

HELPING MOORABOOL THRIVE

Advocacy Projects 2022
and Beyond



Moorabool
Shire Council



Moorabuild has been developed to meet community infrastructure needs now and into the future. Council will fund new initiatives and will allocate more funds to renew the Council's infrastructure. Council's Moorabuild program will create jobs and boost economic growth. We look forward to working with you in the community to deliver these exciting projects throughout the coming year.

Acknowledgment of Country

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which includes the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung people. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.

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INTRODUCTION

We are Moorabool Shire – the gateway to Victoria's wild and mountainous Central Highlands. Nestled amongst picturesque rolling hills and dotted with heritage townships, ours is a region for exploring, experiencing and setting down roots.

In addition to our stunning landscape, we are strategically located between the cities of Melbourne, Ballarat and Geelong, and within close proximity to major airports and ports. Our major town centre is the rapidly-expanding Bacchus Marsh, which is surrounded by the beautiful and growing smaller towns of Ballan, Myrning, Blackwood, Gordon, Greendale, Bungaree and Wallace.

Moorabool Shire strikes the perfect balance between location convenience, rural tranquility and modern-day, urban indulgences, and it's no surprise that our population is rapidly increasing.

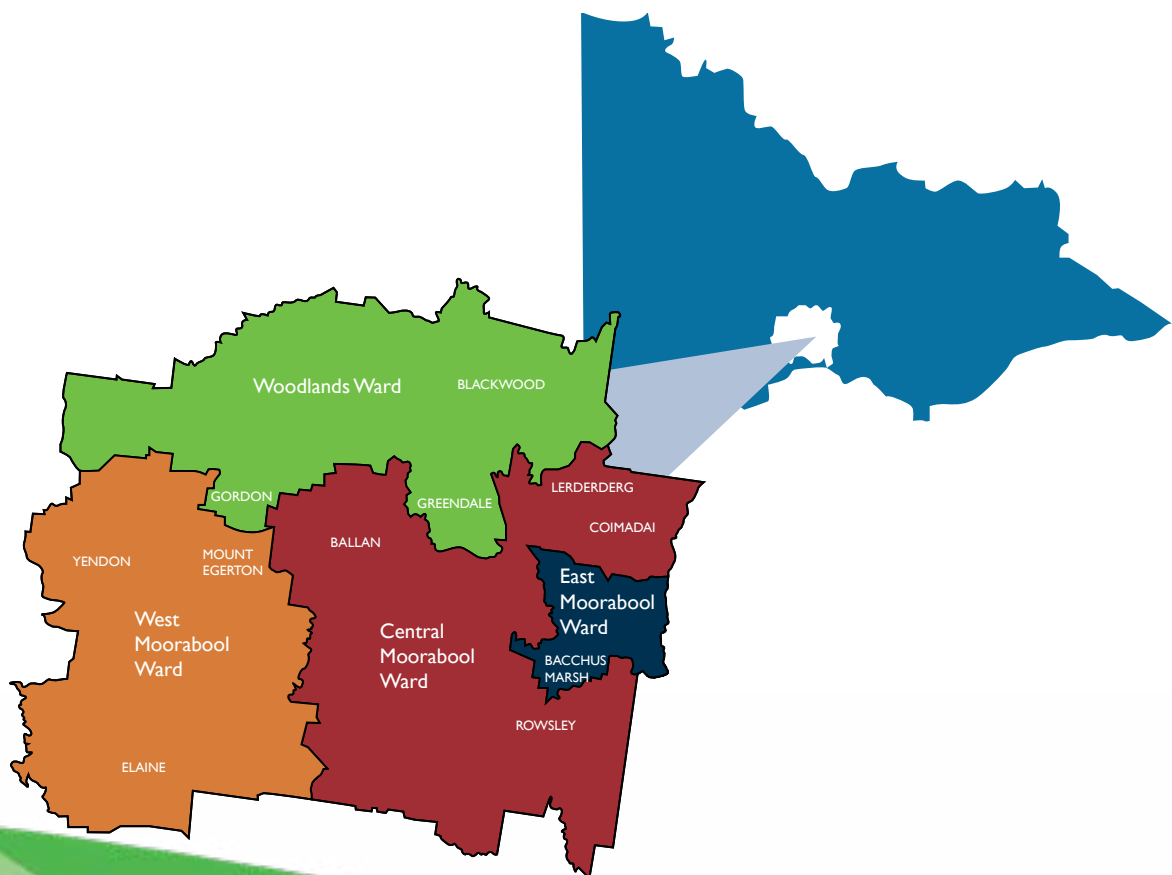
Council is committed to keeping pace with population growth by providing the best infrastructure and access to services for our community. As such, we have identified several key projects and many medium-small projects as necessary to achieving this aim.

Along with Council financial commitment, these projects will require funding from other levels of Government.

These projects align with our Council Plan and our Community Vision. The three objectives in our Council Plan are:

- Healthy, inclusive and connected neighbourhoods
- Liveable and thriving environments
- A Council that listens and adapts to the needs of our evolving communities

In addition to our Council Plan objectives, we have identified five themes which guide our advocacy efforts. These themes clearly represent what is important for our community now, and into the future.





Our Themes



Improving Connectivity

We keep our communities connected – physically and digitally. Together we ensure our transport network (road, public transport) and telecommunication network (mobile and NBN services) are at an excellent standard so the people of Moorabool can have opportunities to live well, work and play.



A Thriving Environment

We promote a liveable and thriving environment. Together we invest in our natural environment, clean waterways and we address waste reforms wisely.



Liveable Communities

We support healthy and active communities. Together we provide people of Moorabool with opportunities to be active and participate in recreational, arts and cultural activities locally.



