



Advocacy Projects 2025
and Beyond



CONTENTS

Introduction, Advocacy Themes, Community Profile.....	3-5
Major Projects	6
Liveable Communities.....	7-25
Improving Connectivity.....	26-36
Attracting Jobs and Visitors.....	37-40
A Thriving Environment.....	41-42
Better Service Access.....	43-44
Small to Medium Projects	45-46
Other Advocacy Work	47-49

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.

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, Myrniong, 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 to 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 the people of Moorabool with opportunities to be active and participate in recreational, arts and cultural activities locally.



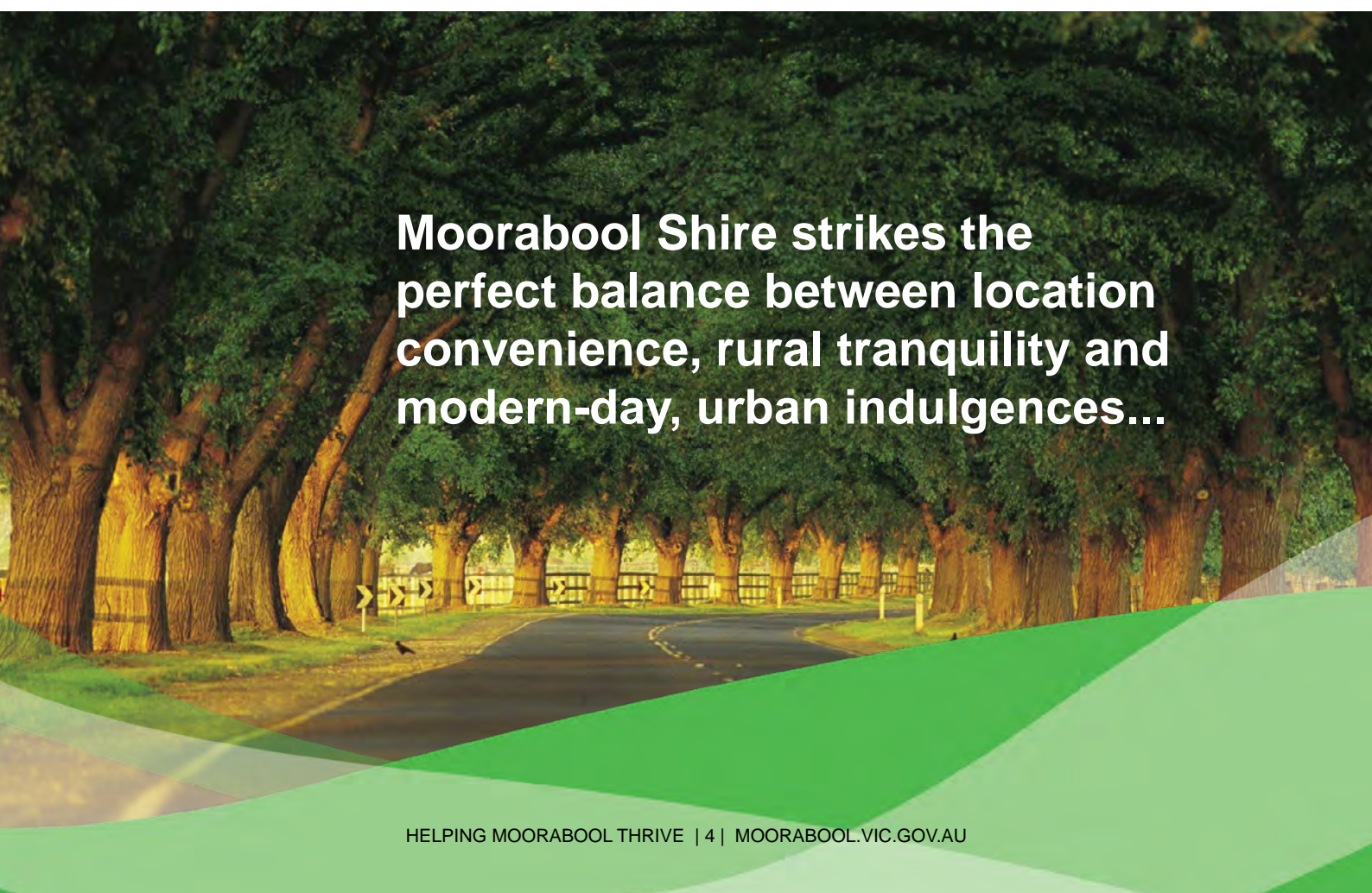
Better Service Access

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 a range of services including health, education, leisure and youth.



