cleaning and extra costs brings the cost to local balls run by non-profit organisations to \$2,500, not including extras. This is an overall discount of 60%.

Staff can therefore fully capture the real costs of events for any future competitive neutrality issues, while clearly showing the level of Council subsidy. This would be indicated on quotations and invoices, and a similar system is proposed for annual hirers such as dance schools, which would receive less of a discount as they are locally-based but are profit-based businesses.

Council is often approached for free access to the facility for a community event, such as a fundraiser. Where the event doesn't require significant technical support (audio and lighting), users are often encouraged to utilise other facilities.

#### Capacity concerns

The capacity of the ground floor auditorium has been confirmed by Building Codes as 304, which allows for the traditional 27 tables of 10 people to remain in place. While there is a „comfort“ concern, there are no legal requirements for spaces between seating.

Some hirers have indicated that 270 at tables of 10 is very tight, and not a great experience, and while this is a concern for hirers often seeking to sell maximum tickets, alternative options for different seating models are available for consideration.

#### Safety and maintenance

A number of key equipment areas have been assessed for safety and either require upgrades/replacement or additional staff supervision for their usage. This will add additional costs to events that require extensive fly tower access. There will be an ongoing process to prioritise the issues and work through them.

Where solutions cannot be funded in the short term, or where areas of unacceptable risk remain, these sections may be made off-limits or unavailable to hirers, and may require physical barriers to be installed.

## Consultation

One-on-one meetings with hirers of the venue have been ongoing for several months, and a meeting was facilitated for debutante ball organizers in late November which highlighted the main concerns in the community.

## Financial Implications

The proposed Debutante Ball package is based on a discount being applied to Council fees and charges, but not fixed external charges such as laundry, additional employment agency staff and additional cleaning.

1. Local - not for profit \$2,500 (70% discount applied to Council fees only)
2. Local - for profit \$3,500 (50% discount applied to Council fees only)
3. Non-local \$6,100 (no discount).

A standard debutante ball package includes:

3 hr rehearsal	Auditorium & Stage (incl Duty Officer & Stage Mgr)
3 hr rehearsal	Cleaning (at cost)
3 hr rehearsal	Technician
5 hr set up & rehearsal	Auditorium & Stage (incl Duty Officer & Stage Mgr)
5 hr set up & rehearsal	Cleaning (at cost)
5 hr set up & rehearsal	Technician
7.5 hr event	Whole Complex (incl Duty Officer, Area Warden & Stage Mgr)
7.5 hr event	Town Hall Staff to Set up and Pack down room
7.5 hr event	Cleaning (at cost)
7.5 hr event	Technician
7.5 hr event	Tables, chairs & table clothes (including dry cleaning)
7.5 hr event	Lectern & Microphone

Additional services and equipment can be added to this base rate if required by the organisers for their specific event.

The intent of the proposal is to increase usage of the venue, while recovering some of the costs associated with hosting events. It is acknowledged that facilities such as the Swan Hill Town Hall PACC are subsidised by Council.

## **Social Implications**

The Town Hall PACC is the only facility that can safely accommodate several hundred people, and has the necessary stage, catering and bar facilities for large events.

It contributes to the wellbeing and social fabric of the community as a venue for quality performing arts events, and provides a large, high-quality facility for events that bring the community together.

It is important to maintain community confidence in the Town Hall PACC.

## **Economic Implications**

The Town Hall PACC provides opportunities for businesses and community groups to showcase, promote and develop their products, services and activities, and attracts national and international events to the region.

## **Environmental Implications**

Not applicable to this report.

## **Risk Management Implications**

The recent community disquiet concerning the introduction of changes has caused some reputational risk. The proposal contained in this report is in part, a response to manage this risk.

## **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Community enrichment*** - Provide services and support initiatives that create a Healthy and Safe Community.

## **Options**

1. Endorse the recommendations in this report.
2. Make changes to the recommendations presented, or
3. Take any other action as determined.

## **Recommendations**

### **That Council:**

1. **Confirms the changes to the adopted Fees and Charges through the introduction of packages for regular community hires such as debutante balls, and that the same principles are applied for other events, including**



**but not limited to, dance schools and school performances.**

- 2. Authorise officers to notify the regular users of the changes.**
- 3. Update the draft 2018-19 Fees and Charges during the development of the 2018-19 annual budget accordingly.**

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**B.17.145 SWAN HILL REGIONAL LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE  
REDEVELOPMENT**

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer  
**File Number:** S11-27-08  
**Attachments:** 1 Swan Hill Saleyards Redevelopment  
Committee Report to Council

**Declarations of Interest:**

John McLinden - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

**Summary**

This report provides Council with a summary of advice from the Swan Hill Saleyards Redevelopment Committee, and seeks Council support to progress the redevelopment in line with the committee's recommendations.

**Discussion**

Agriculture is the backbone of the Swan Hill regional economy, and livestock production is a key component of this.

Cattle producers believe that Swan Hill Regional Livestock Exchange is held in high esteem due to its throughput, ability to attract high prices and its facilities, and has potential for growth due to its location as a gateway between New South Wales and northern Victoria.

It is widely recognised though, that the livestock exchange needs substantial redevelopment to improve occupational health and safety, animal welfare and to find operational efficiencies. Redevelopment is considered essential to ensure the yards have sufficient capacity for existing throughput and future growth. As throughput increases, the point may be reached where weekly cattle and sheep sales become viable.

Council has worked for several years on planning and designing an upgraded Swan Hill Regional Livestock Exchange. In October 2016, Federal Government funding was announced for an upgrade, through the National Stronger Regions Fund. It will be matched with Council funding, for a total project budget of \$1.75 million.

The original redevelopment project includes:

- Redeveloped cattle yards, including new bull selling pens; reconfiguring cattle laneways, scales and pens; installing double pen gates; new water troughs; upgrading and relocating the five-way drafting facility; and installation of raised walkways and cover. The infrastructure improvements would facilitate a change from ring selling and point-of-sale weighing to pen selling and post-sale weighing.

- Redeveloped sheep yards, including new electric sheep ramps; portable sheep trailer loading ramps; light towers; shade trees in penning areas; and replacing some dirt laneways with concrete.
- Upgrade of the three-bay truck wash.
- Upgrades to the effluent system and associated drains.
- New administrative office space.

In September 2017, cattle producers expressed strong concern about the proposed redevelopment. On 25 September, about 75 people attended a meeting to voice their concerns.

The producers' concerns focussed on the proposed change to the cattle selling method. Cattle are now sold as they move through a selling ring, with the auctioneer, buyers and observers all stationed inside the undercover ring. Cattle are weighed at point of sale, just before they enter the selling ring. Under the proposed redevelopment, the cattle yards would be reconfigured to allow for cattle to be sold in their pens, with auctioneers, buyers and observers moving through the yards on raised walkways. Cattle would be moved from their pens and be weighed post-sale.

### **Swan Hill Saleyards Redevelopment Committee**

In response to producer concern, a committee was established to review the proposed design and change of cattle selling method, and to advise Council on the benefits or otherwise of the proposed changes.

The 17-member committee included three livestock agents, seven livestock producers, a VFF Livestock representative, a livestock transport industry representative and Council representatives - Mayor Les McPhee, Cr Bill Moar, CEO John McLinden and Livestock Exchange Coordinator Pat Ahern. Former MP Barry Bishop facilitated discussions.

The group held meetings on 27 October and 17 November. They also toured saleyards at Wagga Wagga, Barnawartha (Wodonga) and Shepparton on 6 and 7 November.

A copy of the committee's report to Council is attached to this report.

### **Consultation**

The 17-member committee met twice and undertook a two-day tour of other regional saleyards with Councillors and staff. A detailed summary of their observations is included in the attached report.

### **Financial Implications**

A Federal Government grant has been awarded, and any proposed changes to the project must be made in consultation with and agreement from the Commonwealth. If Council decides to alter redevelopment plans, there will also be a cost associated with engaging a professional designer to develop new plans.

## **Social Implications**

Nil

## **Economic Implications**

The Swan Hill Regional Livestock Exchange Redevelopment Study of 2015 indicates the redevelopment would result in real economic benefits of more than \$7 million per year, in addition to the economic stimulus created during construction.

Throughput may increase to a point where weekly cattle and sheep sales become viable. This issue was touched on by the Committee but not considered as being of immediate importance.

## **Environmental Implications**

The original redevelopment plans include the construction of an effluent system. This part of the project was not on the redevelopment committee's charter and there was no discussion about modifying it.

## **Risk Management Implications**

The original redevelopment plan included actions to improve occupational health and safety across the livestock exchange. Any revised plan would also have to be drawn with improved OH&S as a priority.

## **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Infrastructure*** - Infrastructure that appropriately services community needs.

## **Options**

1. Accept the committee's recommendations as presented
2. Accept the committee's recommendations with amendments
3. Reject the committee's recommendations

## **Recommendations**

### **That Council:**

- 1. Adopts recommendations 1-7 of the Swan Hill Saleyards Redevelopment Committee's report.**
- 2. Express its appreciation of the work done by the Swan Hill Saleyards Redevelopment Committee.**

**Swan Hill Saleyards Redevelopment Committee  
Report to Swan Hill Rural City Council  
28 November 2017**

Swan Hill Rural City Council has worked for several years on planning and designing an upgraded Swan Hill Regional Livestock Exchange.

In October 2016, Federal Government funding was announced for an upgrade, through the National Stronger Regions Fund. It will be matched with Council funding, for a total project budget of \$1.75 million.

In September 2017, cattle producers expressed strong concern about the proposed redevelopment.

The producers' concerns focussed on the proposed change to the cattle selling method. Cattle are now sold as they move through a selling ring, with the auctioneer, buyers and observers all stationed inside the undercover ring. Cattle are weighed at point of sale, just before they enter the selling ring. Under the proposed redevelopment, the cattle yards would be reconfigured to allow for cattle to be sold in their pens, with auctioneers, buyers and observers moving through the yards on raised walkways. Cattle would be moved from their pens and be weighed post-sale.

In response to producer concern, a committee was established to review the proposed design and change of cattle selling method, and to advise Council on the benefits or otherwise of the proposed changes.

The 17-member committee included three livestock agents, seven livestock producers, a VFF Livestock representative, a livestock transport industry representative and Council representatives - Mayor Les McPhee, Cr Bill Moar, CEO John McLinden and Livestock Exchange Coordinator Pat Ahern. Former MP Barry Bishop facilitated discussions.

The group held meetings on 27 October and 17 November. They also toured saleyards at Wagga Wagga, Barnawartha (Wodonga) and Shepparton on 6 and 7 November.

**Meeting summary – 27 October**

A facilitated discussion was held, with each committee member asked for their views on the best methods of handling and selling cattle, and their vision for the saleyards in 30 years' time.

Key points raised during the meeting included:

- The occupational health and safety of the yards must be improved through design and staff training.
- Animal welfare goes hand in hand with design of yards.
- The speed of cattle weighing and cattle flow is the key, for both point-of-sale or post-sale weigh.
- Point-of-sale weighing is the preference of producers, post-sale weighing presents issues for transport to kill times as weight is unknown to buyers when bidding on a cents per kilogram basis.
- Re-weighs during cattle sales should be minimised. Requests from buyers to re-weigh certain beasts after they have entered the selling ring delays the sale and is often unnecessary. If there are multiple re-weighs it can have a significant impact on the duration of the sale.
- Cattle yards are too small in its current design. Livestock exchange is landlocked between roads and the railway line and most space is being utilised.
- Online selling will escalate in the future and new technology needs to fit into any re-design of the yards. With the future of online buying, there might need to be a central stock transit point and Swan Hill is well placed for this.
- Transport will be an issue in the future as truck sizes increase and Chain of Responsibility laws are introduced.
- We need to consider an interim plan and a long-term plan for the saleyards.

### Site visit summary – 6 and 7 November

Nine committee members travelled to Wagga Wagga, Barnawartha (Wodonga) and Shepparton yards, and two others visited Wagga only. At each site, the saleyards operator provided a tour. The committee observed cattle sales at Wagga Wagga and Shepparton, while at Barnawartha committee members observed the early stages of cattle arriving for the next day's sale.

The livestock agents represented on the committee travelled to Wagga Wagga and conducted an investigation of the selling method and the operation of that facility.

A summary of committee observations from these site visits is included below.

