

Attachment C

Use Group:	Early years
Use(s):	C. 4 year-old kindergarten

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Summaries of the key findings from this assessment are provided in the main Community Infrastructure Needs Analysis Key Findings & Recommendations report.

Detailed assessment results are provided in Part B to this report. Where available, Building Condition audits and Fitness for Purpose assessments that have informed the Suitability Assessment may be requested directly from Moorabool Shire Council.

Definition(s):

4 year-old kindergarten:

Kindergarten (also called preschool) is a program for young children delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher. Children attend a kindergarten program in the year before starting school, usually at four years of age. Kindergarten operates under the Australian Government National Quality Framework and must meet the requirements of the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 and Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011. In Victoria local government is the infrastructure provider for Kindergarten.

Notes

Revision and update of the Quantity Standards

The Quantity Standards are directly informed by the current levels of public use that existing facilities receive. This is because Council cannot reasonably determine Quantity Standards without first understanding how well, or how poorly, existing facilities are used.

The current Quantity Standards for 4 year-old kindergarten have been informed by the findings of the Utilisation Assessment. If utilisation rates change in future, the Quantity Standards should be revised to reflect that change.

Existing infrastructure

The following Council-owned facilities within Moorabool Shire were recorded through the Community Infrastructure Audit and assessed for this report:

Council-owned facilities providing 4 year-old kindergarten	Service type	Owner & operator
Ballan & District Preschool, Ballan	Sessional kindergarten	Council owned, private operator
Darley Early Years Hub, Darley	Sessional kindergarten	Council owned and operated
Wallace & District Preschool, Wallace	Sessional kindergarten	Council owned, private operator
Young Street Preschool, Bacchus Marsh	Sessional kindergarten	Council owned, private operator

Table C1: Existing infrastructure (Council-owned facilities within Moorabool Shire)

The following non-Council facilities within Moorabool Shire were also recorded and assessed:

Facilities providing 4 year-old kindergarten	Service type	Owner & operator
Aussie Kindies Early Learning, Bacchus Marsh	Integrated kindergarten program within Long Day Care centre	Private owner & operator
Bacchus Marsh Child Care & Kindergarten Centre	Integrated kindergarten program within Long Day Care centre	Private owner & operator
Bacchus Marsh Montessori Preschool, Darley	Sessional kindergarten	State Government owned, private operator
Early Learning Centre, Maddingley	Integrated kindergarten program within Long Day Care centre	Private owner & operator
Pentland Child Care & Kindergarten Centre	Integrated kindergarten program within Long Day Care centre	Private owner & operator
Story House Early Learning Centre, Darley	Integrated kindergarten program within Long Day Care centre	Private owner & operator

Table C2: Existing infrastructure (non-Council facilities within Moorabool Shire)

For more information about how the above figures for ‘# licensed places’ and ‘modelled kindergarten enrolment capacity’ have been determined, refer to the Quantity Assessment section of this document.

It is recognised that several facilities outside of Moorabool are accessible to Shire residents. However, as all councils prioritise kindergarten places for their own residents, Moorabool Council cannot be certain that its residents will always be able to access kindergarten facilities in other municipalities. Therefore, to ensure that Moorabool residents are adequately provided with kindergarten, the facilities listed in table C3 have been excluded from the needs assessments.

Facilities providing 4 year-old kindergarten outside of Moorabool Shire
City of Ballarat
Alfredton Goodstart Early Learning Centre
Ballarat Little Learners Early Education Centre (ELC)
Ballarat North Early Learning Centre
Buninyong Preschool
Centre for Early Education
Cherish Early Learning Centre
Creswick Road Goodstart Early Learning Centre
Delacombe Goodstart Early Learning Centre
Mount Clear Goodstart Early Learning Centre
Mount Helen Goodstart Early Learning Centre
Wendouree Goodstart Early Learning Centre
Golden Plains Shire
Meredith Kindergarten
Hepburn Shire
Creswick Children's Services
Macedon Ranges Shire
Trentham Kindergarten

Table C3: Existing infrastructure outside of Moorabool Shire and excluded from the needs assessments

Quantity Assessment findings

Purpose

A strategic assessment to determine whether there are enough facilities in relation to population size.