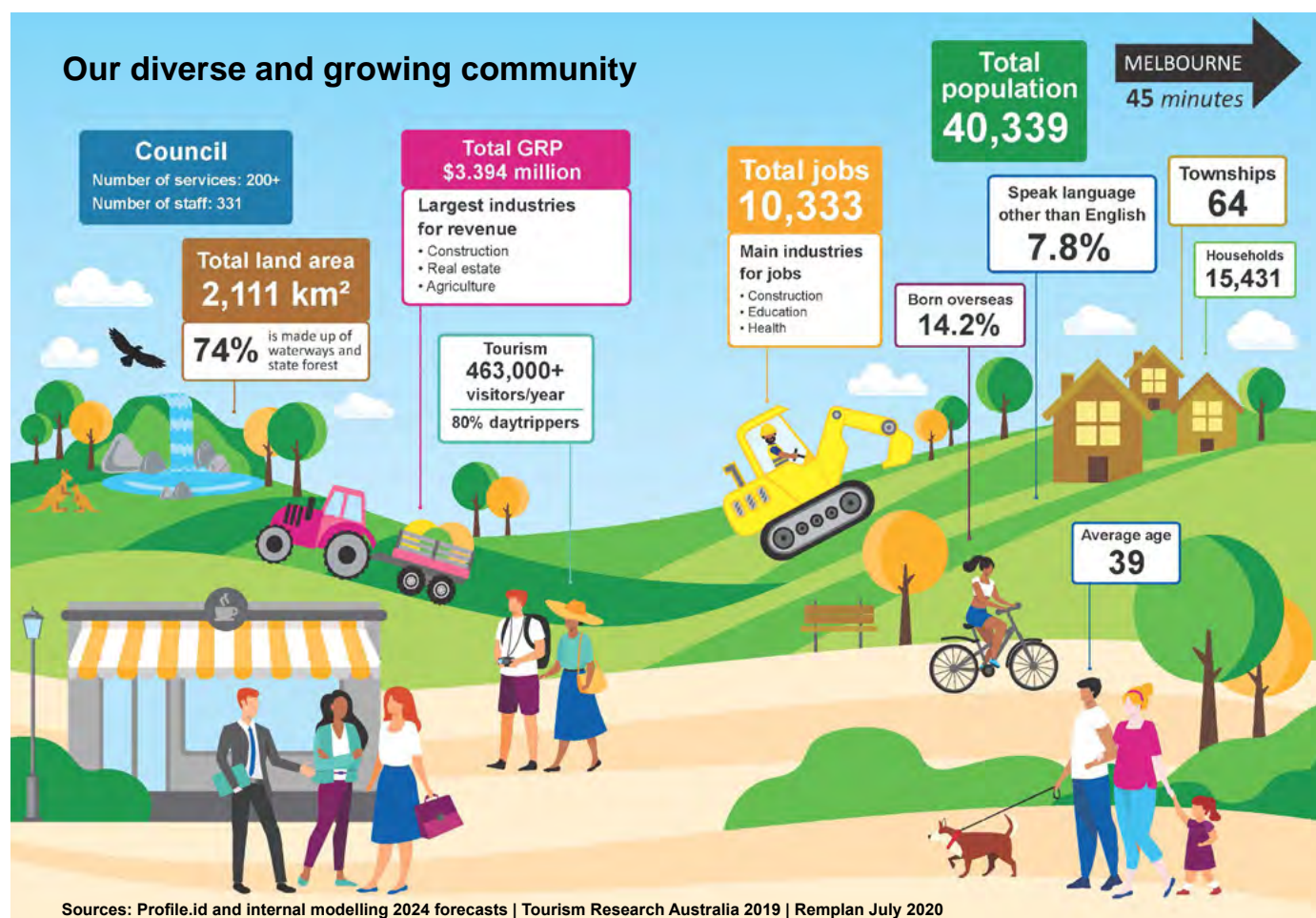
Attracting Jobs and Visitors

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 40,339 is forecast to 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 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.