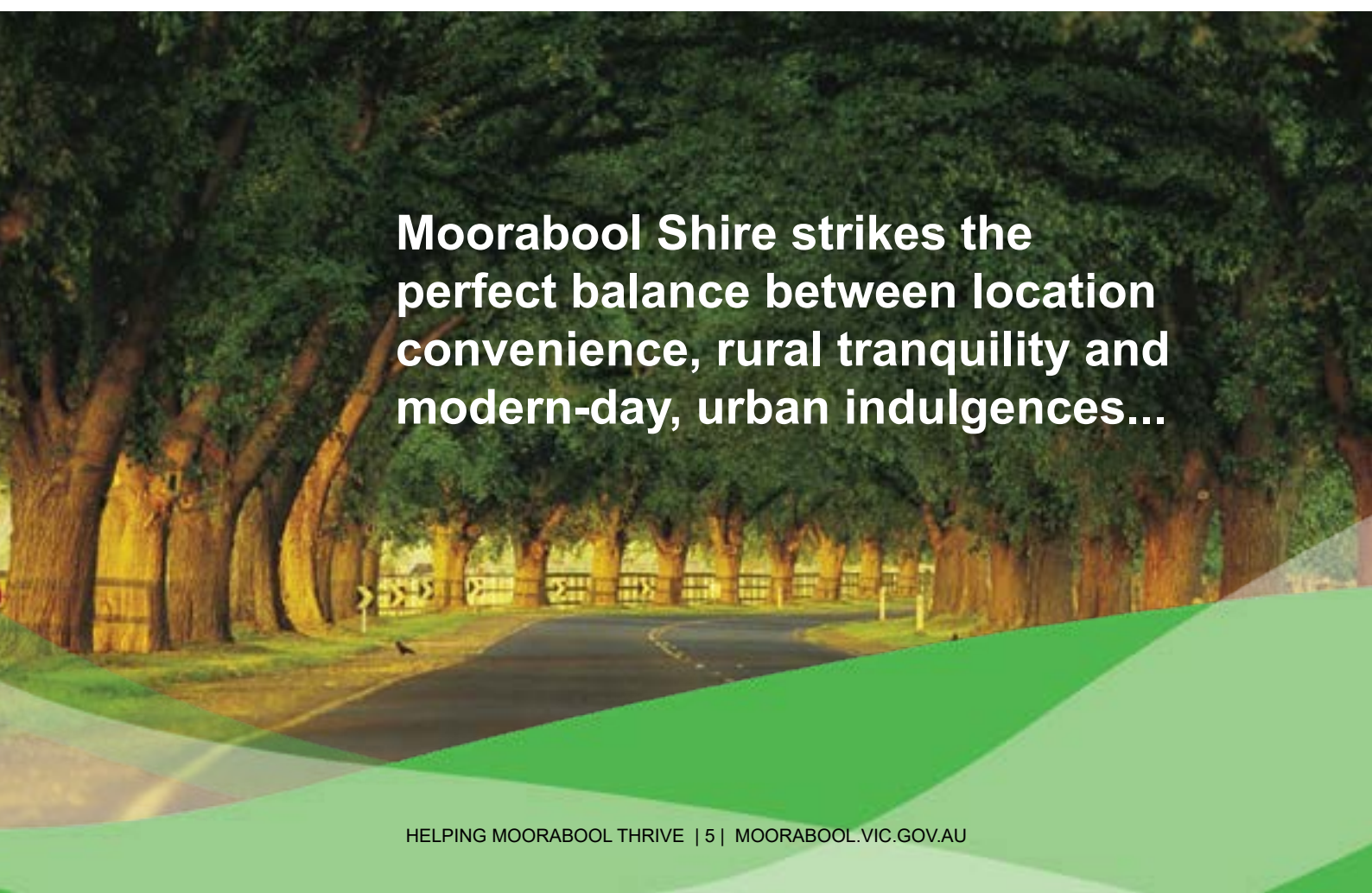
Better Service Access

We ensure access to adequate essential services. Together we make sure that current and future residents of Moorabool - from the very young to the elderly – can access to a range of services including health, education, leisure and youth.



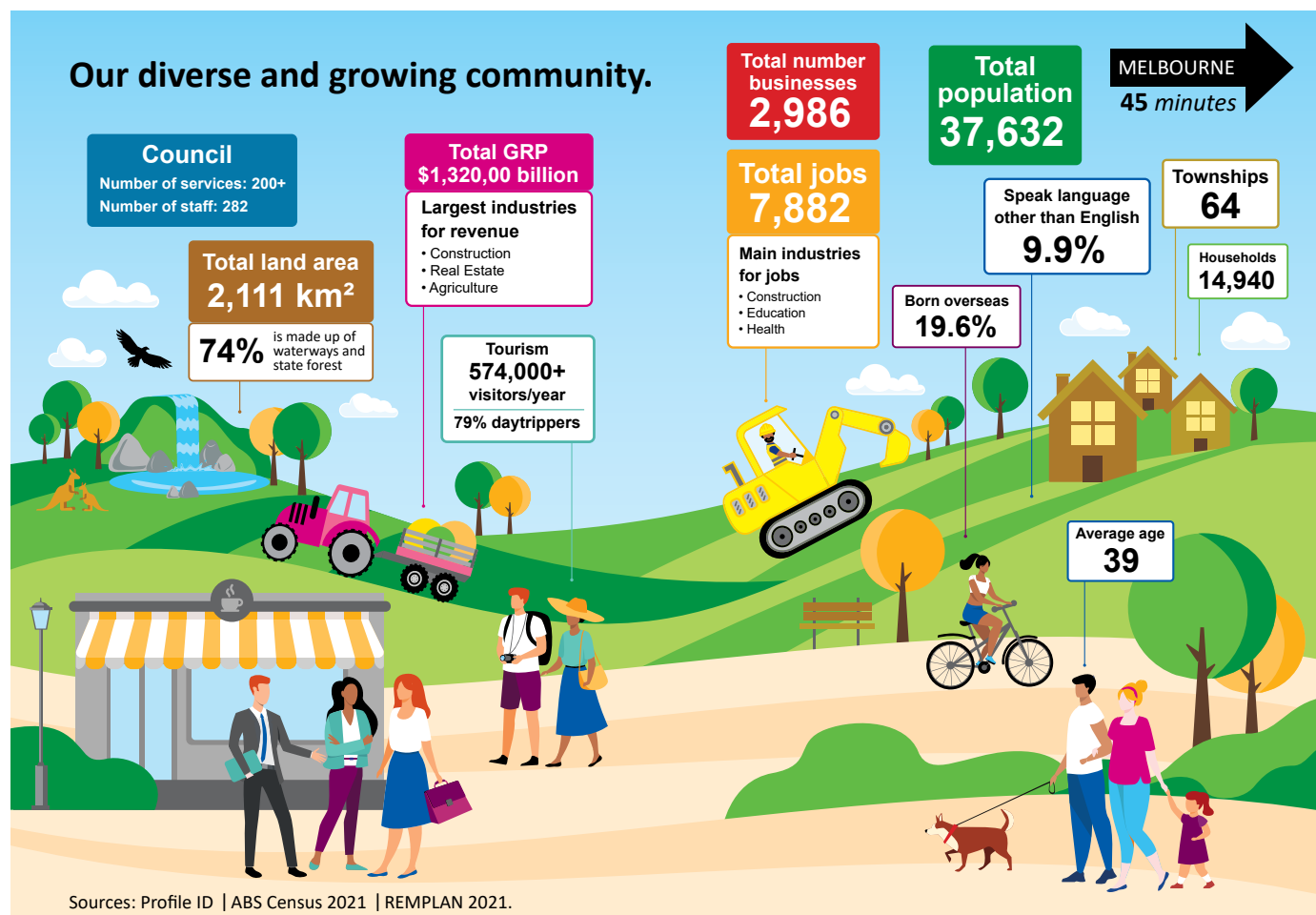
Attracting Jobs and Visitors

We create local jobs. Together we support business, investment and tourism to encourage sustainable growth in Moorabool.