The Quantity Assessment determines whether there is currently a suitable and sufficient quantity of services or facilities to meet the needs of the population of an area. It seeks to identify any under or over-provision that exists now and, using Council's population forecasts, may exist in the future.

Note regarding notation:

- *Figures that refer to an undersupply are prefixed with '-' and oversupply prefixed with '+'.*
- *The name 'Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds' refers to the urban areas of Darley, Bacchus Marsh and Maddingley.*

The Quantity Standard

Standard

used:

1 kindergarten place per 1 child aged 4 years

Population trigger¹: 50 children aged 4 within a 20 minute drive

Rationale: *Council has adopted a service standard of 1 place per resident 4 year old child. This is supported by annual data published by the Department of Education (DET) that shows 95% of resident 4-year olds in Moorabool attend kindergarten. The total number of children enrolled at centres within Moorabool is also high, being equivalent to at least 92% of the number of resident children (DET Early Learning Profile 2017).*

'Licensed places' and 'enrolment capacity'

Figures for 'licensed places' refers to the maximum number of children that each centre is licensed to educate at any one time. As children are funded for 15 hours of 4-year-old kindergarten per week, each licensed place can actually be used by more than 1 child within a week. For example, a facility with 44 licensed places is able to teach 44 children at any one time. On Monday, 44 children might receive 7.5 hours of kindergarten. On Tuesday, those same 44 children might receive another 7.5 hours, bringing them to their total weekly requirement of 15 hours. On Wednesday and Thursday a different 44 children could receive their 15 hours of kindergarten. The result is that 2 children have been taught for every 1 licensed place.

The Quantity Assessment modelling uses the assumption that the maximum 'enrolment capacity' of facilities is equivalent to 2 children per licensed place.

¹ minimum cohort population required to trigger need for a facility

Findings of the Quantity Assessment

Detailed results of the gap analysis comparing the audit of existing supply with the Quantity Standard are provided in Part B to this report.

The audit recorded 10 facilities within the Shire providing 4 year-old kindergarten, 5 of which are sessional kindergarten programs and 5 which are integrated within long day care centres. However, as Council has no control over the provision of kindergarten by private child care providers, the Quantity Assessment excludes most of the kindergarten capacity² within long day care centres.

Council-owned facilities	Service type	# licensed places	enrolment capacity
Small towns and rural areas			
Wallace & District Preschool, Wallace	Sessional	26	54
Ballan			
Ballan & District Preschool, Ballan	Sessional	59	110
Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds			
Darley Early Years Hub, Darley	Sessional	99	187 ³
Young Street Preschool, Bacchus Marsh	Sessional	60	120

Table C4: Existing infrastructure (Council-owned facilities within Moorabool Shire)

The following non-Council facilities within Moorabool Shire were also recorded and assessed:

Non-Council facilities	Service type	# licensed places	enrolment capacity
Small towns and rural areas			
<i>No facilities recorded</i>			
Ballan			
<i>No facilities recorded</i>			
Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds			
Aussie Kindies Early Learning, Bacchus Marsh	Integrated within long day care	80 ⁴	11 ⁵
Bacchus Marsh Child Care & Kindergarten Centre	Integrated within long day care	50 ³	11 ⁴
Bacchus Marsh Montessori Preschool, Darley	Sessional kindergarten	25	44 ⁴
Early Learning Centre, Maddingley	Integrated within long day care	103 ³	11 ⁴
Pentland Child Care & Kindergarten Centre	Integrated within long day care	60 ³	44
Story House Early Learning Centre, Darley	Integrated within long day care	96 ³	11 ⁴

Table C5: Existing infrastructure (non-Council facilities within Moorabool Shire)

² At this time, the 22 place program at Pentland Child Care and Kindergarten Centre in Bacchus Marsh is included due to a higher degree of certainty on Council's part that this capacity will continue for the foreseeable future.