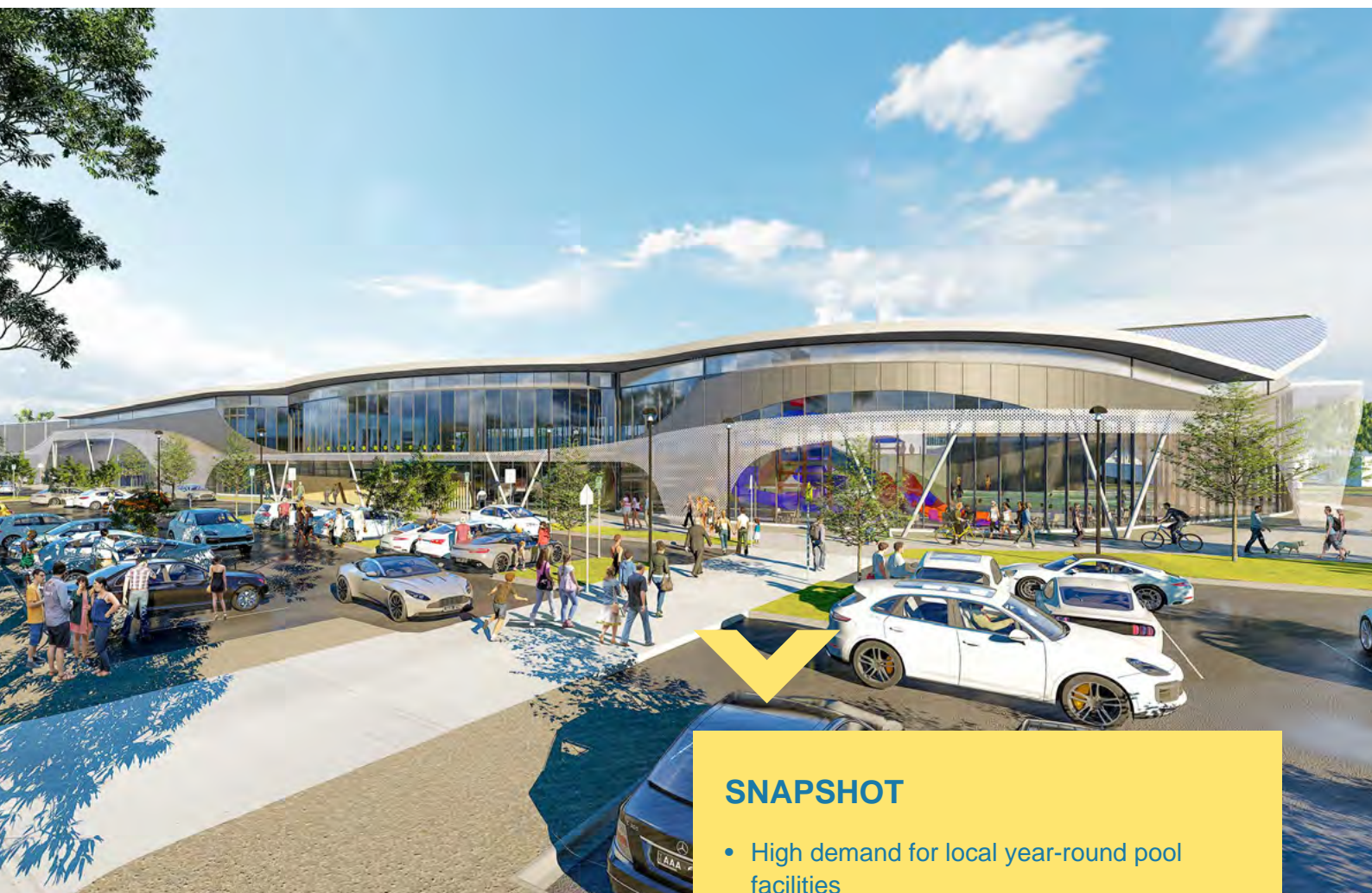


MAJOR PROJECTS

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, which has been actively advocating for this project for many years.