Moorabool Shire strikes the perfect balance between location convenience, rural tranquility and modern-day, urban indulgences...

COMMUNITY PROFILE AND OUR GROWING POPULATION



Moorabool Shire is an increasingly popular choice for those seeking rural tranquillity with a mix of an urban lifestyle. The current population of 37,632 is forecast double in the next 20 years.

The municipality contains 64 settlements of varying sizes. These range from small towns, hamlets and farming settlements to the larger districts of Bacchus Marsh and Ballan.

Moorabool Shire is positioned along the major road and rail transport corridors between Melbourne and Adelaide. Its eastern boundary is located just 40km west of Melbourne's CBD and extends westwards to the City of Ballarat municipal boundary. The Shire straddles Victoria's Western Highway and has excellent transport access to Melbourne, Ballarat and Geelong. Bacchus Marsh is equidistant to Melbourne and Avalon airports and close to the sea ports of Geelong and Melbourne.

Strategic importance

Moorabool is a highly strategic location because it offers the increasingly scarce opportunity to efficiently provide high quality food, energy and resources to a rapidly growing world city while concurrently supporting the state's population and economic growth by providing housing, labour and waste processing. Efficient movement of resources and labour is made possible by the strategic location at the interface with metropolitan Melbourne and proximity to Victoria's three largest regional cities, along with the high capacity road, rail and energy infrastructure which traverses through the Shire and its main towns.



MAJOR PROJECTS

INDOOR AQUATIC CENTRE, BACCHUS MARSH



LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES



THE PROJECT

An indoor aquatic centre for Bacchus Marsh is a high priority for Moorabool Shire and the local community, who have been actively advocating for this project for many years.

It forms the centre-piece of a major new sports and recreation precinct in Bacchus Marsh – the Moorabool Aquatic and Recreation Centre (MARC) - and will provide a much-needed recreation facility for our region.

Unlike similar-sized towns in Victoria, Bacchus Marsh does not have an indoor aquatic facility. The existing outdoor pool was built in the 1930s and no longer meets the needs of the community.

There is widespread community support for this project and a high demand for year-round pool facilities in Bacchus Marsh with 56% of surveyed pool users having to travel outside the Shire to participate in swimming activities at indoor pools in other municipalities.

SNAPSHOT

- High demand for local year-round pool facilities
- Help to generate \$100 million in economic activity
- Help to create over 200 direct and indirect jobs
- Help to address high rates of obesity in Moorabool
- Promotes community connectivity
- Plans completed and ready to tender

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Council Plan 2021-2025
- Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2015 -2021
- Active Victoria Strategic Framework 2017

PROJECT COST

- State: \$15 million (\$10 million committed)
- Federal: \$15 million
- Council: \$15 million

INDOOR AQUATIC CENTRE, BACCHUS MARSH



LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

This project will upgrade the pool to a year-round multipurpose recreation centre, featuring aquatic, health, fitness, and leisure facilities to meet community and visitor needs.

The project forms part of a new sport and recreation precinct, which also features an indoor sports stadium and regional bowls facility (both funded).

Together these projects will generate more than \$100 million in local economic activity and create more than 200 direct and indirect jobs during construction.

Council has already contributed \$15 million to the aquatic facility and has sourced \$10 million from other funding streams. We are seeking government contributions to fund the extra \$15 million.

Council can tender this project immediately once funding is secured.



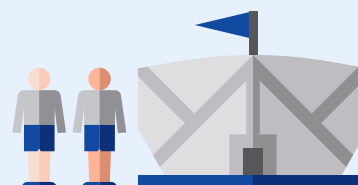


Moorabool Shire

Moorabool's indoor sport participation rates are higher than the Victorian State average.



Victorian State

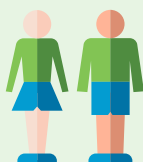


Moorabool Shire

2036

44%

Aged 45 & over

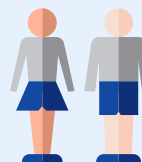


2020

42%

Aged 45 & over

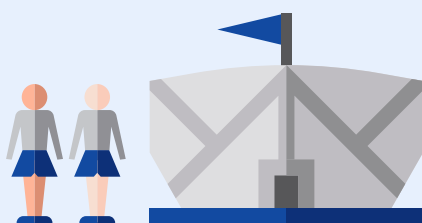
Victorian State



53%

of people aged 45 and over participate in sport through leisure centres in Victoria.

Victorian State

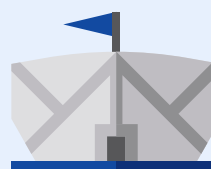


63%

of all female sporting participation in Victoria occurs within sports at leisure centres.

Victorian State

Based on State participation rates, around 4,000 residents could participate in indoor sports if suitable facilities were available. Other fitness activities and dance could also be an option, which would cater for an additional 6,000 users.



**4,000
Residents**



**Additional
6,000
users**



THE PROJECT

Council owns an 11,500sqm site on the main street of Bacchus Marsh which could be reimagined into a lively civic precinct in the heart of town, creating a focal point for commercial and community activities within Moorabool.

This urban revitalisation and regeneration project would inject new life into the township, attracting workers, customers and visitors to the town centre to access a range of new and enticing social, cultural and commercial services and infrastructure. There is potential for an arts hub to be integrated within the precinct.

The site is situated in the historic main street and commercial centre of Bacchus Marsh, and has direct physical and visual connection to the Avenue of Honour town gateway and the orchards and farmlands surrounding it.

The total land area is zoned commercial, with a residential interface on two sides. An adjacent undeveloped site of 42,000sqm of former farmland could be purchased and connected with these landholdings to comprise a combined site of almost 6 hectares across commercial and residential zonings with multiple street frontages and access points.

The redevelopment of the site would include new Council offices, and the relocation of 200 employees into the town centre.

Council has commenced a Bacchus Marsh Town Centre Structure Plan. The purpose of the structure is to establish a framework for guiding land use and development within the Bacchus Marsh Town Centre, with a particular focus on four key themes:

- Activation of Main Street
- Unlocking key development sites
- Improving the relationship between Main Street and the train station
- Establishing a Civic Precinct to act as a catalyst for change and investment.



SNAPSHOT

- 200+ jobs relocated to town centre
- Land zoned appropriately
- Site purchased
- Schematic design underway

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Moorabool Shire Economic Development Strategy
- Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework

PROJECT COST

- TBC (off-set with Council office site)



DARLEY COUNCIL OFFICE ACCOMMODATION, BACCHUS MARSH



BETTER SERVICE ACCESS

Council offices

Early Years Hub

Primary school



SNAPSHOT

- High demand for new school
- All land appropriately zoned
- Fully integrated educational offering to residents

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework
- Moorabool Economic Development Strategy

PROJECT COST

- Off-set with Civic Precinct cost

THE PROJECT

Training in Victoria has developed and implemented major co-location and integration projects. These projects have brought together, often on one site, schools, early childhood services, vocational education and training services and providers and community facilities.