#### Site 1 – Wagga Wagga

Ring selling, point-of-sale weighing. Selling 4000-5000 head at their weekly sale, but going through a staged redevelopment to improve facilities to cater for these numbers. Council-operated yards.

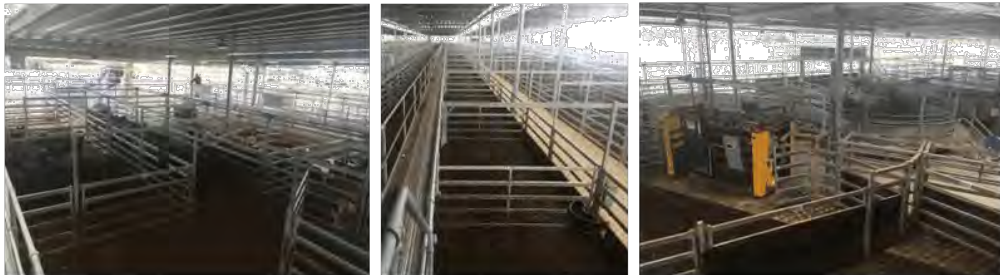
- Speed of sale was impressive. This was possible due to multiple stacking pens either side of the double weigh scales, the double pen in the selling centre, and a culture that promotes efficiency.
- Buyer desks discourage collusion between buyers.
- Re-weighs discouraged, which saves time.
- Raised platforms on races allowed staff to keep stock moving without interacting, as did the use of horses to bring cattle into weighing area. Still some areas where people are in direct contact with cattle, including inside the selling centre.
- Hydraulic air-operated gates either end of the selling centre remove people from yards and were quiet.
- Double pens in the selling centre mean buyers can view the next lot before bidding started.
- Good use of technology, and investigating future options for online selling
- Screens have useful information, but are hard to read.
- Limited ability for buyers to go into holding yards to inspect cattle.
- Concrete floor in most places.
- Seems that a high number of staff is needed to operate the yards.
- Needs a lot of space and pens because they draft into sale lots before the sale.



## Site 2 - Barnawartha

Pen selling, post-sale weighing. Prime cattle sales, and cow and bull sales weekly, store cattle twice a month. Privately-operated yards, built on a greenfield site in 2015.

- Design of yards is good – there is ability to make the yards bigger or smaller depending on need.
- Lots of room to load and unload.
- Cattle are drafted as they come off the truck.
- Soft floor prevents foot problems, and there's the ability to open up all yards to run a harrow over them to freshen them up.
- Dangerous with two people drafting cattle out of selling pens into lanes to be weighed.
- High level of noise under the roof - from gates and sale.
- Cumbersome delivery process.
- Mixing cattle of multiple vendors – potential problems with biosecurity, and potential for producers to take a price hit if their cattle is mixed with cattle of lesser quality.
- IT doesn't seem to be used as much as it could be – still a lot of reliance on manual processes and paper. Still hand scanning tags.





**Site 3 - Shepparton**

Pen selling, post-sale weigh. Selling 4000-5000 head at their weekly sale, recently had a new section of pens installed and now planning to install a second weigh scale. Council-owned and contractor-operated yards.

- Good flow through the scales, but it is a limiting factor, which is why they are installing a second set of scales.
- New sheds are well designed – raised buyer walkways, flexible yards, soft floor that can be harrowed due to yard design.
- Manual drafting before the scales is labour intensive, slow and dangerous – three people in with cattle.
- Air-operated gate onto and off scales is a positive, and the small air-operated streamers to move cattle along worked well.
- Mixing cattle of multiple vendors – potential problems with biosecurity, and potential for producers to take a price hit if their cattle is mixed with cattle of lesser quality.
- Splitting lots for buyers and then splitting for weighing has potential to slow the process down.
- Technology for electronic buyer/agent reports is available, but there is resistance from some agents to this.

**Meeting summary – 17 November**

Committee members summarised their observations from the saleyards tour, heard from online livestock marketing and sales business AuctionsPlus, completed a tour of the Swan Hill cattle yards, and individually gave their perspectives on the future of the redevelopment.

AuctionsPlus Operations, Marketing and Sales Manager Angus Street spoke to the committee about the digital revolution, the success of some corporates in this revolution, and examples of livestock industry technologies – both in operation now and in development. He urged the saleyards to be curious about and open to new technologies, to perfect their selling and weighing method, to focus on animal welfare, build strong stakeholder relationships, and be aware of brand reputation.

**Committee's advice to Council**

Occupational health and safety improvements should remain a priority, no matter what form the redevelopment takes. Improving cattle flow and efficiency is also a priority, to improve animal welfare, reduce the sale duration and increase throughput, regardless of whether the yards move to weekly sales or remain fortnightly. Producers remain adamant that ring selling and point-of-sale weighing is retained.

The committee's advice to Council is listed below.

1. *Retain ring selling and point-of-sale weighing.*  
The committee agreed by consensus that ring selling and point-of-sale weighing is the preferred method. Producers have a strong belief that ring-selling at Swan Hill has created a successful sale, giving buyers the chance to fully view stock and ultimately attracting good prices for vendors. Producers believe that point-of-sale weighing is important to give buyers as much information as possible about cattle before sale.
2. *Eliminate cattle re-weighs.*  
This operational change could take effect almost immediately, significantly reducing sale duration. The Swan Hill Livestock Agents Association has already agreed to send written advice to buyers that re-weighs must be minimised, and has approached Council to co-sign this letter as the yard operator.
3. *Improve occupational health and safety throughout the yards.*  
The committee agreed by consensus that occupational health and safety issues be addressed in conjunction with improving efficiency.
  - As per the original redevelopment plan, re-design cattle 'selling pens' to reduce laneway widths, and install full-width gates with one-way jams.
  - As per the original redevelopment plan, re-locate the bull-selling pens, eliminating the need for bulls to be walked through the yards.
  - Install air-operated gates and flags in and around the selling pen to reduce the need for staff to be in pens with cattle.
4. *Improve cattle flow throughout the yards to increase efficiency.*  
This can be achieved through both infrastructure and operational changes, and could include, but is not limited to the following. All suggested changes need to be investigated considering available space and budget, OHS, animal welfare and livestock selling best practice.
  - 4.1 Unloading
    - Investigate additional ramps and stacking pens to reduce unloading wait times for transport operators. Options for investigation include an additional ramp near Karinie Street, or at the rear of the cattle yards near the holding/feeding area.
    - Investigate a rolling curfew to stagger cattle arrivals. The curfew is currently 7pm the night before a sale.

- 4.2 Penning up
  - Investigate options to improve the cattle draft. Options for investigation include an automatic draft or a pound draft.
  - Investigate ways to increase the number of 'selling pens'.
  - As per the original redevelopment plan, introduce collapsible yards to improve flooring management and to make the yards more flexible for larger lots.
  - Investigate penning up initial lots in stacking pens, in selling order, the night before a sale.
- 4.3 Selling ring
  - As per the original redevelopment plan and recommendation 3, re-locate the bull selling pens. Use this area to create additional stacking pens at the entry to the weigh scales.
  - Remove the rotunda.
  - Install new weigh scales – potentially a double or side-by-side scale – in a new alignment.
  - Re-align cattle entry and exit points to allow cattle to flow straight through instead of having to enter towards the crowd and turn 180 degrees.
  - Create a new buyer seating area away from the ring and with individual desks.
  - As per recommendation 3, ensure all gates leading into the selling ring, in the selling ring and leading out of the selling ring are air-operated. Consider installation of air-operated flags in and around the selling area to encourage cattle to move. Both these measures will improve cattle flow and eliminate an OHS risk of people in pens.
  - Create a double pen inside the ring, one for selling and one for the next lot.
  - As mentioned in point 2, eliminate re-weighs.
- 4.4 Outloading
  - Investigate the best way to move and pen stock following sale, considering changes to ring entry/exit alignment.
5. *Implement a design that facilitates advances in technology.*

Investigate equipment needed now (or make provision for future equipment) that can deliver online sales and sale live streaming, video scanning and DEXA.
6. *Undertake a long-term plan.*

The livestock exchange is landlocked between roads and the railway line, and most space is being utilised. The committee suggests that Council puts together a long-term plan to use nearby land or a greenfield site for larger and more efficient yards as Swan Hill's throughput grows.

7. *Set-up a livestock exchange users committee.*  
The committee moved and unanimously supported the following motion at their 27 October meeting.  
The committee believes its work has been beneficial in generating a better understanding of the future operations of the saleyards and would respectfully suggest to Council that the committee be formalised as an Advisory Committee of Council.

**Appendices**

1. Committee Membership
2. Committee Terms of Reference
3. Meeting minutes

## **Swan Hill Saleyards Redevelopment Committee**

### **Membership**

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#### **Swan Hill Rural City Council**

Councillor Les McPhee (Chair)

Councillor Bill Moar

Mr John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer

Pat Ahern, Livestock Exchange Coordinator

#### **Agents**

Jason Pickering – Landmark

Joe O’Rielly – BR&C

Jason Telford - Elders

#### **Livestock Producers**

Leonard Vallance, VFF Livestock groups

Geoff Brawn

Phillip Christie

Dennis Walker

Stuart McCann

Ron Hoare

Gerry O’Loughlin

Wayne Murray

#### **Livestock Transport**

Russell Borchard (LRTAV)

#### **Facilitator**

Barry Bishop

## **Review of Swan Hill Saleyards Redevelopment Committee Terms of Reference**

### **Background**

The Swan Hill Saleyards have operated for many years in its current location and underwent a major redevelopment approximately 30 years ago. Council has recognised that the Swan Hill Saleyards require substantial redevelopment to ensure improvements to animal welfare, operational efficiencies and future usage. Council has attracted funding from the Federal Government and is providing a matching contribution, to ensure that works are carried out to the yards to bring them up to industry standards and expectations

Recent concern in respect to their development proposal has been expressed by local producers. In response Council has resolved to carry out further consultation regarding the proposed redevelopment of the saleyards including the selling method. To ensure this is carried out fairly and promptly, a committee is to be formed.

### **Purpose of the committee**

The purpose of this committee is to review the proposed design of the redevelopment of Swan Hill Saleyards and the resultant change in the method of selling, and to advise Council in respect to the benefits or otherwise of the proposed changes.

Although the proposed redevelopment works affect the cattle and sheep operations along with ancillary services such as a truck wash and improvements to effluent management, the primary role of this Committee is to focus on the arrangements as they relate to the management, movement and selling of livestock.

If the Committee believes that other matters require review, Council would also welcome any considered comments of this Committee.

### **Objective**

The overall objective of the Saleyards redevelopment is to support the economy of Swan Hill and Region. Agriculture is the backbone of the Swan Hill regional economy. The livestock sector is an important component of the prosperity of this municipality and its community. Any changes/upgrades to the saleyards must provide additional economic benefits by increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of operation. With that overall objective in mind, Council proposes to achieve this by delivering against the following objectives:

- implement a yard system and selling method that provides for the safe movement of stock;
- removing the number of movements of stock to reduce any harmful effects on animal welfare;

- to minimise the operational interaction between humans and livestock to reduce the Occupational Health & Safety. To increase the capacity of the saleyards for current users and potential new users;
- to design the Saleyards and improve its selling methods to ensure its ongoing use and success.

### Issues

The Swan Hill Saleyards Redevelopment Committee is asked to consider the following issues:

- What are the views of livestock producers in relation to the most desirable method of handling and selling livestock at the Swan Hill Saleyards?
- What is industry best practice in respect of livestock selling?
- What future trends are emerging within the red meat industry in relation to the selling of livestock?
- What is the reliable data about sale processes and in particular pen selling versus ring selling, presale weighing versus point-of-sale weighing versus post sale weighing?
- Any other issues as determined by the committee?

Outcome/recommendation

- With all things considered, what is the Committee's advice to Council in respect of the current arrangement of the Swan Hill Saleyards and the proposed method of selling?

### Membership

The Committee will be chaired by the Mayor of the Swan Hill Rural City Council and will have representatives from the following organisations:

- Agents BR&C, Landmark and Elders – 3 representatives
- Swan Hill Rural City Council Councillor Bill Moar, Chief Executive Officer John McLinden and Fleet Operations and Livestock Exchange Coordinator, Pat Ahern
- A representative from the Victorian Farmers Federation livestock group.
- Livestock producers - a broad representation of livestock producers selling through the Swan Hill Saleyards.
- Livestock transport industry - a representative from the Livestock Transport Industry. Other individuals as agreed to by the committee may be co-opted onto the committee to provide particular expertise if identified.