It compliments the newly created indoor stadium which is the centrepiece of 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
- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024 -2034
- Active Victoria Strategic Framework 2022-26

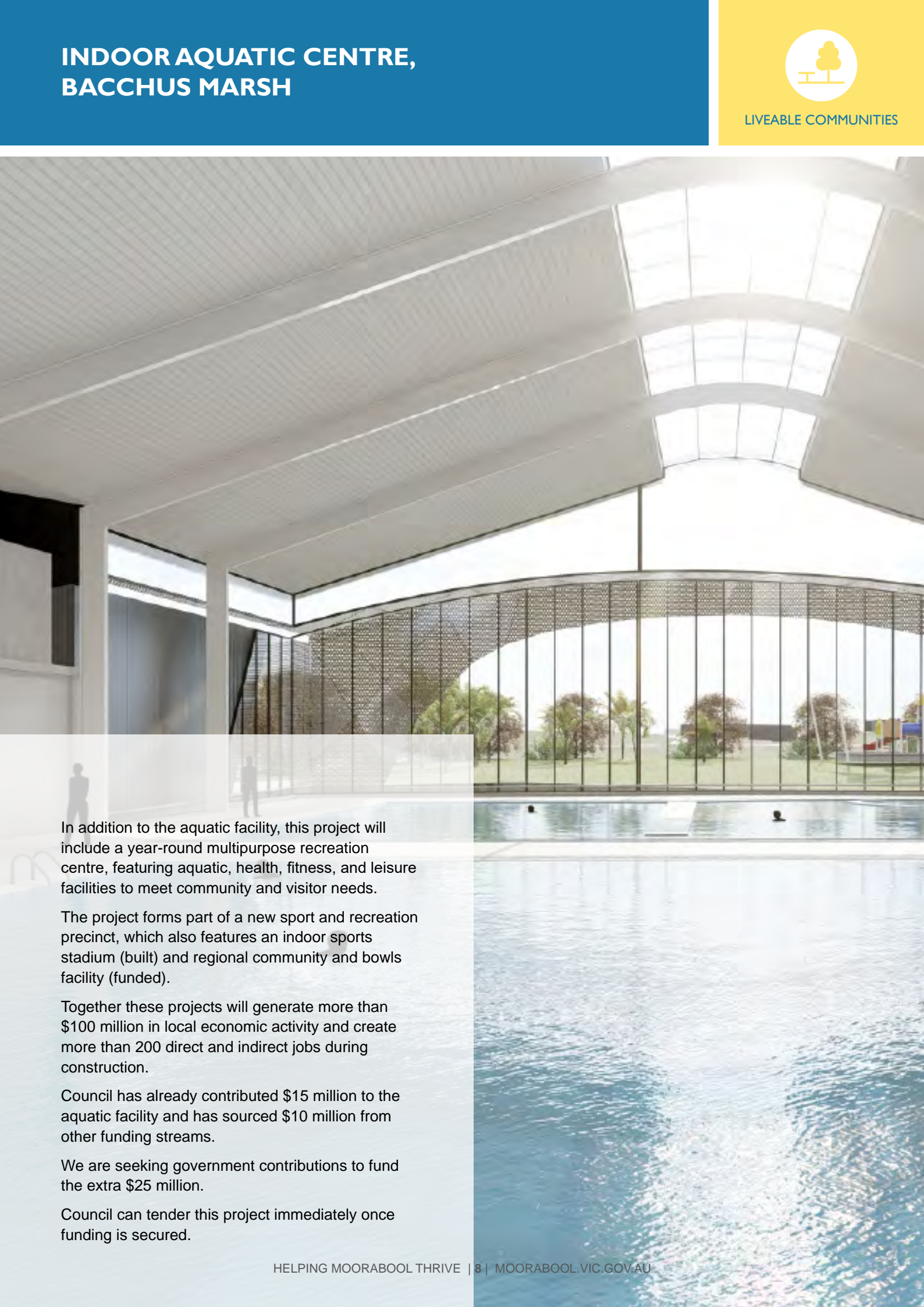
PROJECT COST

- Federal - \$20 million
- State - \$10 million (committed)
- Council and community - \$15 million (funded)

INDOOR AQUATIC CENTRE, BACCHUS MARSH



LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES



In addition to the aquatic facility, this project will include 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 (built) and regional community and bowls facility (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 \$25 million.

Council can tender this project immediately once funding is secured.

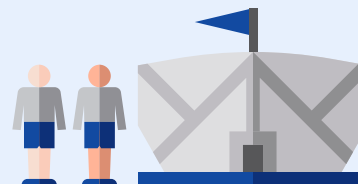


Moorabool Shire

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



Victorian State

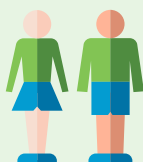


Moorabool Shire

2036

44%

Aged 45 & over

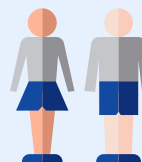


2020

42%

Aged 45 & over

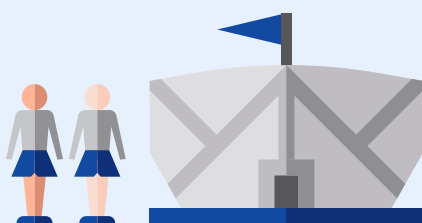
Victorian State



53%

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

Victorian State

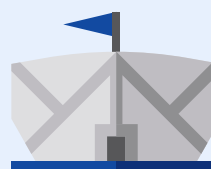


63%

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

A splash park for Bacchus Marsh has been identified as a priority in Council's draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy.