Most are located in the Melbourne urban fringe or regional areas, and the overall budgets of the projects have ranged from approximately \$3 million up to \$35 million.

“In some places, co-location and integration initiatives were part of broader community regeneration or renewal programs.” (Source: Colocation and other Integration Initiatives: Strategic Evaluation. Victorian Department of Education).

Potential State Government usage of current Council site:

- Return to a state high school
- Select entry high school for the western suburbs of Melbourne is developed on site. 1.6m people within 30 minutes with no traffic
- Special School - Autism
- Extend current Primary School - At capacity, currently using portables for classes

The majority of the infrastructure of the school is still on-site and has been significantly upgraded by Council over the last 10 years at a cost of approximately \$7 million.

AQUALINK CYCLING AND WALKING CORRIDOR - WEST, BACCHUS MARSH



IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY



SNAPSHOT

- Promotes health and wellbeing and active lifestyles
- Creates off-road linkages between Bacchus Marsh and Darley and Bacchus Marsh Train Station
- Increased social connection

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Integrated Transport Strategy
- Hike and Bike Strategy
- Victorian Cycle Strategy

PROJECT COST

- State: \$5 million
- Council: \$3 million

THE PROJECT

Aqualink is a non-car-based transport option for residents and visitors to Bacchus Marsh that will provide better access to the town's main attractions and services, as well as promoting health, wellbeing and active lifestyles.

Aqualink has been enabled by Southern Rural Water's recent upgrade and modernisation project.

There are opportunities for other levels of government to provide funding support for the different stages.

New underground piping and the removal of the channel provides an opportunity to build off-road walking and cycling access and linkages through Darley and Bacchus Marsh.

The project will also link to an upgraded shared path

from Bacchus Marsh Train Station to Main Street.

Aqualink will deliver five sections of a proposed 4.5 km path network connecting the Lerderderg River and Werribee River corridors:

1. Aqualink North (a): Lerderderg River to Holts Lane, Darley. Path design complete and landscape design underway.
2. Aqualink North (b): Holts Lane, Darley to Masons Lane, Bacchus Marsh. Landscape design underway.
3. Aqualink Central: Masons Lane to Main Street, Bacchus Marsh. Design underway.
4. Aqualink East: Main Street to Bacchus Marsh Train Station. Path design complete. Work commenced in April 2021.
5. Aqualink West: Masons Lane, Bacchus Marsh to Werribee River, Maddingley.

GRIFFITH STREET DUPLICATION, BACCHUS MARSH



IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY



THE PROJECT

Council is seeking funding to duplicate the section of Griffith Street, between Grant Street and Cassina Boulevard, Bacchus Marsh.

This area is in an extremely busy pocket of Bacchus Marsh. It is one of the gateways into Bacchus Marsh, and is near the railway station, two schools, a future early years hub and new housing estates.

Plans to duplicate this section of road will see the road become four lanes, with a centre median strip.

The project includes upgrades to the existing intersections and service roads, and pedestrian and cycle links to the railway station and the nearby schools.

The project is vital in catering for the growth in the south and west of the town and will provide access to the expanding industrial estate.

Without this work being done, the pressure on traffic in this area will become a major problem.

This project complements the Department of Transport's

SNAPSHOT

- Creates a four lane road in one of the busiest areas of the town, near the railway station, schools and new housing estates
- Creates off-road linkages between Bacchus Marsh railway station and schools
- Associated pedestrian and cycle links promote health and wellbeingDarley and Bacchus Marsh Train Station
- Increased social connection

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Integrated Transport Strategy
- Hike and Bike Strategy
- Victorian Cycle Strategy

PROJECT COST

- Federal: \$5 million
- State: \$3 million
- Council: \$3 million

Grant/Griffith/Station St intersections upgrades project, as this project will join the duplication.



“Let us grow like
other surrounding
towns”

Anne



SNAPSHOT

- Enables town growth
- Increased housing choice and affordability
- Stimulate \$50 million in economic activity
- Create 345 new jobs

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Central Highlands Regional Growth Plan.
- Moorabool Small Towns and Settlements Strategy

PROJECT COST

- Council: \$1 million (committed)
- Funding required: \$9 million

THE PROJECT

The townships of Bungaree and Wallace are still reliant on septic tanks, which is severely limiting growth opportunities, despite being key locations in western Moorabool that are currently strategically supported for residential growth to occur.

Council has long advocated for the towns to be connected to the sewer network and is committed to working with Central Highlands Water and others so construction can begin in the next four to five years.

There are several ways for sewer projects to be funded, including contributions from landowners, developers, councils, government, and water authorities.

Council has agreed to provide \$1 million towards this project and is asking state and federal governments to look at the role they can play in ensuring both Bungaree

and Wallace grow and prosper into the future.

Now, more than ever, there is a strong economic argument for funding community-building infrastructure such as reticulated sewerage, with the resulting residential development creating jobs and other economic activity.

In Bungaree and Wallace, it is predicted that the sewer project could provide for up to 3,500 new residents, who will live and spend locally.

The project provides an excellent opportunity for Government, water authorities, councils, and the community to work constructively together to inject new life into these small towns.



“It’s 2021 - it’s not 1921, and it’s (sewer system) really an essential part of what people want in their lifestyle.”

Craig



About Bungaree and Wallace

While Ballarat grows rapidly to its west, there are also clear opportunities to develop to the city’s east, which has excellent access to road and rail infrastructure and is closer to Melbourne.

The townships of Bungaree and Wallace, around 15kms east of Ballarat’s CBD, already have many of the desired attributes to attract growth, including good sport and recreation facilities, and a primary school. Wallace is also one of the few small towns in the region connected to natural gas.

Bungaree and Wallace are well positioned to provide opportunities for increased housing choice and the affordability that comes with living in a regional/peri urban area.

Growth of these townships will also reduce residential pressure on the region’s valuable agricultural land. The towns are 15 minutes closer to Melbourne by car than Ballarat, saving commuters half an hour on a return trip.