### Decision Making

It is anticipated that the recommendations/advice from this group will be determined by consensus rather than a majority vote.

**Meeting Schedule**

It is proposed that the Committee will be formed by mid-October and will meet for a maximum of four occasions prior to providing its recommendations to Council.

**Reporting**

The committee will report to the Swan Hill Rural City Council no later than 30 November 2017.



**Swan Hill Saleyards redevelopment Committee  
Meeting 1 - Friday, 27 October  
MINUTES**

Present: Mayor Les McPhee (Council), Cr Bill Moar (Council), John McLinden (Council) , Barry Bishop (facilitator), Jason Pickering (Landmark), Wayne Murray (producer), Leonard Vallance (VFF Livestock), Philip Christie (producer), John Young (Elders), Pat Ahern (Council), Gerry O'Loughlin (producer), Joe O'Reilly (BR&C), Ron Hoare (producer), Russell Borchard (transport), Dennis Walker (producer), Geoff Brawn (buyer, producer, former agent), Felicia Chalmers (Council).

Apologies: Jason Telford (Elders), Stuart McCann (producer).

**COMMITTEE PROCESS**

Mayor Les McPhee - This is ultimately an advisory panel for Council to make final decision, we want to hear from everyone.

A media release has been sent out to confirm that progress was being made on the redevelopment, and we have had media contacting us about it. So that comments are consistent, media responses should come from the Mayor.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

All committee members have a copy of the Terms of Reference.

John McLinden - We received \$870,000 from Federal Government, which Council is matching. In that funding application there were three main factors:

1. Improving the occupational health and safety of the yards
2. Increasing efficiency – which in turn allows for more stock through the yards and increased input to our economy
3. Improving how we manage effluent

The objective of this committee is to report back to Council by 30 November.

We might not get to consensus, but what matters is that all views are considered, and you can each say what your preference is. We will write a report that reflects everyone's views.

Mayor Les McPhee - We are spending \$1.7 million on the saleyards, and we have to consider the needs of the future. We all agree on the need for improved animal welfare and OHS. We need to focus on selling methods - how we sell animals in the best and safest way.

**DISCUSSION**

Led by Barry Bishop

Barry Bishop - We have got a fair responsibility here. We need to open our minds to the best technology that should see us through the next 30 years. I believe we can get the best outcome here, that we can come up with safe yards (for cattle and people) and maximise returns for everyone, becoming a good economic driver for the area.

***At meeting's end, summary of meeting's key points:***

- The occupational health and safety of the yards must be improved through design and staff training
- Animal welfare goes hand in hand with design of yards
- Point of sale weighing is the preference of producers
- Current yards are too small
- The speed of weighing is the key, for both point of sale or post-weigh
- Post-weigh presents issues for transport to kill times
- Point of sale weighing and ring selling is better for long curfews
- Re-weighs should be banned
- Online selling will escalate in future
- New technology needs to fit into any re-design of the yards
- With the future of online buying, there will need to be a central stock transit point. Swan Hill is well placed for this.
- Truck sizes will be an issue in the future
- Do we need an interim plan and a long-range plan to build at a new site in Swan Hill?

***Handling and selling – each committee member asked for their views***

*Ron Hoare* - A lot of things in the Swan Hill yards are not good for handling cattle - too many sharp corners, blocked ends, when working with cattle you have always got to keep them moving in a circle arrangement to get them to flow. The laneways don't need to be large, narrow laneways are much better, the less people you have working cattle, it's easier and a lot less dangerous. Most injuries occur when two people are working and each has a different idea and the cattle get spooked.

Selling – the current method is good. Most producers would like to keep it the same. They know at the fall of the hammer how much they will get for the cattle they sell.

*Gerry O'Loughlin* - If we look to the future, we're not going to be allowed in the cattle yards with the cattle, and that's probably a really good idea.

Selling – With the present way of selling, everyone knows what they are buying, they know the weights. You have got to have weights at point of sale.

*Jason Pickering* - Swan Hill yards are not big enough to handle the number of cattle we've got. It impacts how we present cattle. Yesterday we had 1600 in yards that can handle 1200 - 1300. We need to do work on the lane ways/gates, that's been proposed, and we know that needs to happen.

Visited Wagga – lots of stacking pens. All agents have cattle pre-drafted as they are going to be sold. There are issues in that. A lot of cattle stand there on no water. Varied curfews. We spoke to a few agents – had 900 cattle and by 10.15 had only just started drafting cattle.

They're doing a \$5 million renovation. The flow in and out of the ring is good, but they need heavy gear to get them on and off the scales.

All we were ever trying to do is utilise our saleyards as they are, with the funds available.

The whole ring and scales in Swan Hill would have to be relocated and redesigned completely and I don't know what that would cost.

*Dennis Walker* - OHS issues need to be rectified. The most efficient and safest way to handle is to have them flowing in one direction and try to cut out those blank walls wherever possible. Selling - people come to Swan Hill to buy cattle because of the way we sell. We have good quality cattle, and they can see exactly what we are selling. Need a circular yard to see exactly what they're buying. With cattle going across the scales before sale, you know what you've got. Vendors know what they got for the stock they have produced. Like any auction. We need to speed it up and need to take the best of similar centres and incorporate that into our centre, where it can be done financially.

*Geoff Brawn* - I firmly believe that vendors pay the agents' wages and if it's a majority of vendors that want it a certain way, that's the way we should be going. I've been an agent, producer and buyer, and have bought and sold at many yards. I believe the system we have in Swan Hill is a tremendous system. It's slower, but it's a good system. We had 1000 capacity, maybe 1200, but we get out to 1600. The reason numbers have built up is way we sell and quality of cattle.

OHS is a huge issue and getting bigger. It is very difficult when employing yard labour for one day a fortnight, the quality of employees is not always there. And re-weighs have got to cease during the sale. It's slowing the sale up. Agents have to watch their drafting - some cattle are not drafted quite right. That's a hold-up too.

I don't think we can go back to pen selling. The reason we went inside was to prevent commission buyers from (for example) buying a lot for \$3, when one producer's cattle is worth more and another's less - not a fair system.

The money they are spending at Wagga is a waste. Ring is in centre of yards, cattle flow from one end to other into deliveries. We can't do that, but there are lots of things that can be tidied up. At Henty Field Days, was a rotunda, there were no people in there other than a person pushing a button - which was good for cost saving and OHS.

Our ring should be three feet bigger, cattle would turn better - they do that themselves in a bigger ring.

*John McLinden* - Asked for explanation on the connection between the way we sell and our increased numbers and quality.

*Dennis Walker* - People know they will be rewarded for effort. Buyers buy on what they can see and the weight. It gives even a small producer the opportunity to tip a bit more hay into stock, because that's what they're going to be paid on. The beast is weighed, the buyer can see on the board that beast has weighed out at 350/400/450 and that it will fit an order book, he's got to meet that criteria. That's why it is important to weigh before sale.

*Geoff Brawn* - Buying for two feedlots and had to have about 800 for each, each week. Do post weigh at Shepparton, I was buying 270-350kg. I was looking at a pen of heifers at Shepparton that I thought might be 340-345kg. I buy them, and get weights at 4pm or 5pm. Next thing I have the feedlot saying 'why are you buying 360kg heifers'? The next week you're gun shy. That's at the vendors' expense.

Now at Barnawartha, buying for a wholesaler who kills at Hardwicks in Kyneton, where they do a light kill on a Wednesday and a heavy kill on a Friday. My cattle are in Kyneton waiting to be drafted, but I can't tell them which ones are heavy or light because I still haven't got weights.

*Jason Pickering* - With dual scales at Wagga they're doing 600 cattle per hour. Those examples are the yards' issue because they haven't set them up properly.

Whether you sell and then weigh, or other way, the timeframe is the same. Weighing is the limited factor – you can still only weigh 300 per hour through the scales.

*Geoff Brawn* - Yass on post weigh is the bee's knees. But we'd have to pick up the shed and put it in the middle of the yards.

*Russell Borchard* - From a carrier's point of view, from carting cattle in right through the process, there are handling issues at Swan Hill. Carting in, on big sale days, it's nothing for trucks to be sitting around for two hours. By then the driver could be out of log book time and if he gets caught unloading outside log book hours, he can be fined. In terms of picking up, all drivers love coming to Swan Hill because they come here, and they load. The big one now is chain of responsibility. That will flow back to councils. If you go post weigh, it has to be a system where cattle can flow. And if electronic work diaries come in, you can vouch the cattle will all still be sitting there the next morning.

*Joe O'Reilly* - The biggest issue we've got is that the yards aren't big enough for what we want to do. A major issue is stacking pens, if we go to a two-way weigh bridge, we still haven't got enough stacking pens to get the flow through. Forty people are there once a fortnight, they are not all cattle people, If we move the saleyards out the road, you can go the way you want. But we have only got limited funds. That's why we want post weigh.

*Leonard Vallance* - Whatever is done, humans have to be out of pens. Another issue is we're trying to put three times the number of cattle through, because of its success. Feedlot buyers prefer to buy with pre-sale weighing - their margins are so slim. We have competition from on-farm feedlots, which are small in size, but a lot operating. There's the changing demographics of farm. There are big farms, but also lots more hobby farmers, selling two to three cattle at a time. We have to allow for them too. We have to be able to back in a road train, down to a ute with one on the back. Re-weighs should be banned. It is essential the vendor can put as much information on an electronic screen at sale. In the next five years, we will see a lot more info on them - where they're from, their lifestyle and that brings you back to ring selling being the best. Off-site buying is the biggest growing saleyards in Australia. If you talk to abattoir owners, one of the biggest costs is having a buyer and a car on the road. Particularly with trade steers, if you can see it all on the screen, you can sit in the office and buy it all from there. I am yet to hear anyone complementary about post weigh. We have to be careful about where we invest our money. Reducing lane sizes etc it has to be done. We have to have all available info for cattle, there is no alternative to pre-sale weigh in a ring. Scales are reasonably affordable. With all the agricultural and other services that farmers use, the effect these saleyards have on the economy of town, it warrants the investment and \$1.7 million isn't a lot in this day and age.

*Philip Christie* - I am a great believer in presentation, first impressions. There is not a better way to put cattle than at that ring in Swan Hill. Buyers know what they're getting. We invest money in men's shed for the social side. Yesterday, the buzz of people talking. If it had been elsewhere and weather was like it was at home, raining, it would have been miserable. Handling – I could not believe I had to drive an animal into a blank wall, couldn't believe I didn't have a support gate. And the amount of money we have available, when you can give \$500,000 to petrol heads.

*John Young* - Our biggest challenge is the quality of labour and people mixing with animals in a dangerous environment. Our business has been looking at it for years – but know we can't do the job without getting into the ring. I don't care how experienced you are, you are working with unpredictable animals.

*Russell Borchard* - Saleyards staff need to know they shouldn't walk up the unloading ramps - creates danger for drivers.

*Wayne Murray* - The saleyards history is in pen selling and the saleyards nearly died. When ring selling first started, we had 300 an hour going through, now down to 200 an hour. The sale before last, one buyer asked for cattle to be split and re-weighed. Between 4 and 8 kg difference, so no point in re-weigh.

I have spoken to lots of vendors. Three have said post weigh is alright, the rest say no. It's unbelievable how many people have told me they are ready to direct-sell rather than post sale weigh at yards.

Looking at the proposed design, apart from pressure going through the sale ring, the movement of cattle is almost identical.

*Ron Hoare* - Producers from up north, you can see in the sale ring as they turn around the ones that have had the big curfew. You're getting a bigger return for those that are well emptied out.

*Leonard Vallance* - When buying in a pen, how critical as a buyer is it to see whether those cattle are able to walk?

*Geoff Brawn* – At Wagga, they've got 500 stacking pens, about a third the size of ours. They are getting big problems with feet and once numbers are up in the south, the buyer is going to wipe Wagga because they are getting a lot of feet problems. There's nothing worse than getting cattle home and won't even come up to water.

*Barry Bishop* – Is there any hard evidence on pre versus post weigh?

*Joe O'Reilly* – You can't compare the hard data because each yard is so different.