A location for the park has yet to be determined, but with a splash park in Ballan and many splash parks in shires nearby which have proven popular, all signs are that this would be a well-used facility.

The new splash park would also complement the shire's other aquatic offerings - outdoor pools in Ballan and Bacchus Marsh and a proposed new indoor aquatic facility in Bacchus Marsh.

SNAPSHOT

- Enhance town's appeal
- Promote outdoor activity

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024-2034

PROJECT COST

- Splash pad - \$850,000



THE PROJECT

Moorabool Shire is home to numerous pocket parks within its townships and Council has invested in upgrading a number of them in recent years.

There are two parks on the list for which we're seeking funding for upgrades:

- White Avenue, Bacchus Marsh
- Rotary Park, Bacchus Marsh

These parks all require new playgrounds to cater for the shire's growing population. There is opportunity for artist involvement in designing these playspaces.

SNAPSHOT

- Promotes community connectivity
- Improves amenities in the area

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Open Space Strategy (draft)

PROJECT COST

- White Avenue playground - \$450,000
- Rotary Park playground - \$400,000

PEPPERTREE PARK UPGRADE, BACCHUS MARSH



LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES



SNAPSHOT

- Creates a recreation space that links with existing walking tracks
- Promotes community connectivity
- Improves amenities in the area

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024 -2034
- Peppertree Park Master Plan 2020

PROJECT COST

- Stage 3 upgrades: \$TBC
- Stage 3 artwork and cultural elements: \$125,000

THE PROJECT

Council has undertaken stages 1 and 2 of work at Peppertree Park in Bacchus Marsh, as actions out of the Peppertree Park Master Plan.

Stage 1 works included a new carpark and kerb, channel and drainage work.

Stage 2 involves an upgrade to the existing amphitheatre.

To complement these works, Council is seeking funding for Stage 3 works: an upgrade to the picnic area/barbecues, a nature-based play area, a new toilet block, integrated artwork and cultural interpretation elements.





THE PROJECT

Moorabool Shire is committed to ensuring the condition of the ovals at our recreation reserves are at AFL-standard.

The top priority ovals in need of an upgrade are:

- Ballan Recreation Reserve
- Dunnstown Recreation Reserve
- Gordon Recreation Reserve
- Wallace Recreation Reserve

Read more about each individual site in the following pages.

BALLAN RECREATION RESERVE UPGRADES, BALLAN



LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES



THE PROJECT

The Ballan Recreation Reserve Master Plan was developed in 2018 and identified the need for a new oval surface.

With the recently constructed \$4 million pavilion, including a function room, meeting spaces and changerooms, now is the time to upgrade the oval to bring the entire recreation reserve into a state-of-the-art facility and up to Australian AFL and cricket standards.