Bungaree and Wallace are almost ready to grow



Rural living



15mins from Ballarat



Easy rail access



Easy freeway access to Melbourne



Sport and recreation facilities

To achieve



Homes for 3,500 new residents



More \$\$\$ spent locally



Housing construction jobs

We just need



Reticulated sewerage



SNAPSHOT

- Multi-use pavilion is needed to cater for the growing BMRRR precinct
- There are a lack of toilet facilities currently at the Reserve to cater for the user groups
- Football clubs and soccer clubs are relocating to the Reserve, so a multi-use pavilion is vital as part of the redevelopment

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Council Plan 2021-2025
- Recreation and Leisure Strategy (2015 -2021)

PROJECT COST

- Approx \$7.5 million

THE PROJECT

The redevelopment of Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Recreation Reserve (BMRRR) has been progressing for the past six years.

This facility is considered a high priority as there are not enough local facilities to keep up with the rapidly increasing number of participants playing sport.

The pavilion will be a multi-sport facility with a purpose-built oval to service soccer pitches, Australian Rules football and cricket.

In line with providing spaces for everyone to access, the pavilion will include accessible amenities, female-friendly change rooms and a large community space. The amenities will also service the all-abilities adventure playground that has been fully funded for the site.





THE PROJECT

Council is undertaking a 5-year renewal program to improve existing play spaces across the municipality.

Full renewal of play spaces is required to ensure they service community needs and meet Australian Standards.

Play spaces in public areas provide opportunities for the community to come together to engage in active recreation and unstructured play – both recognised as optimal for child development.

Play spaces also play a vital role in helping children to be happy, to express themselves and acquire the skills that will determine their ability to thrive later in life.

The play spaces identified in the renewal package require replacement as they are aged and no longer meet needs of their local communities.

The package includes play spaces at: Barbara Court Reserve in Bacchus Marsh, Clarinda Street Reserve in Bacchus Marsh and Maddingley Hill View Reserve, Maddingley.

SNAPSHOT

- Ensure play spaces meet Australian Standards
- Improves community connectivity
- Helps with child development
- Promotes outdoor activity and health and wellbeing

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (2021-2025)
- Recreation and Leisure Strategy (2015-2021)
- Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

PROJECT COST

- \$6 million

PARWAN EMPLOYMENT PRECINCT UPGRADES, BACCHUS MARSH



ATTRACTING JOBS
AND VISITORS



SNAPSHOT

- 1,500 new jobs
- \$186 million in regional economic benefit
- Victorian Planning Authority support
- Gas connection completed in 2022

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT ESTIMATES

Power - \$11.75 million

Water - \$22 million

Sewer - \$16 million

Drainage - \$31 million

THE PROJECT

In partnership with Council, the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) has been progressing strategic planning for the development of the Parwan Employment Precinct (PEP) south of Bacchus Marsh.

The PEP has the potential to deliver employment opportunities in excess of 1,500 people and will also help redress the large number of people leaving the Shire daily for employment.

Current figures show that 60% of residents travel outside of Moorabool Shire for work, with many commuting to Melbourne, resulting in a loss of \$20 million from the Shire annually.

The precinct will attract significant levels of new industrial and agribusiness investment to the region, and businesses that value-add and complement the Bacchus Marsh Irrigation District and the future Western Irrigation Network.

A \$4.3 million gas connection was completed in 2022,

jointly funded by Regional Development Victoria (RDV), Council and industry partners. However, to fully unlock the employment potential, the precinct requires further infrastructure upgrades to power, water, sewer and drainage.

Council, together with RDV and Greater Western Water, have jointly contributed \$250,000 towards network planning investigations to further refine and cost the level of infrastructure required to adequately service the precinct. Preliminary investment estimates to provide for power, water, sewer and drainage are in the region of \$80 million.

This project will provide much-needed employment opportunities for local residents, generating approximately \$186 million for the regional economy.



SNAPSHOT

- Recognises importance of the Avenue of Honour
- Promotes active lifestyles
- Attracts more tourists to the region
- Increases community pride
- Boosts social connectiveness

PROJECT COST

- \$100,000

THE PROJECT

The Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour is a nationally significant living memorial established in 1918.

During the Avenue's inception, the community united to simultaneously plant a colonnade of 281 Canadian elms along the 3.3km stretch, which today connects the Western Freeway to the township of Bacchus Marsh.

At present a footpath or walking trail does not exist along the length of The Avenue meaning the plaques, and the beauty of trees, paired with the iconic backdrop of Bacchus Marsh's irrigation district, can only be experienced from within a vehicle at 60km/hour.

This limits access for our community and visitors and is a barrier to leveraging The Avenue further for tourism purposes.

Cultural tourism is one of the world's fastest growing tourism segments, with the sector growing 23% over the past 5 years, compared with total tourism growth of 19%. Council seeks to:

- Undertake a feasibility study identifying the potential for a Heritage Walking Trail along The Avenue of Honour, and how this could be supported both through physical infrastructure and digitally to bring stories to life.
- Undertake landowner, stakeholder, and community consultation.
- Explore the viability of a monument or building that would position Bacchus Marsh as Australia's home for the National Memorial for Avenues of Honour.



Cultural tourism is one of the world's fastest growing tourism segments, with the sector growing 23% over the past 5 years, compared with total tourism growth of 19%

RESTING POPPY PROJECT, BACCHUS MARSH



ATTRACTING JOBS
AND VISITORS



THE PROJECT

Moorabool Shire Council is supporting the Bacchus Marsh RSL Sub-branch and Wide Open Co to establish the Resting Poppy Project.

The project will involve creating a public monument that honours fallen soldiers from Bacchus Marsh and surrounds. The monument will provide the public a special place to honour, remember and share stories about those who fought for our country, and to help educate younger people about the sacrifices made by people from their local community.

Wide Open Co has chosen Melbourne-based artist Dean Bowen to create the Resting Poppy monument. Dan has produced design concepts for the project, proposed to be erected in the historic Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour.

This project requires support from other levels of Government to see the idea come to fruition. The concept is in line with Council's Health and Wellbeing

SNAPSHOT

- Reinforces the importance of the Avenue of Honour
- Promotes active lifestyles
- Attracts more tourists to the region
- Increases community pride
- Boosts social connectiveness

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (2021-2025)
- Arts Strategy 2021-2025

PROJECT COST

- \$350,000

Plan and our Arts Strategy, and would create a wonderful tourism opportunity for our Shire.

The Avenue of Honour is already sought out by day-trippers from Melbourne. This monument would increase visitation, and create a meaningful stop for travellers coming through Bacchus Marsh.

IMPROVED SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES

THE PROJECTS:

FEDERATION PARK UPGRADE (DARLEY)

Federation Park is in a prominent position at the northern entrance to Bacchus Marsh. The project involves traffic, pedestrian and parking improvements, replacement of amenities building, play space improvements and ancillary works.

Funding requested: \$400,000.

Council commitment \$200,000.

MADDINGLEY PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Maddingley Park is the premier recreation reserve in the area and attracts many visitors from outside of Moorabool. The master plan for the reserve identifies several improvements including formalisation of pathways, replacement of furniture, renewal of playground and upgrade to public amenities.