³ Maximum capacity if all rooms used for delivery of 6 kindergarten sessions (or 134 max capacity if based on 4 sessions)

⁴ Total places for Long Day care and Kindergarten

⁵ Excluded from modelling; refer to Quantity Assessment section for more information

Small towns and rural areas:

- There is no kindergarten provision with the Rural East. Towns rely on the facilities in Darley, Bacchus Marsh and Maddingley.
- When modelled together, the areas of 'Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds'⁶ and 'Rural East' show a small operating surplus of +54 places of enrolment capacity, falling to only +27 places by 2021 and a shortfall afterwards.
- It is notable that most of the kindergarten provision is provided through the Darley Early Years Hub and Young Street Preschool, with only 1 private long day care centre providing kindergarten in Maddingley. This means that families in the small towns to the south of Maddingley have a long journey to the north of the urban area. Some may choose instead to access facilities in Melton but those are not any closer.
- Ballan and Wallace kindergartens service the small towns in the centre and west of the Shire. When modelled together, Ballan and the Rural West (which includes the kindergarten at Wallace) has a surplus of +69 places now, reducing to a surplus of +45 by the year 2031.
- On its own, the Rural West is underprovided by -5 places. However, due to the long distances between the kindergarten facilities at Wallace or Ballan and the towns in the far north, south and west of the Rural West, it is understood that some families instead choose to use centres in Ballarat.

Ballan:

- Modelled on its own, Ballan has a surplus of +74 places currently, reducing to +59 by the year 2031.
- *See above for results when modelled with the Rural West.*

Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds:

- Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds⁴ shows a surplus against the Standard of +117 places. However, when modelled together with the Rural East show a smaller surplus of +54 places, falling to only +27 places by 2021 and a shortfall thereafter.
- On its own, Maddingley has a shortfall of -63 places now. Even when modelled together with Bacchus Marsh, the area has a shortfall of -22 places now falling to -47 by the year 2021.
- Bacchus Marsh and Darley together show a surplus of 180 places now. This is because of the Darley Early Years Hub being in Darley and there being no provision in Maddingley.

⁶ The area 'Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds' refers to the urban area of Darley, Bacchus Marsh and Maddingley.

Utilisation Assessment findings

Purpose

Facility-specific assessments that determine whether services and facilities have adequate capacity to meet community demand.

The Utilisation Assessment examines the current level of use of facilities and determines whether or not they have capacity to accommodate existing and/or increased use.

The Utilisation Standard

Utilisation of kindergartens is measured as the percentage (%) of their maximum enrolment capacity that is in use (i.e. children enrolled).

Standard

used: *Facilities are deemed fully utilised at 95% utilisation and above.*

Rationale: *While facilities can be fully enrolled (100% utilisation), a small operating surplus of 5% is allowed for.*

Findings of the Utilisation Assessment

Error! Reference source not found. Table C6 provides the latest available enrolment figures for each Council-owned centre. Mid-2018 enrolment figures were provided by Council's Early Years' Service.

Council-owned facilities	enrolment capacity	Actual enrolments	Utilisation % ⁷
Small towns and rural areas			
Wallace & District Preschool, Wallace	54	21	39%
Ballan			
Ballan & District Preschool, Ballan	110	78	71%
Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds			
Darley Early Years Hub, Darley	187	135	72%
Young Street Preschool, Bacchus Marsh	120	115	96%

Table C6: Utilisation of Council-owned kindergartens

Table C7 below provides the latest available enrolment figures for non-Council centres, showing data from the Department of Education (DET) 2017 *Early Learning Profile for Moorabool*. As already described, most kindergarten places at non-Council facilities was excluded from the Quantity Assessment. However, the utilisation figures are shown here for context.