SNAPSHOT

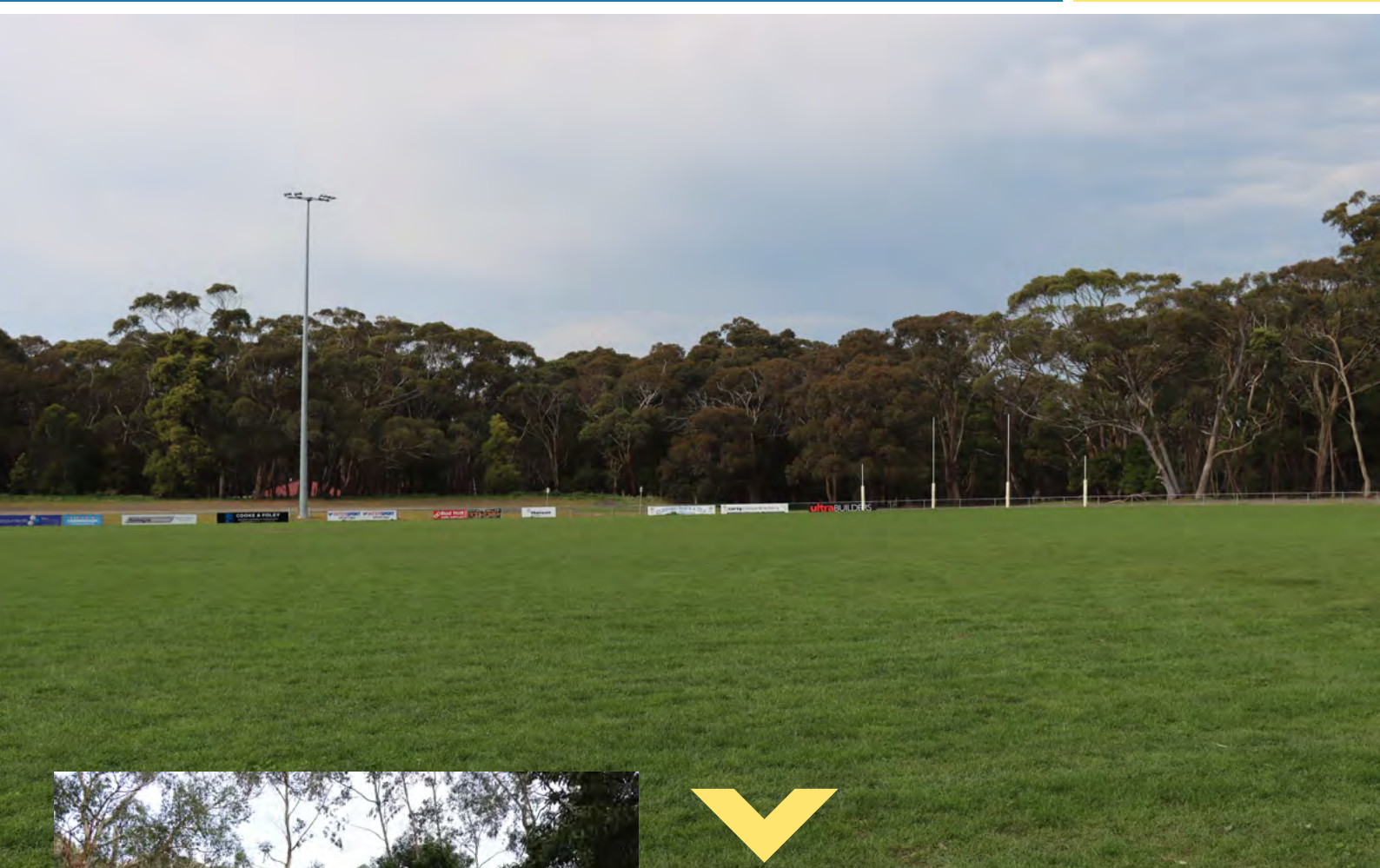
- Improves amenities in the area

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024-2034
- Ballan Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2020

PROJECT COST

- Rebuild new oval and drainage - \$850,000



THE PROJECT

The Gordon Recreation Reserve Master Plan was adopted in 2022 and identified several problems and needs – the main problem being the uneven surface of the oval.

The reserve is home to new netball courts with competition-level lighting, changerooms and seating – built in 2020.

There are several projects that need to follow to bring the recreation reserve up to a high quality standard, and enable football to be played all-season long. Currently, during wet weather, sections of the oval are unusable. There is opportunity for integrated artwork, such as a mural, and cultural heritage signage to complement historical markers.

SNAPSHOT

- Promotes community connectivity
- Improves amenities in the area

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024-2034
- Gordon Recreation Reserve Master Plan

PROJECT COST

- Playground - \$250,000
- New path to Paddock Creek Reserve - \$400,000
- Pavilion upgrade - \$4,000,000
- Entrance modifications to improve accessibility and safety - \$30,000
- Oval improvements - alter levels and rebuild oval - \$2,000,000
- Artwork and cultural signage - \$65,000

DUNNSTOWN RECREATION RESERVE UPGRADES, DUNNSTOWN



LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES



THE PROJECT

Dunnstown Recreation Reserve received grant funding through the Victorian Government's Local Sports Infrastructure Fund in 2022 for new changerooms, a gym and a community room.

The space is well-used but the playing surface on the reserve oval needs upgrading.

The playing surface needs to be rebuilt and drainage works need to be undertaken to bring the oval up to AFL standards.