Funding Request \$750,000.

Council commitment \$250,000.

NETBALL UPGRADE PROGRAM

Application of acrylic surface to Maddingley, Gordon, Darley and Wallace netball courts to comply with current standards.

Funding requested: \$150,000.

Council commitment: \$50,000.

SPORTS OVAL UPGRADE PROGRAM

A program of oval surface upgrades within Moorabool Shire including Ballan, Gordon, Wallace, Bungaree, and Dunnstown (cost of \$80,000 per oval).

Funding requested: \$3 million.

Council commitment: \$1 million.





SMALL TO MEDIUM PROJECTS

SMALL TO MEDIUM PROJECTS



Council requires funds to complete these small-to-medium sized projects that will help us create healthy, inclusive and connected communities:

- Gordon Public Park public amenity replacement – to DDA standards - \$120,000
- Lal Lal township improvements – footpaths, intersection formalisation, streetscape works - \$250,000
- Mt Egerton Main St footpath construction - \$75,000
- Township gateways implementation – all towns - \$75,000 per town
- Gordon – walking trail from Gordon Public Park to Recreation Reserve - \$150,000
- Maddingley Park adventure playground upgrade - \$600,000
- Bacchus Marsh Splash Park - \$750,000
- Aqualink Linear Park nodes – 3 x \$200,000 each
- Blackwood Recreation Reserve pavilion kitchen upgrade - \$75,000
- McLeans Reserve, Ballan upgrade - \$300,000
- Paddock Creeks Reserve, Gordon walking trail connection - \$150,000
- Elaine Recreation Reserve cricket nets - \$120,000
- Blackwood Recreation Reserve cricket nets - \$120,000
- Solar installation at Egans Reserve, Greendale - \$50,000



OTHER ADVOCACY WORK



Council has a role to play in partnering with and influencing other agencies and areas of Governments to fund projects on land that is not Council-owned but helps us cater for our communities in alignment with our Council Plan objectives:

- Healthy, inclusive and connected neighbourhoods
- Liveable and thriving environments
- A Council that listens and adapts to the needs of our evolving communities.

We have several projects that fall under this umbrella, that form an important part of our advocacy work.

Improved Transport Links

Partnering with the Federal and State Governments and road authorities, Council seeks to ensure our transport network is at an excellent standard and that we are always improving our roads.

Three major transport projects we are advocating for are:

- Bacchus Marsh Interchange – Eastern Link Road, which will have links to Parwan Employment Precinct and the Port of Geelong.

- The highway to freeway project between Bungaree and Woodmans Hill.
- Bacchus Marsh railway station crossing to be made either over or under the road, in alignment with many railway crossings throughout inner and outer Melbourne.

Improved Telecommunications

Council is committed to keeping our communities together – physically and digitally. There are parts of our Shire where mobile and NBN services are less than satisfactory, so we continue to advocate for better telecommunications for our residents to use to live, work and play well.

Improved Tracks and Trails

Along with providing state of the art sporting facilities for our communities, we want to capitalise on the natural beauty we have in our Shire and develop better walking tracks for passive recreation and cultural activity. There is so much opportunity to use our state parks to create Indigenous arts and culture walking trails, particularly in Blackwood and in between Bacchus Marsh and Ballan.



Transmission Lines

Council has been advocating for the Western Renewables Link (WRL) to investigate viable underground options since the project was first announced in 2019, recognising the substantial social and environmental impacts an overhead transmission line would bring.

The current regulatory assessment process for such projects is flawed and fails to consider community impacts. Both state and federal governments have recently acknowledged this and policy reform is being developed. Council continues to advocate for the Moorabool Shire community, as it should not be too late for this project to benefit from these learnings.

Health and Young People

Aligning with the Moorabool Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025, Council is advocating for better local access to mental health services, especially for young people. Council also has plans for a youth hub. This project will be scoped and funding sought.

Western Freeway Entrances Beautification Project

Moorabool Shire is known for its picturesque landscapes and idyllic country towns, many of which are centred along the Western Freeway, which is the major transport corridor within the Shire. An opportunity

exists to improve the visual and physical amenity of the freeway entrances to these towns with improvements to landscaping, signage and overall vegetation management.

This would complement Council's small town improvement works program and the implementation of Council's Gateway Strategy.

The expected cost of the project is \$750,000, to be delivered by Regional Roads Victoria.

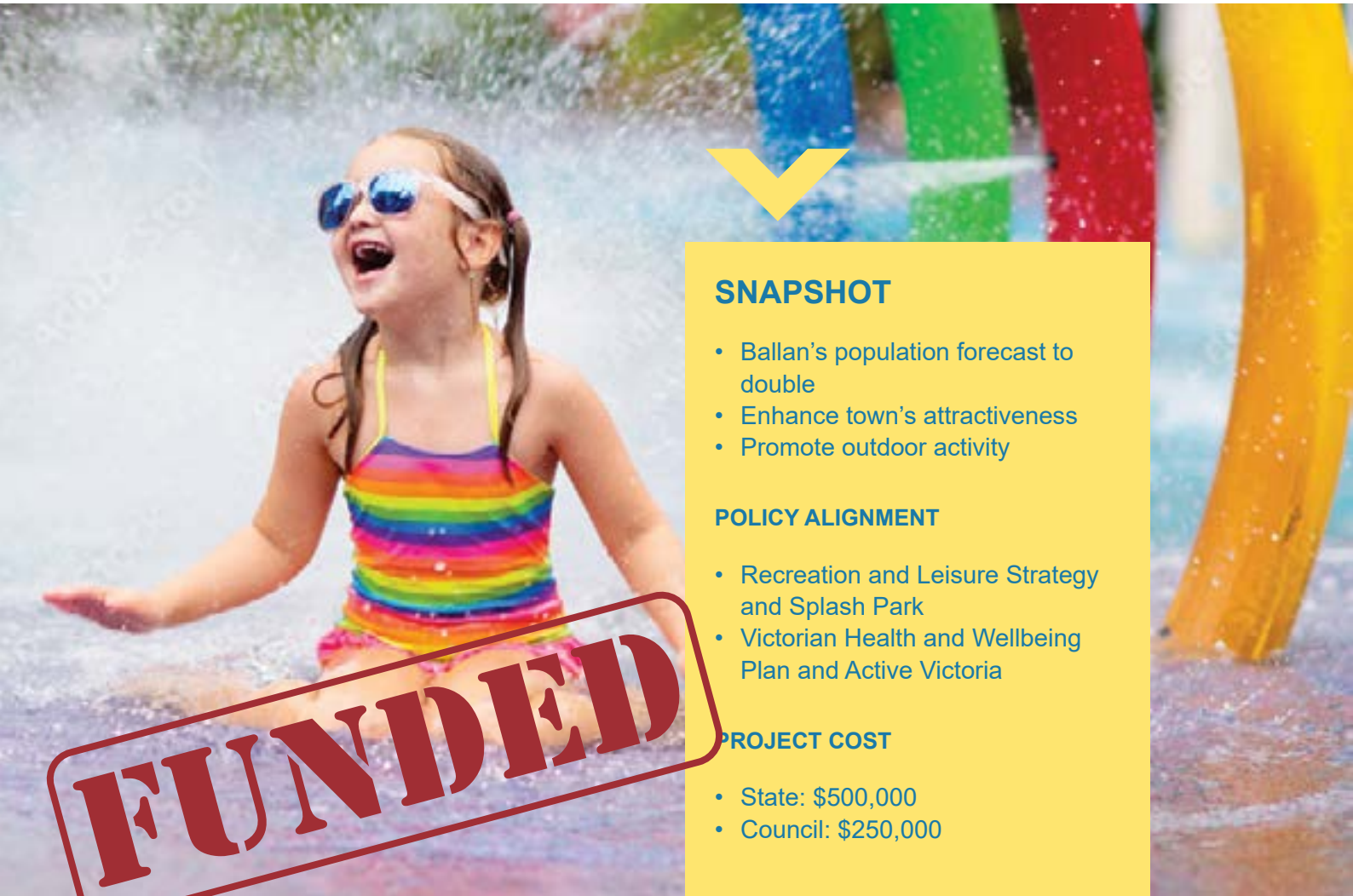
UNESCO Central Victorian Goldfields World Heritage bid