*John McLinden* - Stuart McCann was an apology today. He is equally adamant that he often bypasses Swan Hill and goes to Shepparton, because he believes he gets a better result there.

*Geoff Brawn* - I think within two years, we'll see Kerang gone and within four will see Deniliquin and Finley too.

**What do you see for the future of Swan Hill yards 30 years out? – each committee member asked for their views**

*Ron Hoare* - I think with bigger places, a lot more cattle are being sold online but to sell online you have got to have reasonable numbers, deck lots. People are still going to use yards to sell smaller lots. Anything under 400kg live weight you would still be wanting to go through some sort of ring selling system.

For Swan Hill saleyards I believe in time we will have to do away with the first line of sheep yards and put cattle out there, so you can swing them around in a circular fashion.

I was disappointed to be told the end pens of the yards have been sold. I thought that was very detrimental. There were 30,000 sheep at last sale and all that area was used. You just wouldn't get them in there now.

We have lost Balranald, and Mildura, Ivanhoe and Deni not looking good. We have got a place here we can cater for big numbers.

I think the shire needs to adapt and work more on those holding paddocks. People could send cattle down here from north, and have them in holding paddocks. We talk about competition between us and say Shepparton, I think in the future, competition will be between Swan Hill and Dubbo. Trucks would rather come south, the roads from Tibooburra to Dubbo are terrible.

I think in future there will be more numbers, less vendors selling cattle because properties are getting bigger. There will always be a place for sheep yards in Swan Hill and you have to keep working on them. Market sets the price and others piggy back on it, whether over hooks or online.

*Gerry O'Loughlin* - Increase in online selling. There will be benefits to the stock if you could put in a yard at your own place and have them sold online, and it reduces cost. But a lot of others will go through the yards to face open competition, and that will set the market.

There will be two lots of online selling - one is in your own yards, other is in yards of Swan Hill.

*Joe O'Reilly* - Store stock is easy to sell online – we have sold sheep online. In the future, you might have, for example, an x-ray machine that they walk through and it gives marbling, fat, weights and you could do it that way. Unless you do that, you can't sell online.

*Leonard Vallance* - Auctions Plus is operating in saleyards now, on store stock. I see off-site bidding for cows in particular as being quite simple. Trade steers not too bad. Ready to slaughter stock, probably more difficult. The x-ray technology is out there now. I saw a machine last week, you have it in your ute, it cost \$16,000. You can take a blood sample and in 15 minutes it will tell you if your cattle has got foot and mouth, anthrax. The technology is there now, it wasn't six months ago. Technology is catapulting.

*John Young* – We have discussed the future of the Swan Hill market and where it's going to go. We can only see it growing, and more numbers coming this way. There is a limited future for some markets, but it is going to grow here.

*Dennis Walker* – It needs to be made bigger to make it more functional. The shire needs to get an economist in and see what you would get out of selling the centre, find out what you would get out of it commercially, and the difference between that and the cost of a completely new selling centre. A new centre would need to be integrated with online selling.

*Leonard Vallance* - Technology will bring about a couple of things – off-site bidding and on-farm bidding. Trucks are going to be bigger. If you're going to Warrnambool, a truck can't afford to run to Manangatang, Deniliquin etc to pick up. Stock will be accumulated somewhere to make freight affordable. You need to think of it as not a saleyard, it's a transit hub for livestock, whether they are transacted in the yards or somewhere else. One example of technology is in the freight, the truck driver hits a button when he starts, then curfew officially starts. We need to incorporate that technology in our saleyards, helping to draw people from further away.

Abattoirs are all in Victoria, and Swan Hill is in the best place to be freight hub for livestock.

*Jason Pickering* - We only sell once a fortnight. If you look at the big yards, they are all on a weekly basis, that's why private enterprise is into them. We'd love to sell cattle and sheep weekly but to do that, we need to get them efficient. There's only so much space in that saleyards – you've got the railway line across back. It doesn't matter where we go today. There are only so many more pens you can put in – some near loading ramps, truck ramps, near canteen, near feeding yards

*Les McPhee* – Can you have cattle and sheep yards separate?

*Geoff Brawn* - There's no reason you can't.

*Jason Pickering* - We are talking about trying to better our yards. It doesn't matter if you sell through a ring or pen, our end goal was to get more competition on your stock. Some use commission buyers to buy cattle, if you had cattle and sheep on one day they would send a staff buyer. To take sheep yards away from cattle yards, would make that not possible. In 25 years, not a lot has changed. I've work in all three systems - pre-weigh, post weigh and point of sale.

Post weigh - I like it because it's an efficient way of selling.

To get to that point, we have a lot of work to do

When you go to Wagga, you will get a better idea of the point we're making. Wagga doesn't fit Swan Hill, unless we can get more land and somehow convert it to make it work. The ring is in the wrong spot, the yards are in the wrong spot and we are hamstrung with land.

*Leonard Vallance* - Does the Council depot need to be there?

*Russell Borchard* – We will have bigger trucks, there will be more effluent problems. What about on six-mile hill, out of town. To have big saleyards, you have to have ability to feed stock.

Should we be looking longer term in investing and building it right for the future.

At Dubbo, that's where it beats us hand down. Heaps of feeding area.

The idea of Swan Hill being a central hub with the way transport is going and animal welfare, we could turn it into a business format and use the yards to make more money, recoup money, get full-time staff on.

Swan Hill council has a chance to do it properly and make it a central hub to pool cattle.

People from Donald way coming up here. In Mildura, we were regularly loading to Bendigo, now come here and Ouyen.

*Dennis Walker* – We need to look at longer term. What can we do short term? That's why we're here today.

*John Young* – We have got funding we need to work on now. The next project is probably longer term.

*Leonard Vallance* - Council needs to have a look at how big Swan Hill's going to be. Swan Hill will double in size. It begs the question - is the saleyards in the right place? Don't think you should cringe away from having the saleyards in urban area.

Do council need new workshops? They probably do. They have same issues with equipment.

You could sell the land and that money be used to build a state-of-art facility in three years' time.

*Wayne Murray* - There will be scanners for ear tags, ultrasound for muscle and fat, dressing percentage. You can have a physical sale plus Auctions Plus. Water buy backs were bought off cattle farms, so numbers won't be there.

*Barry Bishop* - What stops us from having a sale weekly now?

*Joe O'Reilly* – It takes nearly two days to do it all. And there's no other day you can do it, you would clash with other markets. Thursday is the ideal day. That's why post weigh works. We sell cattle for two hours, then sheep.

*Jason Pickering* - How many sheep/cattle do we miss on those off days? Lots. We have been getting stock because Victoria has had a season, but not there (north). That will happen until we die – people send their stock where feed and competition is. Using post-weigh, the minute we sell the last beast, the agent team only needs one person there as a booking clerk on the scales. It allows us to go in and draft sheep ahead of a sheep sale. To sell on a weekly basis we need to go post-weigh. If we got the ring set up right, we could almost achieve it.

*Philip Christie* - Unless you take Ouyen with you, weekly sales won't work. If you have weekly sales only in spring (and being post-weigh) the rest of us lose out on post-weigh for the rest of the year.

*Jason Pickering* - With the amount of money we had and the design of the yards, the way to quicken it up and make it work, that was the easiest way to do it. If you want to implement Wagga and weigh 600 an hour, let's do it.

*John McLinden* – What numbers do you need to attract buyers to a sale?

*Joe O'Reilly* - 900-1000 for a cattle sale to get buyers. If you had cattle and sheep on same day, you could have 400-500 cattle and 5000-6000 sheep.

#### **SITE VISITS – Monday, 6 November and Tuesday, 7 November**

Wagga is ring selling, Shepparton is post-weigh pen selling. Council will work on logistics, and try to fit in Barnawartha too. Details will be distributed.

#### **OTHER ISSUES RAISED**

*Russell Borchard* – If we can't close the road between the saleyards and the depot, can a speed hump and speed limit be put on the road?

*Wayne Murray* – They close part of McCallum Street for show, maybe something like that?

*Jason Pickering?* - How much money is left after the truck wash and OHS changes to pens etc? That will be how much we have to make changes with.

*Geoff Brawn* – We need to send a letter from the association and the shire to all buyers about the terms and conditions of how Swan Hill sales will work - talking about re-weighing. Maybe offer re-weighs after the sale in some cases.



## Swan Hill Saleyards Redevelopment Committee Site visits – 6 and 7 November (Wagga, Barnawartha and Shepparton) Summary

Present: Mayor Les McPhee (Council), Cr Bill Moar (Council), John McLinden (Council), Barry Bishop (facilitator), Wayne Murray (producer), Gerry O'Loughlin (producer), Ron Hoare (producer), Dennis Walker (producer), Pat Ahern (Council), Felicia Chalmers (Council).  
Present at Wagga only - Philip Christie (producer), Geoff Brawn (buyer, producer, former agent)

### 1. Summary of Wagga Wagga yards Point of sale weighing, ring selling Manager Paul Martin

Sale every Monday – bulls, prime cattle, stores and calves.

In November 2016, Council adopted a 25-year strategic masterplan. It's a flexible masterplan, so we can prioritise opportunities as funding becomes available. There is an immediate need in the cattle yards. We are selling 4000 to 5000 a week, but comfortable level is 3000 to 4000.

Yards designed initially in the 1970s. Newer section around the scales was in 2006/07.

Currently building a new walkway to separate public from working area, and new access point from road. Redevelopment will help reduce risks, including those around chain of responsibility and animal welfare.

Design is not conducive to store sales, there is a calf and store sale at 11am in a new shed. Advantage is that vendors can bring all their stock in one day. Bulls sold separately in a traditional herringbone style yards.

*Operations* – All stock work is done on one side pre-sale, sold in the ring, then delivery is on the other side.

Rolling curfew is from 4pm Sunday. The later they are in the sale order, the later they come in. Cattle have a minimum three hours off food and water, maximum 12 hours off water. There's no water in stacking pens, but there is water in drafting pens. That fits in with all regulations.

Agents employ contractors to manage all the stock that comes in. Enter all sale data other than weights onto a touchscreen computer and animals scanned, as they arrive. We use Belvoir (now known as Outcross) software. One casual staff member checks those that haven't scanned so that by the time of sale, we have 100 per cent scanned.

Contractors receive cattle the night before the sale for all agents, on a cost recovery basis, until agents bring their staff in and take over. Contractors also invoice buyer for delivery fee, also on a cost recovery basis.

Average 1.5 minutes from weight to sale.

It's an education process between the agents and buyers that there's no splitting off. We draft well and there's no option for splitting or re-weighs.

Buyer gets a print out, gives it to the contractor to show where their cattle is so it can be on the truck and out.

City employs eight directly (five full time). Agents have 8-10 people (four FTE plus casuals). Can see 120 people across all agencies to provide the service.

*Technology* - Have broadcast sales live. Not actively focussed on online selling, but we are thinking about it. It would be a matter of bringing a third-party provider in – Elite Livestock or similar. It's about including that technology in the existing saleyard. You get all the information pre-sale and you have one selling point.

*User group* – Don't meet often but productive, with a strategic focus. Two-year terms in line with agent association president term. Includes cattle and sheep reps from NSW Farmers, a transport rep, contractors, staff, agents. You need stakeholder buy-in for redevelopment.

*Growth* – Seven per cent year on year for eight years, but still reflective of overall seasons. Last year throughput was down but we still sold \$428m through the yards – 168,000 cattle and 1.7m sheep.

*Other points of interest* - We pay council for internal services like IT, HR and pay an annual dividend to council for assuming risk of operation.

Manager's role is to drive the yards, so council doesn't forget our customer – the producers. If we can keep margins down, if you can prove you have a competitive advantage, it's going to do its own job.

Find that having all information available helps buyers make the most informed decision that they can.

## 2. Summary of Barnawartha yards

### Post-sale weighing, pen selling

#### Manager James Thompson

Prime cattle sales weekly on a Tuesday, cow and bull sales weekly on a Wednesday, store cattle on the first and third Thursday of each month.

Two main advantages here, the roof and the soft flooring. Roof catches rainfall for truck wash, troughs etc. Only town water is in the office. All gates open up in yards, which means we can power harrow the wood chips every week, and in winter after every sale.

*Operations* – Curfew 9pm night before. We start scanning at 10.30pm, using tablets. Agents return in the morning to sell.

There is access to water in all receival yards, selling pens and delivery area. Want to keep them hydrated, never had an issue with buyers complaining.