SNAPSHOT

- Improves amenities in the area

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024-2034

PROJECT COST

- Upgrade oval and drainage - \$850,000

WALLACE RECREATION RESERVE UPGRADES, WALLACE



LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES



THE PROJECT

The playing surface on the oval at Wallace Recreation Reserve needs to be rebuilt and associated drainage works undertaken.

There is a need for new LED lights around the ground.

The ageing pavilion also needs upgrading.

There is opportunity for integrated artwork, such as a mural, and cultural heritage signage to complement historical markers.

SNAPSHOT

- Improves amenities in the area

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024-2034
- Wallace Recreation Reserve Master Plan

PROJECT COST

- Pavilion upgrades - \$3,000,000
- Oval upgrades and lighting - \$1,000,000
- Artwork and cultural signage - \$25,000



THE PROJECT

Elaine Recreation Reserve is a meeting place for locals along with hosting tennis and cricket.

The community pavilion at the reserve is in need of upgrades to ensure it meets modern expectations.

The reserve is popular with locals and visitors and includes barbecue facilities, a modern toilet block with a baby change station, and a playground. There is opportunity for integrated artwork, such as a mural, and cultural heritage signage to complement historical markers.

SNAPSHOT

- Improves amenities in the area
- Promotes community connectivity

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024-2034

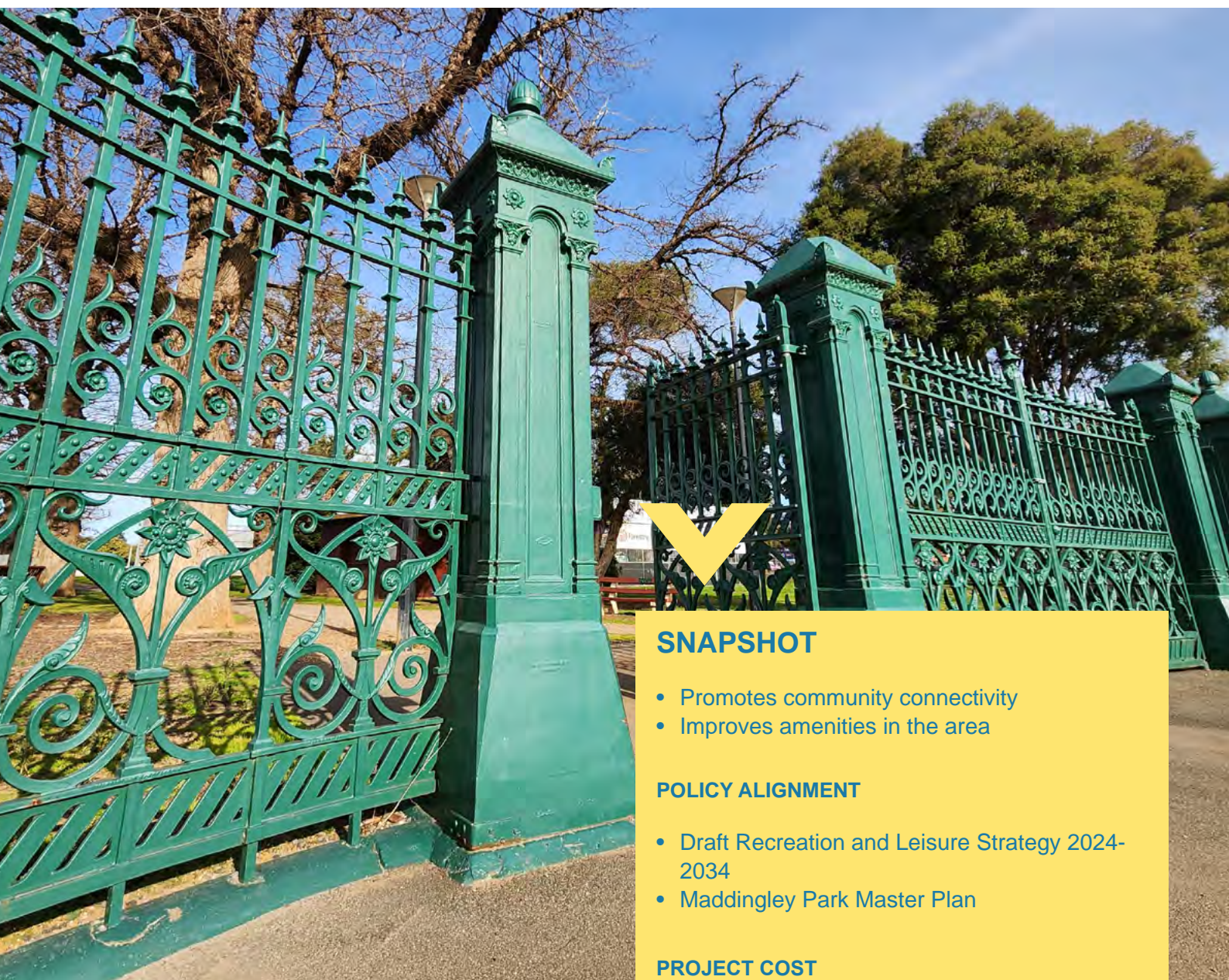
PROJECT COST

- Community pavilion upgrade - \$600,000
- Artwork and cultural signage - \$180,000
- Car park - \$50,000

MADDINGLEY PARK UPGRADE, BACCHUS MARSH



LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES



THE PROJECT

Maddingley Park is one of Bacchus Marsh's largest open green spaces, located to the south of the town centre and the Werribee River.

It is the setting for a diverse range of active and passive recreation activities, combining playing fields and courts, heritage elements and established trees and gardens.

A master plan was prepared for Maddingley Park in 2023 to provide strategic direction.

Council is wanting to fund projects from the master plan and from Council's draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy.

SNAPSHOT

- Promotes community connectivity
- Improves amenities in the area

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024-2034
- Maddingley Park Master Plan

PROJECT COST

- New maintenance shed - \$35,000
- Spectator shelter/amenities - \$50,000
- Formalisation of pathways - \$250,000
- New western pedestrian entrance - \$150,000
- Relocate cricket nets - \$700,000
- Pedestrian lighting - \$100,000
- Picnic facilities and park furniture - \$300,000
- Amenities upgrade - \$650,000
- Oval improvement (improve drainage, new irrigation and resurface) - \$850,000
- Landscaping, tree planting, artwork - \$500,000