⁷ Utilisation % equals # enrolments ÷ enrolment capacity

Non-Council facilities	enrolment capacity	Actual enrolments	Utilisation % ⁸
Small towns and rural areas			
<i>No facilities recorded</i>			
Ballan			
<i>No facilities recorded</i>			
Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds			
Aussie Kindies Early Learning, Bacchus Marsh	11 ⁹	11	100%
Bacchus Marsh Child Care & Kindergarten Centre	11 ⁸	11	100%
Bacchus Marsh Montessori Preschool, Darley	44 ⁸	12	27%
Early Learning Centre, Maddingley	11 ⁸	unknown	unknown
Pentland Child Care & Kindergarten Centre	44	43	98%
Story House Early Learning Centre, Darley	11 ⁸	unknown	unknown

Table C7: Utilisation of non-Council kindergartens

Small towns and rural areas:

- When considered together, the 164 places provided by the Wallace and Ballan sessional kindergartens are at about 60% utilisation overall. However, Ballan has the highest utilisation of the two centres at 71%. These two centres have capacity to accommodate demand for at least 10 years across Ballan and the Rural West. This supports the findings of the Quantity Assessment that show that the Ballan and the Rural West area has a surplus of provision.

Ballan:

- The Ballan and District Preschool (sessional) is at 71% of its maximum capacity. This supports the Quantity Assessment which shows Ballan currently has adequate provision.

Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds:

- Overall the 3 sessional kindergartens (none of which are in Maddingley) are utilised 75% of their maximum capacity. Of these, Young Street is fully enrolled but Bacchus Marsh Montessori and the Darley Early Years have spare capacity. It is important to note that 22 places of the 'spare' capacity at the Darley Early Years Hub are not actually available as the room is currently being used for community and supported playgroups, support groups and specialist children's programs. Alternative space(s) for these activities will need to be found before the 22 place room can be used by kindergarten.
- Insufficient data was available to conclude whether there is demand for kindergarten in Maddingley that is not adequately being met by existing facilities. However, Council's Child Youth & Family Service reported that families from Maddingley are currently accessing kindergarten at Young Street and the Darley Early Years Hub due to a lack of options in Maddingley.

⁸ Utilisation % equals # enrolments ÷ enrolment capacity

⁹ Excluded from Quantity Assessment

Travel Accessibility Assessment findings

Purpose

A strategic assessment to determine whether people can travel to services and facilities within a reasonable journey time.

The Travel Accessibility Assessment examines the geographic distribution of existing facilities and their relationship to public transport (train station and bus stops) and car parking. It assesses whether facilities are accessible within a reasonable journey distance or time from where people live and identifies any significant spatial gaps in provision.

The Travel Standard

Standards

used:

- Settlements of population less than 500: 20 minute drive*
- Settlements of population between 500 and 2,000: 15 minute drive*
- Settlements of population more than 2,000: 10 minute drive*
- Population trigger¹⁰: 40 children aged 4 years*

Rationale:

The Travel Standards have been informed by various factors:

- *The geographic distribution of existing facilities and their distance from people.*
- *Minimum populations required to support viable services and facilities.*
- *Council and other service providers' financial ability to deliver and maintain a network of services and facilities.*

Findings of the Travel Accessibility Assessment

*Detailed results of the Travel Accessibility Assessment are provided in Part B to this report. Summary results are shown in **Table C8** and **Map C1** below.*

Small towns and rural areas:

Table C8 below provides tabular results of the assessment for each of the 22 small towns and rural areas; the same results are shown on Map C1.

- The results show that families in all but 4 small towns have at least 1 kindergarten within the Travel Standard for their location.
- The towns that fail their Travel Standards are:
 - Balliang
 - Clarendon
 - Elaine
 - Morrisons
- Barkstead has only 1 facility within the Travel Standard, but has another facility 1 minute beyond the Travel Standard.

¹⁰ Minimum population required to support a viable service / facility.

Ballan:

- Ballan meets the Travel Standard (10 minute drive) as it has the Ballan and District Preschool within town. The Wallace and District Pre School is 12 minutes away.

Note: at present, Bacchus Marsh is the only settlement assessed as an urban area. As the population of Ballan grows, it may be appropriate to also apply the urban assessment to Ballan.

Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds:

- Map C8 shows that all parts of the urban area have at least 1 kindergarten within the Travel Standard of '10 minute drive'.
- Darley is well served by 1 sessional kindergarten and 2 private Long Day Care centres providing funded kindergarten programs.
- Maddingley only has access to 1 private Long Day Care providing funded kindergarten programs through the Montessori Preschool.

Gap analysis results (Travel Accessibility Assessment) - maps

The following maps are provided in Part B to this report ('Detailed assessment data'):

Map C1: Travel Accessibility Assessment results for '4 year-old kindergarten'

	Population within range ¹¹	Travel Standard	Standard met/failed	Actual journey time to 2 nearest facilities (as measured)	Comments
Balliang	<100	20 minute drive	✘	19 minutes: Maddingley Montessori Centre 22 minutes: Young Street Preschool	Closest facility is specialist Montessori. Council-owned Young St is only 2 minutes beyond the Travel Standard.
Balliang East	100-200	20 minute drive	✓	14 minutes: Maddingley Montessori Centre 16 minutes: Young Street Preschool	Closest facility is specialist Montessori. Council-owned Young St is also within the Travel Standard.
Barkstead	<100	20 minute drive	✓	13 minutes: Wallace & District Preschool 21 minutes: Creswick Children's Services	2 facilities within 21 minutes. Creswick (non-Moorabool) is just beyond the Travel Standard.
Blackwood	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	12 minutes: Trentham Kindergarten 20 minutes: Ballan and District Preschool	2 facilities within 20 minutes. Trentham Kindergarten (non-Moorabool) is closest. Ballan is just within Travel Standard.
Bungaree	100-200	20 minute drive	✓	5 minutes: Wallace & District Preschool 10 minutes: Ballarat Little Learners ELC	2 facilities within 10 minutes, 1 of which is non-Moorabool. Several Ballarat facilities within 20 minutes.
Clarendon	100-200	20 minute drive	✘	10 minutes: Buninyong Preschool 12 minutes: Mount Helen Goodstart ELC	Only 2 non-Moorabool facilities within 12 minutes. Closest Moorabool facility is Wallace and District Preschool, 1 minute beyond the Travel Standard
Dales Creek	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	16 minutes: Ballan and District Preschool 17 minutes: Trentham Kindergarten	2 facilities within 17 minutes, 1 of which is non-Moorabool. Darley Early Years Hub is also within 20 minutes.
Dunnstown	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	9 minutes: Ballarat Little Learners ELC 9 minutes: Wallace & District Preschool	2 facilities within 10 minutes, one of which is Council-owned. Ballarat facilities also within Travel Standard.
Elaine	<100	20 minute drive	✘	9 minutes: Meredith Kindergarten 18 minutes: Buninyong Preschool	2 facilities within Travel Standard but both are non-Moorabool. Closest Moorabool facility is Wallace and District Preschool (29 minutes).
Gordon	500-2000	15 minute drive	✓	7 minutes: Wallace & District Preschool 10 minutes: Ballan and District Preschool	2 Moorabool facilities within 10 minutes. No other facilities within 15 minutes.
Greendale	500-2000	15 minute drive	✓	12 minutes: Ballan and District Preschool 15 minutes: Darley Early Years Hub	2 Moorabool facilities (including the large Darley Early Years Hub) within 15 minutes.

¹¹ Travel Standards have been assigned to small towns according to population ranges. As larger populations can support a wider range of services and facilities, travel distance / time standards are generally less (i.e. better) for larger settlements. For more information regarding this methodology refer to the Moorabool Community Infrastructure Planning Process on Council's website.