Had 1600 on Melbourne Cup Day, which should sell in 2.5 hours – a minute per pen. On a Tuesday sale we can have up to 50 buyers.

Horses take cattle from A to B, have people in the pens.

Sale starts 8am, weighing starts about 8.45am. Weigh 90 lots an hour, 3.8 to 4 head per lot.

Two sorts of weighing - single weighs, which take up to five singles for the same buyer from a lane, and bulk weighs.

Around the scales, there are air operated and hand controlled pneumatic gates to direct where cattle are going.

Drafter is responsible for the group that's up for weighing, they are grouped into buyers either as singles or bulks. Then horse people take them.

Buyers and agent go into the system, and we allocate draft yards to buyers.

In delivery area, there's a horse in front of cattle to open gates, one behind pushing them up. Once delivered to their delivery pen, horses return for next lot. Horses have ability to go longer, and are quicker returning from delivery area. Horse people use radios to communicate about lots moving and gate openings.

OHS - we have done a lot of training around safety in pens, communication.

On sale day, there are 12-15 staff depending on sale numbers.

Once we've finished weighing, we check everything, check the paperwork versus what's in the pen. For example, the horse people might be taking a lot to pen 43 and instead put them in pen 53 – it's human error. That's why we check everything.

If a driver needs to get cattle in for a kill, we can move them up.

Installing fans to help with airflow and installing shade over outload yards. There is noise dispersal roofing – Aramax Freespan.

*Growth* - In the last 12 months, numbers have come back, it's market driven. Have been pulling more from the south, around Benalla, a percentage are bypassing Wangaratta and coming here.

*Other points of interest* - It took time for everyone to get used to it (post-weigh), truck drivers started arriving at 8.30am wanting their cattle.

### 3. Summary of Shepparton yards

#### Post-sale weighing, pen selling

Manager Ian McDermott

Original yards built in 1970s – now used for bulls and export. New shed just a couple of years old – used for trade and then at 12pm on sale day, the open auction on stores. Advantage is that vendors can bring all stock in one day.

Improvements in the new yards include that buyers can see cattle better with a raised walkway. There is a smaller gap at the bottom of yards to prevent heads getting stuck. There are sprinklers to settle dust.

*Operations* – 9pm curfew. Agents draft from 3pm as stock comes off the truck.

1200 head on Melbourne Cup day, expected to finish weighing at 12.30pm/1pm. Week before had 2000 and finished weighing 3.30pm/4pm. Average 260 per hour weighed, depending on singles. There are a lot of dairy cows and hobby farmers coming in with one or two. Max sale capacity is 4000.

Once the first four or five pens are sold, we start moving them down the lanes to be weighed. Contractors do the weighing – eight of them employed by agents. We draft out and weigh singles if needed.

Contractors then put them in the buyers' pens.

Scale operator puts in price and buyer, and scales add in the weight, which is matched up to data on the beast that is already in the system from the night before.

Contractors charge the vendor to take them to the scales, charge buyer after scales.

We have a concrete floor, saw dusted, and we have a lot less sore feet. Every week we assess pens and clean out if needed. In the new selling area, we can open up all the gates and bring in a tractor and a smudger with fingers to aerate saw dust and help it to dry.

They are on water, every pen has got water. We have done tests on hollowing out and some can lose 10 per cent, some 6 per cent, depending on the animal, how much feed it's had the day before.

With regard to OHS – contractors are happy doing it the way they're doing it. Contractor is changing his workforce every week, he's employed people who I've told not to bring back here because they don't know what they're doing.

We charge buyers per bale to feed their stock if they want to leave them here for a few days after the sale. I want them to come back, so I work with them.

*User group* - Saleyards advisory committee meets once every two months.

*Technology* – Haven't considered online selling. Reports available to be emailed to buyers and agents. Some agents have been resistant.

*Growth* – Averaging 1500/1600 head, but that was probably 1800 last year.

*Other points of interest* – Installing a second weigh station in next 12 months

We had trouble a few years back, I was responsible for drivers' hours because they were sitting here. Authorities said we had to put in an area for drivers to camp in. With chain of responsibility, it was our responsibility to get weighed quicker and get stock on trucks earlier.

#### 4. Summary of committee observations

##### Wagga Wagga

- Speed of sale was impressive. This was possible due to multiple stacking pens either side of the double weigh scales, the double pen in the selling centre, and a culture that promotes efficiency.
- Buyer desks discourage collusion between buyers.
- Re-weighs discouraged, which saves time.
- Minimal use of people in the yards with cattle. Raised platforms on races allowed staff to keep stock moving without interacting, as did the use of horses to bring cattle into weighing area. Still some areas where people are in direct contact with cattle, including inside the selling centre.
- Hydraulic air-operated gates either end of the selling centre remove people from yards and were quiet.
- Double pens in the selling centre mean buyers can view the next lot before bidding started.
- Good use of technology, and investigating future options for online selling
- Screens have useful information, but are hard to read.
- Limited ability for buyers to go into holding yards to inspect cattle.
- Concrete floor in most places.
- Seems that a high number of staff is needed to operate the yards.
- Needs a lot of space and pens because they draft into sale lots before the sale.



**Barnawartha**

- Design of yards is good – there’s the ability to make the yards bigger or smaller depending on need.
- Lots of room to load and unload.
- Cattle are drafted as they come off the truck.
- Soft floor prevents foot problems, and there’s the ability to open up all yards to run a harrow over them to freshen them up.
- Dangerous with two people drafting cattle out of selling pens into lanes to be weighed.
- High level of noise under the roof - from gates and sale.
- Cumbersome delivery process.
- Mixing cattle of multiple vendors – potential problems with biosecurity, and potential for producers to take a price hit if their cattle is mixed with cattle of lesser quality.
- IT doesn’t seem to be used as much as it could be – still a lot of reliance on manual processes and paper. Still hand scanning tags.



**Shepparton**

- Good flow through the scales, but it is a limiting factor, which is why they are installing a second set of scales.
- New sheds are well designed – raised buyer walkways, flexible yards, soft floor that can be harrowed due to yard design.
- Manual drafting before the scales is labour intensive, slow and dangerous – three people in with cattle.
- Air-operated gate onto and off scales is a positive, and the small air-operated streamers to move cattle along worked well.
- Mixing cattle of multiple vendors – potential problems with biosecurity, and potential for producers to take a price hit if their cattle is mixed with cattle of lesser quality.
- Splitting lots for buyers and then splitting for weighing has potential to slow the process down.
- Technology for electronic buyer/agent reports is available, but there is resistance from some agents to this.



## 5. Preliminary recommendation for Swan Hill

That Swan Hill remains ring selling and point-of-sale weighing, and incorporates changes to infrastructure and operations to improve efficiency.

These changes need to be investigated considering available space and budget. They could include, but are not limited to:

- Installing a second set of scales, and changing location of scales.
- Improving cattle flow by creating two selling pens inside and reconfiguring yards to allow for multiple stacking pens either side of the scales and as the cattle exit the selling centre.
- Eliminating re-weighs.

## 6. Full committee observations

### Positives

*Wayne Murray* – Amazing how quickly they sold pens through Wagga and then exited out, the cattle disappeared quickly. Shepparton looked easier for weighing than Barnawartha.

*Gerry O'Loughlin* – Impressed with the way horses handled the stock at Wagga and it took a lot of the risk factor away.

*Les McPhee* - Liked the fact the buyers were separated at Wagga, so they couldn't co-operate. The idea of no re-weigh is good, and the speed of the sale, with the two yards coming in and the stacking pens between the weigh bridge and the selling yard.

*Dennis Walker* - Very impressed at Wagga with the removal of people from the yards, being taken up with horses. Still had a few minor OHS issues. Very impressed with the way Wagga moved cattle up into the double race on approach to the scales and the double set of yards in the actual selling centre, as well as the shortness of time coming through and no re-weighs. At Shepparton, the new yards were very good.

*Barry Bishop* – The pure simplicity of Wagga was a real advantage. Impressed with the speed of the sale, they were selling them as they were moving through and I think that's not a mechanical issue, I think that's the culture, which we would have to take note of. If we looked at Wagga in the purest terms, our selling room would have to go. It doesn't seem to fit the simplicity. There might be a way to do it, but it wouldn't be easy. The positioning of the buyers and the speed of the sale was critical to the best return to the producer.

*Ron Hoare* – Position of buyers was good at Wagga because you don't get collusion. They have got chairs, got everything in front of them. I liked the hydraulic air-operated gate, you didn't have all the spooking. Liked two races coming in, I think we could do that. And I liked the two races going out.

When you've got two pens in the selling centre, if you're not interested in the lot that's selling, you can be looking at the next pen. The flow of cattle was tremendous at Wagga.

In Swan Hill, the selling ring is in the wrong spot, right down the end. Where you park cars just beside it, you could look at moving that back and having a semi-circle like Wagga was using. At Barnawartha, I was impressed with the width of their race and the design of the yards, you could make them bigger or smaller if you required.

*Bill Moar* – The flow through at Wagga, with the stacking pens pre-sale, I thought that was the pick of it. And the horse people in the yards. The auto gates and the elevated platforms where people didn't have to get in, were positives at Wagga.

They drafted as they came off the truck, so you don't have to draft in the morning. All the agents had their own unloading ramp. That is a way to increase efficiency.

At Barnawartha, they had heaps of room to load and unload. They had a lot more demand for feeding pens. If you can draw cattle out of the north, you need the feeding pens.

It doesn't matter whether you do point of sale or post-weigh, the limiting factor is the weighing, that's why they're putting in another set of scales at Shepparton.

Similar to MLA reports, with ring selling we could have someone giving a fat score as they came off the truck, then we would have all the information you need to go online, and have that information available for next few lots as they are selling.

*John McLinden* – At Wagga, drafting was from 7pm until 11pm. Then they came back at 4am the next day and tidied it up.

*Barry Bishop* – The quietness of the gates at Wagga was remarkable, against Barnawartha, which was very noisy.

*Gerry O'Loughlin* - When they came off the weighing platforms at Wagga and were walking under where the viewers were, a long section there was dark. When they came out there was light in the selling area, so they wanted to go that way. Everything wanted to flow to the exit.

*Ron Hoare* – One tick for Swan Hill yards after seeing the others, the screen at Swan Hill is better.

*Pat Ahern* - At Wagga the speed was the standout for me. Quite impressed with the weigh bridge leading into the selling pen, I think that was a great idea to have the two feeding in. That split selling pen arrangement really keeps the buyers focused.

There's a culture at Wagga that says we're going to get this done in a hurry and keep pushing.

The buyers know that, agents know that, everyone knows that, and they keep it running.

At Shepparton, the first lot that was sold came in to be weighed 12 minutes later, before going out to delivery pens. Whether it slowed as they started to split lots I'm not sure

*John McLinden* – The soft floor at Barnawartha was a positive, and the design of the yards is part of that, with the ability to run the hoe over it all. At Wagga the arrangement where staff were elevated about three feet higher than stock was much easier for them. They're not bending over and sticking their arms through railings. And the cattle kept moving because they couldn't see the people.

### Negatives

*Wayne Murray* – At Barnawartha there was a great amount of people mixing with stock. From the explanation, the delivery side of it was confused and that's the way it looked. There seemed to be a bottleneck with only one horse team taking cattle away.

*Gerry O'Loughlin* - I went and looked at the delivery side. There wasn't a bottleneck if they got a nice run. They would be going out two lanes, a horse front and back, lead horse opens the gate and they naturally trotted up.

At Barnawartha they were mixing cattle of multiple vendors. Our bio-security is going to become stricter and if you mix cattle in, then take cattle back to a store buyers' place, you're in trouble. It's got the capacity, if you get a bad disease like foot and mouth, to destroy the cattle industry.

*Dennis Walker* - My wife takes enormous pride in breeding her cattle, finishing them off very well and she wouldn't want her cattle in with a mob that aren't finished and therefore bring the price of her cattle down – at both Barnawartha and Shepparton. It's a disaster for vendors.

Barnawartha was very dangerous with two people in pens to draft.

There were not too many negatives at Wagga.

*Les McPhee* – At Wagga the quality of screens made them difficult to read. The other thing was the opportunity for buyers to go out into the yards. They didn't appear to be able to look at cattle before the sale started. Our yards are better set up for that.