The City of Greater Bendigo and City of Ballarat are currently leading a campaign on behalf of 13 councils – including Moorabool Shire - across the goldfields region to inscribe significant gold rush-era sites on the World Heritage list.

The Central Victorian Goldfields World Heritage bid local government partners are: Ararat Rural City, Campaspe Shire, Central Goldfields Shire, City of Ballarat, City of Greater Bendigo, Golden Plains Shire, Hepburn Shire, Loddon Shire, Macedon Ranges Shire, Mount Alexander Shire, Northern Grampians Shire and Pyrenees Shire councils.



ADVOCACY SUCCESS STORIES



SNAPSHOT

- Ballan's population forecast to double
- Enhance town's attractiveness
- Promote outdoor activity

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Recreation and Leisure Strategy and Splash Park
- Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan and Active Victoria

PROJECT COST

- State: \$500,000
- Council: \$250,000

THE PROJECT

The township of Ballan is undergoing a period of significant growth with its population forecast to double to around 7,000 over the next two decades. Ballan has easy access to the regional rail network and is a great place for families, with two primary schools in the town and flourishing sports clubs.

The population is made up of 42.9% couples with children and 14.2% one parent families (57.1% families)

To enhance the town's attractiveness by providing family friendly recreation facilities now and into the future, Council is looking to partner with other levels of Government to undertake a significant upgrade of Mill Park. Mill Park is a large community space featuring a public pool, small children's playground, and barbecue area.

The site is ideally located on the Werribee River connecting to recreation trails in the town. Council has developed a master plan to expand the play space and will soon begin work on a skate park, pump track, 3x3 court, landscaping, footpaths, and car parking. The next stage will include a splash park and associated play spaces designed to provide fun, affordable, attractive, and safe aquatic play. The cost of the splash park and associated play spaces is estimated at \$750,000. The Ballan Splash Park, together with other improvements at Mill Park, will support residents to get fit and active, resulting in a healthier, more vibrant and connected community.

Fully FUNDED (\$760,000) via the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program



THE PROJECT

The Ballan Library has outgrown its existing building space and is unable to meet the demand and service needs of its community. With the town's population projected to grow to 7000 by 2041, the problem will continue to worsen.

The library, housed in the former Ballan Mechanics Institute, is just 37% of the size necessary to meet current requirements, and does not satisfy accessibility standards

There is no access to public internet within the library building and the limited space restricts opportunities for hosting events and programs, both of which significantly limit its functionality as a modern library space.

Due to the space constraints, Council is currently required to offer library events, exhibitions and programs in the public hall, at an additional financial cost to ratepayers.

The Ballan Library has long played a fundamental role in the community – a place where people of all ages gather, learn and cultivate relationships.

But its fundamental role in the community is being compromised due to the small and outdated building where it is housed.

Moorabool Shire is committed to providing well-resourced, flourishing public spaces for our communities, and the Ballan Library and Community Hub project will reinvigorate this important community facility into a vibrant social and community meeting place for all. The upgrade will provide a flexible facility to allow spaces to be agile and responsive to both current and growing community demands.

Council has recently purchased the former Commonwealth Bank site in Inglis Street, to create a new community space for the growing population and to turn the hub into a centerpiece of the town.

We have plans to redevelop the bank building to boast a larger, contemporary library space, along with community meeting rooms, art exhibition space, maternal and child health services and an extended community courtyard.

The estimated economic benefit of the project is \$14.5 million with 20 full time jobs created during the construction period.

FUNDED:

\$1.5 million - Living Libraries Infrastructure Program

\$3.5 million - Growing Suburbs Fund



Supporting Data

- The proportion of children who are developmentally at risk with respect to language and cognitive skills has almost doubled, from 9.6% to 17.6%, in Ballan and surrounds from 2012 to 2018.
- Ballan Library is 37% of the size required to meet the demand and service requirements of the township's population (not including the surrounding towns). With the population set to grow to 7,000 by 2041, the current library would be 16% of the size required by then.
- In recent years, visits to the Ballan Library have increased by 25%, with an increase of 60% to Rhyme Time sessions and an average of 25 families wishing to attend each pre-school Storytime session.
- Almost 1 in 5 residents (18.4%) in Ballan and surrounds do not have access to internet at home. In comparison, around one in 10 are in the same position in Greater Melbourne (11.3%).

SNAPSHOT

- Existing facilities too small, and not functional
- Business case completed
- Site purchased
- Schematic design underway

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Moorabool Shire Council Plan 2017-2021
- Ballan Library Feasibility Study

PROJECT COST

- State Growing Suburbs Fund: \$3.5 million
- Living libraries: \$1.5 million
- Council: \$2 million

FUNDED

Total Cost \$16.7 million

TENDERED
SRV Funding: \$1.95 million
Council: \$14.8 million

FUNDED

INDOOR RECREATION CENTRE

Stage 1 Basketball Stadium

Location: Bacchus Marsh

Currently indoor sports courts in Bacchus Marsh and Moorabool are at capacity, with many sports requiring larger spaces and/or greater access and court time.

Existing demand combined with expected population growth means a 4-6 court indoor sports facility in Bacchus Marsh will provide a much-needed major competition venue for Moorabool.

Economic benefits:

\$26,623,570 and 91 jobs.