	Population within range ¹¹	Travel Standard	Standard met/failed	Actual journey time to 2 nearest facilities (as measured)	Comments
Hopetoun Park	500-2000	15 minute drive	✓	10 minutes: Young Street Preschool 12 minutes: Bacchus Marsh Montessori Preschool	2 Moorabool facilities within 12 minutes; Maddingley and other Darley facilities are also within 15 minutes.
Korweinguboora	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	15 minutes: Wallace & District Preschool 16 minutes: Ballan and District Preschool	2 Moorabool facilities within 16 minutes. These are the only facilities within 20 minutes.
Lal Lal	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	12 minutes: Buninyong Preschool 14 minutes: Mount Helen Goodstart ELC	2 non-Moorabool facilities within 14 minutes. Closest Moorabool facility is Wallace and District Preschool (18 minutes).
Morrison's	<100	20 minute drive	✗	9 minutes: Meredith Kindergarten 24 minutes: Ballan and District Preschool, and Buninyong Preschool	Only 1 non-Moorabool facility within Travel Standard. Closest Council-owned facility is Ballan (24 minutes).
Mt Egerton	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	11 minutes: Wallace & District Preschool 12 minutes: Ballan and District Preschool	2 Council facilities within 12 minutes.
Mt Wallace	<100	20 minute drive	✓	15 minutes: Ballan and District Preschool 20 minutes: Meredith Kindergarten	2 facilities within 20 minutes, 1 of which is non-Moorabool
Myrniong	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	11 minutes: Darley Early Years Hub 11 minutes: Ballan and District Preschool	2 Council facilities within 11 minutes plus Darley, Bacchus Marsh, Maddingley and Wallace all within 20 minutes.
Navigators	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	8 minutes: Ballarat Little Learners ELC 10 minutes: Buninyong Preschool	2 non-Moorabool facilities within 10 minutes. Wallace and District Preschool also within Travel Standard (14 minutes).
Wallace	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	1 minute: Wallace & District Preschool 13 minutes: Ballan and District Preschool	2 Council facilities within 13 minutes plus several Ballarat facilities within 20 minutes.
Yendon	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	8 minutes: Buninyong Preschool 10 minutes: Mount Helen Goodstart ELC	2 non-Moorabool facilities within 10 minutes. Ballan and District Preschool is just within 20 minutes.

Table C8: results of the Travel Accessibility Assessment for small towns

- ✓ Travel Standard met,
- ✗ Travel Standard failed

Suitability Assessment findings

Purpose

Facility-specific assessments that determine whether facilities are fit for their purpose and in adequate physical condition.

The Suitability Assessment seeks to determine how suitable facilities are in terms of supporting the services or community activities delivered through them.

Suitability assessments were only conducted for Council-owned kindergartens. This assessment assumes that privately-operated facilities are in adequate condition and fit for purpose.

The Suitability Assessment has two components: building condition and fitness for purpose.

Building condition vs fitness for purpose

For Council-owned facilities (i.e. Council assets), the Suitability Assessment includes data from audits of building condition conducted in June 2018. The condition audits are a technical assessment of the physical condition and integrity of the structure and fit out of the building.

Fitness for purpose assessments were also conducted. These seek to understand how well existing facilities meet the needs of users and staff and how they compare with contemporary facility standards.

The Suitability Standards

Table C9 (overleaf) provides the 1-to-5 scoring system used by the building condition audits and fitness for purpose assessments. It is important to note that low values represent better condition or fitness for purpose.

Building condition

Standard

used: *Minimum standards for building condition are not used. Instead, condition scores are qualitatively assessed and compared with the fitness for purpose assessment findings.*

Rationale: *During audits, separate condition scores are assigned for different components of buildings such as roof, sub-structure, floor coverings and electrical services. These component scores are entered into Council's asset management systems and subsequently inform the annual maintenance, renewal and upgrade programmes.*

Score		Building condition	Fitness for purpose
1	Very good	Near new condition with no obvious signs of wear.	Fully meets service needs with no impact on delivery of services/activities, AND No identified risks to users or building integrity
2	Good	Good condition with limited signs of wear. Does not require any special attention.	Minor impact on ability to deliver the required services/activities, OR Minor identified risks to users or building integrity
3	Fair	Generally good condition with some evidence of minor defects in local spots. Requires some planned maintenance to prevent further deterioration and to return it to a very good condition.	Moderate impact on ability to deliver the required services/activities, OR Moderate identified risks to users or building integrity
4	Poor	Evidence of significant defects in multiple locations. Requires major maintenance to prevent further deterioration and to return it to a very good condition. Will need to be renewed, upgraded or disposed in near future. Is reflected via inclusion in the 10 year Capital Works Plan.	Significant impact on ability to deliver the required services/activities, OR Significant identified risks to users or building integrity
5	Very poor	In need of major repair and referred to the capital works program for renewal / replacement / disposal. Will need to be renewed, upgraded or disposed in near future. Is reflected via inclusion in the 2-5 year Capital Works Plan.	Severe impact - required services cannot be delivered/activities, OR Severe identified risks to users or building integrity
6	End of service life	No remaining service potential.	<i>Not used</i>