At Barnawartha, single cattle are going through that scale and then they're drafting them off, which would be slow. Their IT wasn't up to speed – paperwork was going back to the office - and they're all hand scanned. At Barnawartha, the yards were good, the way the gates opened, but their IT let them down.



*Barry Bishop* – At Barnawartha, the down side I saw was when we asked him what trend there was on inputs and his response was either flat or downwards, while at Wagga it was 7 per cent up. There could be other factors, but that seems to send a message. At Shepparton, people were exposed a good half of the time ahead of the scales. And online is not going to work here, it would be too complicated to move cameras.

*Wayne Murray* - If you're buying from home, you need weights and all the data, which isn't possible at Shepparton or Barnawartha.

*Pat Ahern* - Elite Livestock did it in our sheep sales in pens, it wasn't great, but it can be done for store sales. They need the information prior so they can draw up a pre-sale catalogue.

*Ron Hoare* – When we talk about letting cattle out, it's one of the hold ups at Swan Hill.

At Wagga, two lanes came out and went into four lanes and it must be on buyers or groups of buyers, that was a good idea. I didn't see a lot of negatives at Wagga.

With pen selling, one reason people didn't like it before, when you had a big yard and a lot of vendors in the pen, you could all be knocked down from one buyer. You got the weight, but you didn't always get the quality. Also we get good price for things that are really hollowed out at Swan Hill, and at the likes of Barnawartha you couldn't see that.

At Shepparton, when they started on the vealers, the agent offered the pick of the pen, then the next pick. They are weighed separately. It seems cumbersome, but if you had big straight mobs it was working well there. You can see it works well for the export cattle, but once you got on the trades, it didn't work so well, and we have a lot of trade.

*Bill Moar* - Small screens at Wagga and no overhead walkways to inspect cattle. At Barnawartha, they were still using hand wands to scan and there isn't integration with the office.

*Gerry O'Loughlin* – I'm not going to send cattle in if I know they're going in a lot with someone else's. A big factor in why I favour Wagga was the use of technology – they're looking at technology coming through and they're going to use it. Barnawartha was looking backwards a bit.

At Shepparton there was a lot of dairy, and they are quiet cattle. But all the paddles and handling was stirring them up

*Pat Ahern* – At Wagga there was no soft floor, all concrete. And the amount of people necessary to run it. I'm not an authority on horses, but with horses and potentially inexperienced operators there's the OHS factor. And there were no walkways to inspect at Wagga.

At Barnawartha - it didn't give me a warm fuzzy feeling – it just looked like a functional layout.

At Shepparton, the manual drafting before the scales is labour intensive, slow and dangerous.

*John McLinden* – The description we got about the process from weighing to delivery to trucks at Barnawartha seemed cumbersome. And the description we had of in-lane drafting suggested they have people in pens.

My main concern with Wagga was OHS, with people still interacting with stock, particularly in that ring. Many times they had their back to the stock. If we were doing a system like that, we would want to tighten it up a lot.

*Wayne Murray* – At Barnawartha, they have not thought about future regulations of OHS, and can't change it easily now.

*Pat Ahern* – At Wagga, because they draft beforehand into sale lots, the number of pens and room they need is enormous.

**Other observations/comments**

*Barry Bishop* - We have got to be careful that as a committee we don't start planning the yards. We have got to give direction to someone and send them off to design it. I suspect what this committee wants will be at and above what money is available. If council asks for money, it is usually important the industry sector is behind that ask, from a political point of view. So, recommendations will be interim and long term.

*Ron Hoare* – we have got to work out what's the best thing to do, then work through it. What are most important things to do first? Like a couple of hydraulic gates, that would be very important.

*John McLinden* - This committee has to give advice to Council about what they would like to see in terms of method of selling, and the way forward. We are not going to all agree, so the Council must make a decision.

*Les McPhee* – There were questions raised that Wagga's growth was detrimental to smaller yards. We have to be aware that if we build Swan Hill, it might be to the detriment to other yards around us.

*Barry Bishop* –Our job is Swan Hill. Other yards may close, but if we're not in a position to take advantage before they close, we'll miss it.

*Dennis Walker* - If we can incorporate the speed of Wagga, we will be able to absorb that and we're not going to take them on as we are, it would be to our detriment by slowing the sale up.

*Bill Moar* - At the end of day, it is the vendor's choice. We're providing the service and if they decide to use ours or others', it's their choice.

*Pat Ahern* - Keep in mind when we're talking about other yards closing, where they are located and where their stock comes from - whether they might go to other sale centres, not ours.

*John McLinden* - Whether they close depends on their owners' capacity to develop and keep up. Our job is to make sure we have a viable alternative.

**Swan Hill Saleyards redevelopment Committee  
Meeting 3 - Friday, 17 November  
MINUTES**

Present: Cr Bill Moar (Council), John McLinden (Council), Barry Bishop (facilitator), Jason Pickering (Landmark), Jason Telford (Elders), Wayne Murray (producer), Leonard Vallance (VFF Livestock), Philip Christie (producer), Pat Ahern (Council), Gerry O'Loughlin (producer), Joe O'Reilly (BR&C), Ron Hoare (producer), Russell Borchard (transport), Dennis Walker (producer), Geoff Brawn (buyer, producer, former agent), Felicia Chalmers (Council).

Guest: Angus Street, AuctionsPlus Operations, Marketing and Sales Manager

Apologies: Mayor Les McPhee (Council), Stuart McCann (producer).

**SALEYARDS TOUR REPORT**

John McLinden gave the following report on the two-day saleyards tour.

**Wagga Wagga**

- Was quick. The auctioneers and stockhandlers were quick, one lot was offered every 30 seconds. Some lots didn't even stop in the selling ring, they just moved straight through.
- It took a lot of staff to feed the ring, something like 120.
- Stock flow was excellent.
- Selling ring wasn't all that safe.
- Stock were quieter than we experience.
- The buyers were busy and not chatting amongst themselves, partly due to the speed of the sale and partly due to how their desks were set up.
- Live data was good, but the screens were too small.
- The yards were huge, with lots of space both sides of the ring.

**Barnawartha**

- Was very flash.
- It wasn't sale day.
- Roof was too low – hot, dusty and noisy.
- It seemed to be very automated.

**Shepparton**

- New yards were well designed, by ProWay.
- Water in all pens.
- Soft flooring is well supported by all, reduces foot problems.
- Being able to fully open the gates up is good for stock handling and for soft floor maintenance.
- Weighing seemed slow. They are proposing a second weighbridge.
- Weighing started within 15 minutes of the first lot being sold, but stretched out as the day went on.
- The sale was over before 12pm, all cattle will be weighed by 2pm. 1200 head in the sale.
- Seemed to be a very manual bookkeeping system, lots can be improved here. There was reluctance on the part of the agents to adopt digital technology.
- Flow of cattle worked pretty well.
- In-pen drafting, caused by lots being split by the buyers, was dangerous.

In addition, committee members made the following observations.

*Geoff Brawn* – At Wagga, all agents have the sale details on their phones at completion.

*Leonard Vallance* – OHS and cost associated with horses in the yards, the horses seem to be efficient. I don't think you should discount horses in our yard.

*Geoff Brawn* – In Wagga and Barnawartha there's a big horse presence, a lot of those people use it as a workout for the week and so they have no trouble getting reliable labour.

*Jason Pickering* - The delivery area at Wagga is the size of our whole yard, we only have delivery to two lanes.

*Wayne Murray* – It would be hard to find reliable horse staff

*Gerry O'Loughlin* – There are probably more around than you think.

*Joe O'Reilly* – One day a fortnight makes it hard.

*Dennis Walker* – They don't need to be from here, you could get a contractor in.

*Pat Ahern* – You would need probably three horses for our yards.

At Wagga, horses were very efficient on the delivery side, and there were only one or two on the supply side, the rest was manual. It can be very efficient where you get long runs, on shorter runs I'm not too sure how efficient it would be.

*Barry Bishop* – The selling area of two pens at Wagga was a win for speed. There was a real culture at Wagga to get the job done – that's was everyone, agents, contractors. At Wagga, there was a seven per cent increase, and at the others it was either flat or declining.

*Pat Ahern* – Think seven per cent was on dollar value not necessarily throughput, others were on throughput.

*Russell Borchard* – Notice other yards have curfew of 9pm, we have 7pm. A rolling curfew might help with the line ups at Swan Hill.

You would have noticed more ramps and stacking yards there.

With chain of responsibility, it's going to get to the stage where drivers will need to know the weight of cattle they've loaded. It will be up to saleyards to provide that. NSW is cracking down hard now.

*Joe O'Reilly* – We only have three agents and if one agent only has 60 cattle, the rolling curfew is not going to work.

#### **FUTURE OF SELLING AT SALEYARDS**

With Angus Street, AuctionsPlus Operations, Marketing and Sales Manager

*Angus gave a presentation on the digital revolution, successful corporate businesses and talked us through some AuctionsPlus/online selling logistics.*

We don't see saleyards as competitors, we see them as partners, you need an agent to sell through AuctionsPlus like need to sell through saleyards. We are working with a number of saleyards to assist them in the digital revolution.

Used Kodak as an example of digital revolution – they were one of the world's largest companies, but went bankrupt in 2012. They ignored new technology (one of their engineers developed a digital camera in the 1970s), were change resistant and not customer focused.

The livestock industry is ripe for digital disruption.

*Examples of people buying and selling stock online now.* In Queensland, there is a 13,000-member private Facebook group where people are selling direct - no agent needed. At the Dalby saleyards, one buyer buys poddy calves and sells them on Gumtree.

*Geoff Brawn* – know of someone in Victoria who sells 150-200 calves a week on Facebook, they are often sold before they get back from the saleyards.

*Examples of new technology and its incredible pace.*

Augmented reality – emails pop up, phone calls can give you a hologram of the person you are talking to, 3D FaceTime, while driving it incorporates your GPS.

Wearables - connect to your brain, thoughts. A lot of ethical issues around wearables. There are companies that microchip their employees to improve efficiency.

IBM Watson - computer starting to think like a human and creating new music, curing cancer. In Dubai they have created robotic police.

Translation earbuds – speak in English if someone else has an earbud too, it's translated into their native language instantly.

*Technology in relation to the livestock industry.*

MLA is investing in video technology that will give you fat scores, rib scores, weights, about five or six variables that you can get when looking at the beast. They've done tests where they run individual cows through a race, with Go Pros attached at different angles and they're 80 per cent accurate. They are already in operation, not commercialised, and they won't commercialise it until it's 100 per cent.

MLA is also invested in DEXA (Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry) – you put a live beast through it and it will tell you what it will yield. They want to commercialise in 10 years.

You will have liveweight data with video, then meat yields with a dexa scanner. Then you will have me online, I will put on my augmented reality glasses, spin the beast around, have a look at it.

A start-up has just got funding to build mobile slaughter units, so instead of taking animals to the abattoirs, you take the abattoirs to the farm.

*Discussed successful companies and their similarities*

Uber, AirBNB, Tinder, AuctionsPlus. They have in common:

- Customer centric
- Trust and integrity built into the system on all sides
- Transparent, authentic and drive accuracy

These companies have assessments of user and provider, and reviews are available to the public. So reputation is now the most valuable asset. Reputation will be your competitive advantage.

***What can Swan Hill saleyards do to prevent their Kodak moment?***

- Selling method
- Time of weigh
- Animal welfare
- Stakeholder relationships
- Brand reputation

Competition makes us faster, collaboration makes us better. Gave example of Inghams and Steggalls – two chicken producers who work together to beat their main competitor – the beef industry.

Discussed the business ecosystem, a network of organisations, which in the saleyards' case includes vendors, saleyards, agents, buyers etc. Each business in the ecosystem affects and is affected by the others, creating constantly evolving relationships. Each business must be flexible and adaptable to survive.

People are your best marketing tool. Brand is what people say about you, when you're not in the room.

You need to be curious about new technologies.

**AuctionsPlus**

52,000 unique visitors per month, more than 50 per cent are over 45 years old. 20 per cent of website traffic comes from social media. 60 per cent of visitors use Apple iPhone or tablet.

Every time a lot is purchased, an email is sent asking for feedback of the lot – buyer scores the assessment and stock, which is given back to the assessor as a start rating. This information will be public mid next year.