TOTAL PROJECT COST \$13.8 million

PROPOSED FINDING SOURCES

Funding requested: \$6.9M

Council commitment: \$6.9M

FUNDED:

\$1.925 million - Sports and Recreation Victoria

\$14.8 million - Council

Key reasons for this project:

- Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre is the only indoor facility in Moorabool and is currently at capacity with no further options to grow indoor sports.
- Currently there is high demand for indoor competitive sports with demand growing as the population does. A new indoor sports court facility will enable existing sports to continue to expand and ensure a greater number of residents can participate in various levels of competition.
- Moorabool's indoor sports participation rates are higher than the Victorian State average. This is based on Victorian organised sports participation rates combined with our current population.

Statistics:

- Sports participation has increased in recent years with this trend likely to continue as Moorabool's population grows.
- Based on state participation rates, approximately 4000 residents could participate in indoor sport if suitable facilities were available, indoor gym, dance and fitness activities may also be an option by an additional 6000 people.

Policy alignment:

- Council Plan 2019-2021
- Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2015-2021
- State Government Active Victoria Strategic Framework 2017

TIMELINE FOR SPORTS STADIUM



LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

FUNDED



TENDERED CONSTRUCTION

DEC 2021

MAR 2022



MAR 2022

JUNE 2022

PENDING

DEC 2022

MAY 2023

ELECTION



Existing demand combined with expected population growth necessitates the need for a 4-6 court indoor sports facility in Bacchus Marsh to provide a much-needed major competition venue for Moorabool.

BACCHUS MARSH COMMUNITY AND BOWLS HUB



LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

FUNDED

SNAPSHOT

- Existing facilities outdated
- Promotes community connectivity
- Promotes active lifestyles
- Ready to go to market for detailed design and tender documentation

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Council Plan 2021-2025
- Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2015 -2021
- Active Victoria Strategic Framework 2017

PROJECT COST

- State: \$3.5 million
- Council: \$5 million



THE PROJECT

The merger between Bacchus Marsh Bowling Club and Avenue Bowling Club provides an opportunity for the two facilities to forge an exciting new future together in a modern purpose-built facility in the heart of a major new sports and recreation precinct.

Facilities at each of the existing clubs are outdated and ill-equipped to cater for projected membership growth, particularly in social bowls activities.

Moorabool has 5400 residents over the age of 65, with bowls ranked as the 4th most played sport for this age group. This purpose-built facility at Moorabool Aquatic and Recreation Centre (MARC) will promote community connectivity, active lifestyles and enhance the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of residents.



With club agreements in place and initial concept design work complete, the project is ready to go to market for detailed design and tender documentation.

The new facility will provide:

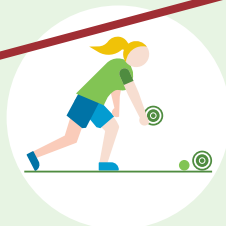
- Social/Bowling Club facilities' bistro, commercial kitchen and bar, community function and meeting rooms, amenities to support the above facilities and bowling greens, 3 new bowling greens, all-weather cover over 2 of the bowling greens, bowls club storage, maintenance facilities for bowling greens, outdoor decking/dining, and landscaping.



FUNDED

Moorabool Shire

5,400
Residents
aged 65 & over



4 Most popular sport in Victoria

Moorabool has around 5,400 residents aged 65 years and over. Bowls is the fourth most popular sport in Victoria for people in this age bracket.



Sports Medicine Australia says lawn bowls is a great way for people to develop their skills, coordination and fitness.

Victoria

Regular bowls participation 2010-2019



200,000
Participants in 2019

Over the period 2010-2019, regular bowls participation increased on average by 3.4% a year. Bowls is one of the most popular sports in Victoria with almost 200,000 participants in 2019.

Victoria

Participation in regional Victoria is much higher than in metropolitan areas.



Regional Victoria



Metropolitan



53%

Sense of camaraderie & belonging



40%

Social connectivity

A La Trobe University study found 53% of players listed a sense of camaraderie and belonging as a key reason for participating, while 40% listed social connectivity.

BACCHUS MARSH 1000+ STEPS SUMMIT TRAIL STAGE 3



IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY



SNAPSHOT

- Promotes health and wellbeing
- Entices tourists
- Caters for a catchment area of over 2 million residents
- Construction to create 50 jobs and \$8 million in economic activity (total project)
- Ongoing \$3.3 million in economic activity and 43 jobs (total project)

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- 2020 Tourism Strategy
- Active Victoria Strategy
- Visitor Economy Strategy

PROJECT COST FOR STAGE 3

- State: \$2.12 million
- Council: \$679,000

FUNDED

THE PROJECT

The 1000+ Steps Summit Trail Project at Bald Hill is an exciting nature-based tourism initiative promoting health and wellbeing opportunities for a catchment area of more than 2 million residents.

This project has seen the installation of 1000+ steps that wind their way along the existing walking track to the top of Bald Hill, enhancing opportunities for exercise and recreation, and creating new spaces for artistic expression.

Council has been successful in securing grants for Stages 1 and 2 of the 1000+ Steps project, with construction of the 1000+ steps and all-abilities access at Telford Park, scheduled for completion in 2022.

We now turn our attention to wider plans to expand the project to include a new car park and all-abilities sculpture loop trail at the summit of Bald Hill to take advantage of the breathtaking 360-degree panoramic views at the site and to become a major visitor attraction for Bacchus Marsh.

The proposed uses for Bald Hill as a complete project include cycle trails, walking trails and an adventure park,

plus spaces for events, picnics, and food and beverage offerings.

The revitalisation of this natural asset into a fully-fledged eco-tourism experience is estimated to attract about 347,000 visitors annually when all stages are complete, including 195,088 visitors from outside the residential catchment, and 152,111 from within the catchment.

The project will provide employment for 43 people and generate \$3.3 million in economic activity.

From a tourism perspective, the activation of Bald Hill aligns with the objectives of the State Government's Visitor Economy Strategy by contributing to a number of priority areas identified, including building on the tourism potential for regional and rural Victoria, better tourism infrastructure and improved access into and around Victoria.

FUNDED:

XXX

OTHER FUNDED PROJECTS

THE PROJECTS:

DUNNSTOWN RESERVE

Female Friendly Changerooms. The Dunnstown Reserve Committee developed a master plan for the changerooms upgrade.

The cost is estimated at \$500,000.

PLAYSPACES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Playground at Darley Rogers Reserve, Darley. The cost is estimated at \$200,000.

AQUALINK ACTIVITY NODES

For activity nodes along the Aqualink Trail in Bacchus Marsh. Estimated cost \$67,000.

BACCHUS MARSH RACECOURSE AND RECREATION RESERVE PAVILION

New pavilion and all-abilities hub at the reserve. Estimated cost \$3.29 million.



FUNDED





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