Table C9: scoring system used for the Suitability Assessment

Fitness for purpose

Two overall scores are determined for each facility: one for current fitness for purpose and another for future fitness for purpose (notionally 5 years' time). Both overall scores are then classified as per the standards below.

Standards

used:	1 to 2: 'Fit for purpose'	equivalent to the top 25%
	2 to 3: 'Attention required (minor)'	equivalent to upper 25% to 50%
	3 to 4: 'Attention required (major)'	equivalent to lower 25% to 50%
	4 to 5: 'Unfit for purpose'	equivalent to bottom 25%

Rationale: The above scores represent 25% bands where the top 25% indicate facilities that are fit for purpose and the bottom 25% unfit. Scores in between are graded into facilities that exhibit major and minor issues.

Findings of the Suitability Assessment

Detailed Building condition audit and Fitness for Purpose assessment data may be requested directly from Moorabool Shire Council. Summary results are provided through **Table C10** (overleaf).

Council-owned facilities:

Findings from the condition audit indicate that all of the Council-owned facilities are in good to fair physical condition. The condition results for Ballan, Wallace and Young Street preschools contrast with the fitness for purpose assessment results that found them to be in need of fairly major works to make them fit for purpose. The main issues with these facilities are described below.

Small towns and rural areas:

The Wallace and District Preschool is generally fit for purpose other than having an insufficient number of toilets to meet regulations. In addition, suspected asbestos in parts of the building are preventing works to improve building usability and safety.

Ballan:

A number of issues were identified for the Ballan and District Preschool, including:

- Poor layout hinders service delivery
- Lacks full range of required spaces and storage
- Some concerns regarding emergency procedures
- Toilets in need of upgrade

While improving the emergency arrangements and upgrading the toilets are important issues, they can likely be resolved through fairly minor works. However, the building's internal configuration and lack of certain space for children, staff and parents will require more major renovation to remedy.

Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds:

Issues identified Young Street Preschool include:

- Poor layout hinders service delivery
- Undersized
- Some concerns regarding safety due to location of bag storage
- Toilets in need of upgrade

It may be possible to address the location of the bag storage and upgrade to the toilets through minor works. However, the layout causes various issues with operation of the facility and may impact on child safety. Critically, it is also an undersized facility in a central urban location that should be expanded through more major works to increase capacity.

Name	Building condition	Fitness for purpose			
		Score - Now	Classification - Now	Score - Future	Classification - Future
Small towns and rural areas					
Wallace and District Preschool	• All components good	3.0	Attention required (major)	3.0	Attention required (major)
Ballan					
Ballan and District Preschool	• All components good	3.0	Attention required (major)	3.3	Attention required (major)
Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds					
Darley Early Years Hub	• All components good	1.3	Fit for purpose	1.3	Fit for purpose
Young Street Preschool	• Fair: Wall finishes and windows • All other components good	3.4	Attention required (major)	3.8	Attention required (major)

Table C10: overall Suitability Assessment findings for Council-owned facilities

Child Safety Standards and multipurpose facilities

It is important to note that the Victorian Government Child Safety Standards apply compulsory minimum standards to all organisations that provide services to children, including local government. The standards may have implications for community infrastructure that services both children and adults on the same site at the same time, such as an early years and community hub, library or recreation facility.

It is recommended that, for any project building or modifying facilities that service both children and adults at the same time, the project manager should consult with Council's Child Safety officer to ensure a risk management approach to child safety.