Two components to online marketing/selling at a physical saleyard

1. Marketing – if you can market that you have big numbers, it will attract more vendors, and attract buyers who potentially didn't know that these cattle were available. That drives profile up and builds the brand. AuctionsPlus offers pre-sale digital marketing and social media, and then uploads results.
2. Interface for selling. Can do it for both pen selling and ring selling. Three levels of pre-sale stock assessment - saleyards assessment which is basic, group assessment where about 50 per cent of data points is complete, and full assessment where all variables are assessed on farm.

**Discussion with the committee**

*Gerry O'Loughlin* – You're doing an on-farm assessment then taking them to a selling complex – is there any advantage having to truck to a saleyard, rather than just selling on farm.

*Angus Street* – You get buyers from both saleyards and online. There will always be a place for saleyards, especially for smaller lots and lines.

*Dennis Walker* – What are the requirements to set up?

*Angus Street* – The first step is doing nominations, the agents or the vendor on the property taking photos. Once you get engagement from agents and vendors and you want to turn on bidding, you make that decision.

It is more work for agents to go out and assess before the sale.

We can turn bidding on like that, but it's up to the individual vendors and agents. Of 100 lots, 20 might be assessed fully, 20 group assessed, 20 anecdotally and the rest don't have any info available, so you don't take online bids.

Now working with Warrnambool, Sale, Mossvale, Casino and **Blackwood**, Bidding on fat sales at Sale and Mossvale.

*Joe O'Reilly* – Fat versus stores?

*Angus Street* – There's bidding on **fat** sales for Sale and Mossvale. What we're doing with Mossvale, Casino and Sale, for their regular sales, is pre-sale marketing and we are migrating into bidding.

*Geoff Brawn* – For prime cattle it's not practical without big lots.

*Angus Street* - At Mossvale there are small lots and they attract a significant amount of throughput. Corporates are looking at reducing cost, which is a buyer on the road. There is buyer interest at Mossvale, because there's enough cattle there to get a decent deck.

There is no point doing it unless you have feedback from the buying community that they want to buy online. You market first, then when you get enquiry you know you have engagement and you can turn on online bidding. It's up to the agent and vendor to make that decision.

*John McLinden* – Is there a preferred selling method, time for weighing?

*Angus Street* – We can do pen or ring selling. Pre-sale weighing is more favourable if you're doing pen selling because the information can be uploaded to the catalogue as soon as the last weigh is complete. If you do ring selling, we can just set up a camera and plug into your data feed.

*Leonard Vallance* – How many years before we can see DEXA?

*Angus Street* – 10 to 15. Teys have already put it in, JBS will be there within 12 months, up north.

I think video scanning will be here a lot faster. You put cattle into a race and data feeds directly to the saleyards and/or AuctionsPlus. But still about 60 per cent needs to be done by the assessor.

*Leonard Vallance* – What will yards look like in 20 years?

*Angus Street* – Depends whether scanning is done on-farm or in saleyards. I think that's a wait and see but there will be some form of that. I think online buying will happen on-farm a bit more - online buying will start to take off. In the US most cattle are sold online. Agents have two screens and they are taking bids from a TV (online) and from the floor. I think that's the evolution and I think that's easily five to 10 years away.

We know for a fact that with online activity – those that have the most information have the most activity. And even more if you can get information a couple of days before, which needs an assessment on-farm.

It is up to all parties to be able to move forward. There might be one or two agents and vendors who say they want to give it a go and then it becomes the norm. It's about building trust in the system.

*Joe O'Reilly* – There's a big difference between stores and fats.

*Angus Street* – You set up with multiple angles, you can't get the touch and feel but you can get the look. That's the good thing about ring selling. I think there's a huge evolution to go with the fat sales.

The market drives the evolution in technology. Listen to your customers – vendors, agents, buyers, truckies – and evolve together.

**COMMITTEE'S ADVICE TO COUNCIL**

*Facilitator Barry Bishop asked the committee's advice should be to Council and what our yards should like in the future?*

*Joe O'Reilly* – It depends on the money available. If there's enough money, set up double scales. Then you have to have the throughput and a lot more stacking pens to get the flow. Obviously all gates have to be done. We need more delivery pens. I think if we keep growing we need more selling pens too. With the 130 pens we've got it only caters for 1200 max. We run out of cattle with one set of scales, so we need more drafting capacity.

With other sales, Thursday is the right day for Swan Hill. If you go weekly, you would need to move to another day.

Weekly sales aren't a consideration yet, unless you go post weigh. That's because of the staff you need. With point of sale, we've got 30 staff now and everyone is involved in that full-time so you can't send a team over to do the sheep.

*Geoff Brawn* - When you drop to 600/700 head you lose buyers.

*Bill Moar* – What about pre-weigh pen selling? Do you need any less people to do it?

*Joe O'Reilly* – You've got to work all night.

*Wayne Murray* - I like the way Wagga was selling, sheep was efficient too.

All around the ring you need air operated gates.

We need more stacking pens, and for cattle to go straight through the shed so cattle follow through better instead of milling around in the ring like they do now.

*Jason Pickering* – We are obviously going down the path of ring selling. We have got to shift the scales further towards Karinie. We need a double weigh scale or a double sided one. As one lot comes off, one comes on. The rotunda needs to be bulldozed. They come into a similar set up to Wagga. Once the out other side, we're going to have to deliver them somewhere. More stacking pens will allow us to have a whole lane way empty, so we need to figure out how to have them. Scanning technology is great, but how much is it going to cost to put it in? And it would be time-consuming putting one through scales at a time.

People bidding on a screen slows it down – it's got its pros and cons but it's a long way down the track.

*Barry Bishop* – It gets the word out to a heap of buyers and grows the yards. To do that agents have got to go and look at them a few days before the sale.

*Jason Telford* – I don't think you have to do anything to put technology in. All you're doing is adding electronics to this set up, we could do it to this set up now.

*Joe O'Reilly* – I don't think Angus explained well enough the difference between prime and store sales.

*Jason Pickering* – The other issue is the draft, they don't like going in it. We've adjusted it. We've made it longer. But they don't flow through it. The big cattle don't like it and don't go through it.

*Geoff Brawn/Leonard Vallance* - Queensland pound draft an option.

*Leonard Vallance* – At Rockdale they're doing 1000 steers a day. It's all closed in, but it was in a shed, all half lit. No-one was chasing them. They were walking through. The light and shadows often has an effect. It's the only one I've seen work properly

*Jason Pickering* – Maybe there's an opportunity to push that two-deck ramp down further and put another beside it, if there's enough room. And by pushing it down, you're creating more space for pens.



*Ron Hoare* - We were talking about vendor participation at the sale, I think we should always encourage that from a town perspective as well as people paying interest in sales. You always have to make provision so that vendors can see their cattle sold.

I like the idea of getting buyers away from the ring, having chairs, so they can plug in a computer. With unloading facilities, I like the idea about moving that ramp down further and having more stacking pens when unloading. One problem when you get in there, you have to wait that long to unload. We now send ours in at 2.30pm/3pm to get a straight run. I like the idea of bringing the weighbridge around, and having one pen selling, and one ready to go in. At Wagga it was manpower intensive though.

There were very few people at Shepparton, observing. Probably because have a lot of export cattle, old Fresian cows. Post weighing that was good for that. But when you got to the trade cattle, it got into a real mess, picking individuals out of pens. They seem to have a lot more export at Shepparton than trade, we're the other way.

Weekly sales – I've thought a lot about that. With sheep, you'd have to follow Ouyen, I don't think we can get off the Ouyen trail. We could have a weekly sale as long as we followed Ouyen. If you want a weekly sale for cattle, you need 400 plus. In future maybe we'd be able to have bigger numbers, but I don't think we could do that year in year out.

First thing I think, most important for safety is to get rid of the bull rings, that's under control. Next thing is drop gates. We saw how well it works, we could do something with the gates for a start. Draft I don't know how you do that - everything looks too tight - too many people and cattle all in one place. Maybe put cover over it, cattle work better in shade.

*Philip Christie* - Straightening up the weighbridge and getting them straight through shed will be good. At Wagga they came out from underneath that and wanted to get out from under there and keep going.

Only way I see you can speed it all up, is to have x-amount already organised in their pens without double handling.

*Jason Telford* - I think you've got to fix it up from the start where trucks are unloading. Move ramps along, put extra pens there - those pens don't even hold a semi load. We talked about painters, you could get two painters there to make it quicker.

I agree with the original plan – the way we had the gates, moving the bull pens out so bulls don't have to walk all the way down, and putting in little set of scales for them. Then we can put more stacking pens there. If you do that and then change the scales, it won't be too far off the mark.

*Russell Borchard* – there need to be two options. I honestly think looking forward if you've got more cattle coming, if you want to build numbers up, we have to make the yards better. Now fix what needs fixing and get some flow going and safety happening.

If you want to keep the sale smaller, then have to look at doing stuff with ramps, bringing that two-deck ramp this way. Shire previously said we couldn't have it closer to Karinie Street. Maybe we need another laneway out the back and stacking pens out the back.

But it comes down to Council's long term view of where they stand, they need to sit down and look at it properly before you spend any money because otherwise it will be wasted.

*Ron Hoare* - When talk about unloading road trains, could you go past where old pig pens used to be?

*Russell Borchard* - If you're going to stay here, trucks need to be able to drive right around and have another loading ramp out the back. The big trucks can disappear out the back and you'd have a double deck unloading ramp that could side unload or rear unload.

*Gerry O'Loughlin* – I agree with everything that's been said. The flow through the selling ring, split on and split off the weighbridge, loading facility needs changing.

With the draft – we could investigate whether some of the holding pens can be split now, so instead of an eight way draft, we have a three way draft and bring them up in smaller mobs. Everyone agrees we need a system with no bottle necks, we can't fix everything else but not the draft. Whether we go point-of-sale or pre-sale? As Angus was saying this morning, there are benefits to getting more information. We have to consider the future. So if we all of a sudden came up with things like being able to weigh fat to muscle and yield - it's a big benefit to both buyer and seller, we need to consider all the good things that are going to come out of technology.

*Leonard Vallance* - OHS has to be addressed. In the original plan, there was the narrowing of the races and that's got to be addressed. Those swinging gates have got to go. You have got to get people out of the yards.

With pre-weigh/or on-scale weighing, there's no conversation to be had there.

Ramps – the area out the back and unloading bigger trucks need to be looked at. Putting two d-double beside one another, it would be too difficult to do that. Probably running them out the back is a better option.

Re-weigh culture - needs to change to something close to Wagga.

Stacking yards - the original plan was to get rid of bull yards. Only thing I can suggest is when bulls come in, how many would not have an ear tag? Got to retake, weigh and scan. Why not put them through the crush off the truck and into stacking pens?

Auto gates and drafter - that drafter it doesn't work with those guys standing above, the light, clanging gates. Maybe auto gates there could speed that up. You can work a good auto draft with a couple of people, and air gates.

Buying ring – I have never understood why the weighbridge was put that where it was. That's going to be limited with money. You can improve it with whistles and wind, and whether it's in the budget to afford a double sided weighbridge. We've all seen Wagga, between the scale and outside there were nearly five pens. And the cattle just walk.

I don't think you should 100 percent discount use of horses.

DEXA technology - I have a feeling it will be out on the farms. Companies will be set up to scan the stock on farms. Whether it ends up in saleyards or farm, that will happen.

I urge the shire to have a five year and 10 year plan as to what it's going to do with the saleyards.

This yard (depot) could be part of the saleyards. This area would make the saleyards viable for a long way to come, otherwise you could put them out the road.

I think we need interim report, based around OHS and getting that issue covered. You need to have an immediate plan for money there now and use it wisely. Shire needs to listen to everyone as to what going to work and not going to work.

We need to separate the buyers and get them away from the ring. Cattle won't walk towards people hanging over a fence.

*Dennis Walker* – It was very pleasing to see how the very best and worst of other yards work.

Wagga was very similar to our centre here, which is what we want to retain. A lot of OHS problems we have here are eliminated at Wagga.

*Geoff Brawn* - Most things have been covered. Commend Council on its initiative over the past three to four weeks. At least we have a very proactive council with our yards, which a lot of others don't have. Hopefully we can all reap rewards.

Alteration of the ramps, it certainly needs a bit of alteration there.

That whole car park at the bottom should be all pens. We need a lot more selling pens.

Relocating the bull pens is a tremendous idea, will open up for double the capacity of stacking pens.

Draft - an auto draft or an auto draft through a Queensland-type ring would be good.

Gates down laneways have all got to be full width and one way jam.

Collapsible gates through pens is a good idea, also allows to you pen larger lots if need to.

Reconfiguring the scales, Jason's idea of single operator with double scales is a great idea.

A sliding forcing rotunda gate - New Zealand made – is worth looking at.

Moving the buyers' seats back further, and extending the ring size is a must.

One little issue - a lot of centres have a wider scanner. Do you have difficulty getting cattle through the scanners here, especially at the scales.

*Pat Ahern* - We had to narrow them to get them to read properly. The ones at the scale were shifted from their original position in the laneway to before the scales so we could get information on the screen prior to sale.

*Geoff Brawn* - Maybe they could be upgraded to improve flow? Maybe there's better technology now?

*John McLinden* – A question to the agents. Do we need a second draft? If we had it, would you have manpower to operate it?

*Joe O'Reilly* - Air operated would be better.

*Jason Pickering* – And it's getting them to feed in.

*Leonard Vallance* – Abattoir owners are still mucking around with AuctionsPlus bidding. They are happy to buy store stock and cows, but it's going to take a while to adapt to the fat market with off-site bidding.

*John McLinden* - This committee is charged with is providing advice on redevelopment of saleyards and that will go to Council in form the of a report.

We will do report gives sound advice to the council then find a way for this committee to sanction this report.

Once it has been past Barry, Bill and Les, we'll email it to everyone and see if they're happy. Will meet again if there are problems with the report.

We would like to have report to council by end of November and take it the Council meeting in December. And we will have to engage professional designers to implement recommendations. Some components of work can proceed though, like the truck wash and effluent disposal. And we will get onto it early in new year.

*Bill Moar* – I'm proud of this committee coming up with good solutions.

As long as we keep advancing as a group, we will have a great outcome.

We'll be setting the trends - that's my vision for the Swan Hill yards.

*Barry Bishop* raised the idea that a saleyards advisory committee be formed.

Moved Ron Hoare, seconded Leonard Vallance.

Carried.

## **SECTION C – DECISIONS WHICH NEED ACTION/RATIFICATION**

### **C.17.19 SIGN & SEAL REPORT**

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:** Nil.

**Declarations of Interest:**

John McLinden - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

#### **Summary**

The following documents and agreements have been signed and sealed by the Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer on the respective dates. Those actions require the ratification of the Council.

#### **Discussion**

During the course of any month Council is required to sign and seal a range of documents arising from decisions made on a previous occasion(s). Examples include sale of land, entering into funding arrangements for Council programs etc.

As the decision to enter into these agreements has already been made, these documents are signed and sealed when received, with Council ratifying the signing and sealing at the next Council meeting.

#### **Consultation**

Not applicable

#### **Financial Implications**

Not applicable

#### **Social Implications**

Not applicable

#### **Economic Implications**

Not applicable

#### **Environmental Implications**

Not applicable

#### **Risk Management Implications**

Not applicable

**DECISIONS WHICH NEED ACTION/RATIFICATION**

19 December 2017

**Background**

During the course of any month Council is required to sign and seal a range of documents arising from decisions made on a previous occasion(s). Examples include sale of land, entering into funding arrangements for Council programs etc.

As the decision to enter into these agreements has already been made, these documents are signed and sealed when received, with Council ratifying the signing and sealing at the next Council meeting.

**Issues**

The following documents were signed and sealed since the last Council meeting:

No.	Document Type	Document Description	Date signed/ sealed
860	Instrument of Delegation – Alan Garden Netball Centre Special Committee	Between Swan Hill Rural City Council and Alan Garden Netball Centre Special Committee	21-11-17
861	Instrument of Delegation – Swan Hill Indoor Sport and Recreation Centre Special Committee	Between Swan Hill Rural City Council and Swan Hill Indoor Sport and Recreation Centre Special Committee	21-11-17
862	Occupancy Lease – Office at Robinvale Resource Centre	Between Swan Hill Rural City Council and Southern Cross Business Advisers	21-11-17
863	Section 173 Agreement – Planning Permit 2012/5 for a two lot subdivision and removal of easements E1, E2, E3 and E5	Between Swan Hill Rural City Council and I.J.Downs	28-11-17
864	Transfer of Land – Tower Hill Stage 9B – Lot 336, Sandalwood Avenue, Volume 11855 Folio 918	Between Swan Hill Rural City Council and T.M.Wynne & G.J.Stap	5-12-17
865	Section 173 Agreement with Kilter Rural (Infrastructure in Council's Road Reserve), Tresco-Benjeroop Road. Volume 09899 Folio 995, Crown Allotment 2 Parish of Boga	Between Swan Hill Rural City Council and Kilter Rural	5-12-17
866	Transfer of Land Volume 10854 Folio 699, 36 Ronald Street, Robinvale.	Between Swan Hill Rural City Council and Lock View Trading Pty Ltd	5-12-17

**DECISIONS WHICH NEED ACTION/RATIFICATION**

19 December 2017

867	Deed of Termination: Council Exit from Tower Hill Project	Between Swan Hill Rural City Council and Development Victoria (Formerly known as Urban Renewal Authority Victoria, operating as Places Victoria	12-12-17
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**Conclusion**

Council authorise the signing and sealing of the above documents.

**Recommendation**

**That Council notes the actions of signing and sealing the documents under delegation as scheduled.**

**C.17.20 COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES - RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA ITEMS**

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer  
**File Number:** S15-05-06  
**Attachments:** 1 Councillor Attendance at Assemblies

**Declarations of Interest:**

John McLinden - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

**Summary**

The Local Government Act 1989 requires that the details of Councillor Assemblies be reported to Council meetings on a monthly basis.

**Discussion**

The State Government has amended the Local Government Act 1989 which requires Council to report on Councillor Assemblies.

Whilst Minutes do not have to be recorded, Agenda items and those in attendance must be, and a report presented to Council.

An assembly of Councillors is defined as a meeting that is planned or scheduled at which at least half of the Council and one Officer are in attendance, and where the matters being considered that are intended or likely to be the subject of a Council decision.

No formal decisions can be made at an assembly but rather direction can be given that is likely to lead to a formal decision of Council.

Details of the most recent assemblies of Council are attached.

**Consultation**

Not applicable.

**Financial Implications**

Not applicable.

**Social Implications**

Not applicable.

**Economic Implications**

Not applicable.

**Environmental Implications**

Not applicable.

**Risk Management Implications**

Not applicable.

**Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Governance and leadership*** - Effective advocacy and strategic planning.

**Options**

Council must comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989.

**Recommendation**

**That Council note the contents of the report.**



**COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA**  
**28 November 2017 at 1.00pm, Swan Hill Town Hall, Council Chambers**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- Demand for Rural Life-style blocks in the Tyntynder Flats/Swan Hill Area
- ICT Strategy
- Aquatic Strategic Plan
- Art Gallery Redevelopment update
- Client Satisfaction Survey – Community Care Services
- Dispute Resolution Process – Information Session
- Council Memberships
- Community Access Inclusion Strategy
- Events Policy & Procedure
- Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP)
- Mallee Regional Skills Demand Profile
- Planning Application – Use of Development of the land for Service Station & Convenience Restaurant, advertising signage & Variation to 52.12-1 In Commercial 2 Zone
- Involvement in GMW's future planning

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS DISCUSSED**

- Nil

**ATTENDANCE**

Councillors

- Cr Les McPhee
- Cr Chris Jeffery
- Cr John Katis
- Cr Ann Young
- Cr Gary Norton
- Cr Lea Johnson

**Apologies**

- Cr Bill Moar

**OFFICERS**

- John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer
- David Lenton, Director Corporate Services
- Stan Antczak, Acting Director Infrastructure
- Helen Morris, Acting Director Development and Planning
- Warren Taylor, IT Manager
- Meagan Monk, Community Recreation & Grants Officer
- Fiona Gormann, Community Development and Riverfront Coordinator
- Ian Tully, Art Gallery Director
- Trish Barry, Community Care Services - Team Leader
- Anthony Duffin, Information Co-ordinator
- Clinton Hucker, RuralAccess Coordinator
- Trish Ficarra, Public Health and Regulatory Services Coordinator
- Stefan Louw, Development Manager

Other

- Darren Scarce, BR&C agents
- Glenn Stewart, Mallee Regional Skills

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

- Nil

**COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA  
5 December 2017 at 1.00pm, Swan Hill Town Hall, Council Chambers**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- Planning Scheme Review Update
- Councillor Only Session
- Palaroo Street Update
- Agenda Items for Meeting with Murray River Shire Council
- Topics for 2018 Cr Assemblies
- Planning Permit Willox Road, Murrawee Dwelling refusal
- Policies and Procedures
  - Fraud Control
  - Community Garden
  - Child Safe
  - Public Participation
  - Asset Management Policy
- Mallee FMS Endorsement
- Hon. Peter Walsh

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS DISCUSSED**

- Nil

**ATTENDANCE**

Councillors

- Cr Les McPhee
- Cr Chris Jeffery
- Cr Bill Moar
- Cr John Katis
- Cr Ann Young
- Cr Gary Norton

**Apologies**

- Cr Lea Johnson

**OFFICERS**

- John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer
- Bruce Myers, Director Community & Cultural Services
- David Lenton, Director Corporate Services
- Stan Antczak, Acting Director Infrastructure
- Helen Morris, Acting Director Development and Planning
- Mazen Aldaghstani, Engineering Projects & Assets Manager
- Stefan Louw, Development Manager
- Ken Symons, Commercial Services Coordinator
- Fiona Gormann, Community Development and Riverfront Coordinator
- Felicity O'Rourke, Community Planning Officer
- Stefan Louw, Development Manager

Other

- John Kearney
- Amy and Darren Leamon
- Peter Walsh

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

-

**COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA**  
**12 December 2017 at 1.00pm, Swan Hill Town Hall, Council Chambers**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- Applicant for Willox Road, Murrawee Dwelling
- Town Hall
- Policies and Procedures - Debt Collection Policy
- Saleyards report
- Draft Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy
- Lessons from recent Local Government Inquiries
  - What went wrong at the 4 Councils?
  - How to avoid a similar occurrence
  - Council meetings including meetings procedure
  - Conflicts of interest
  - Councillor conduct including offences under the LGA and contraventions of the Councillor Code of Conduct
  - Councillor duties
  - Mayoral responsibilities
  - Interaction between Councillors and Council staff
  - Questions from Councillors

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS DISCUSSED**

- Nil

**ATTENDANCE**

Councillors

- Cr Les McPhee
- Cr Chris Jeffery
- Cr Bill Moar
- Cr John Katis
- Cr Ann Young
- Cr Gary Norton
- Cr Lea Johnson

**Apologies**

- 

**OFFICERS**

- John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer
- Bruce Myers, Director Community & Cultural Services
- David Lenton, Director Corporate Services
- Stan Antczak, Acting Director Infrastructure
- Svetla Petkova, Director Development and Planning
- Helen Morris, Acting Director Development and Planning
- Tony Heffer, Customer Service & Revenue Co-ordinator
- Felicia Chalmers, Media Office
- Pat Ahern, Fleet Operations and Livestock Exchange Coordinator
- Camille Cullinan, Manager Cultural Development & Libraries

Other

- Terry Bramham, Macquarie Local Government
- Warrick Fisher, planner on behalf of the applicant
- Shane Skelsey, applicant

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

-

## **SECTION D – NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **D.17.2 SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL BUDGET FOR 2018-19- WAGE AND SALARY RISE**

Having given due notice, **Councillor Gary Norton MOVED that:**  
**The Draft Swan Hill Rural City Council Budget for the year 2018-19 reflect a total wage and salary rise of no more than 2%.**

#### ***Preamble***

Over the past few years Council has been subject to rate capping. In that time the cap has been approximately 2%. Over this time the EBA has been around 3% plus band increases.

This is unsustainable and I believe the cap in 2018-19 will be in-line with recent years at around 2%.

In my view any wage and salary rise above the cap will have impacts on projects and services.

**SECTION E – URGENT ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN AGENDA**

**SECTION F – TO CONSIDER & ORDER ON COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

## **SECTION G – IN CAMERA ITEMS**

### **Recommendation**

**That Council close the meeting to the public on the grounds that the following report(s) include confidential matters.**

### **B.17.146 IN CAMERA CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL REPORT**