- Female-friendly changerooms - \$2,000,000
- Adventure playground - \$1,750,000
- Stand-alone public art - \$120,000-\$200,000



THE PROJECT

The current pool is cracked and requires relining and resurfacing to bring it up to standard.

With the completion of the waterpark in mid-2024, the need to reorientate the entrance to the pool has become a priority.

With the entrance currently at the rear of the park, passive surveillance of both the skate park and the water park is extremely limited.

Rotating the entrance to face the side of the activated portion of the park will create a safer and more inclusive space for all users.

SNAPSHOT

- Bring the current pool up to standard

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024-2034

PROJECT COST

- Relining and resurfacing the pool: \$TBC
- New entrance for the pool and change room upgrade - \$1,800,000

MASON'S LANE UPGRADE, BACCHUS MARSH



LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES



THE PROJECT

A master plan for Mason's Lane Recreation Reserve was adopted in June 2023.

Currently at the reserve there are two full-sized sports ovals, an outdoor athletics facility, a baseball field and cricket training nets.

To cater for the growing population and use of the facility, the master plan has provision for a new athletics track, a pavilion and an all-abilities playspace. There is an opportunity for artist involvement in the development of the playspace.



SNAPSHOT

- Promotes community connectivity
- Improves amenities in the area

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024-2034
- Masons Lane Master Plan

PROJECT COST

- Athletics track - \$1,500,000
- New toilets - \$200,000
- Sports fields: rebuild playing surface - \$1,000,000
- Pavilion - \$7,000,000
- Paths and landscaping - \$200,000
- New oval - \$2,000,000
- All abilities playspace - \$450,000

BMRRR DOG PARK AND WALKING TRAILS, BACCHUS MARSH



LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES



THE PROJECT

Work on our biggest sporting precinct, Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Recreation Reserve (BMRRR), is ongoing, with the latest additions an all-abilities playground, a soccer field, an Australian Rules oval and cricket training nets.

The next projects at the site that require funding are a fully-enclosed fit-for-purpose dog park and walking trails around and through the precinct. There is demand for a designated off-lead dog park in the Bacchus Marsh area.

Several recreation reserves have been explored as options, but BMRRR would be ideal as it has the space and can be built to specific specifications from scratch, without having to modify an existing area.

There is opportunity for stand-alone public artworks along a walking path to create a sculpture trail.

SNAPSHOT

- Enhance town's attractiveness
- Promote outdoor activity

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024-2034
- BMRRR Master Plan

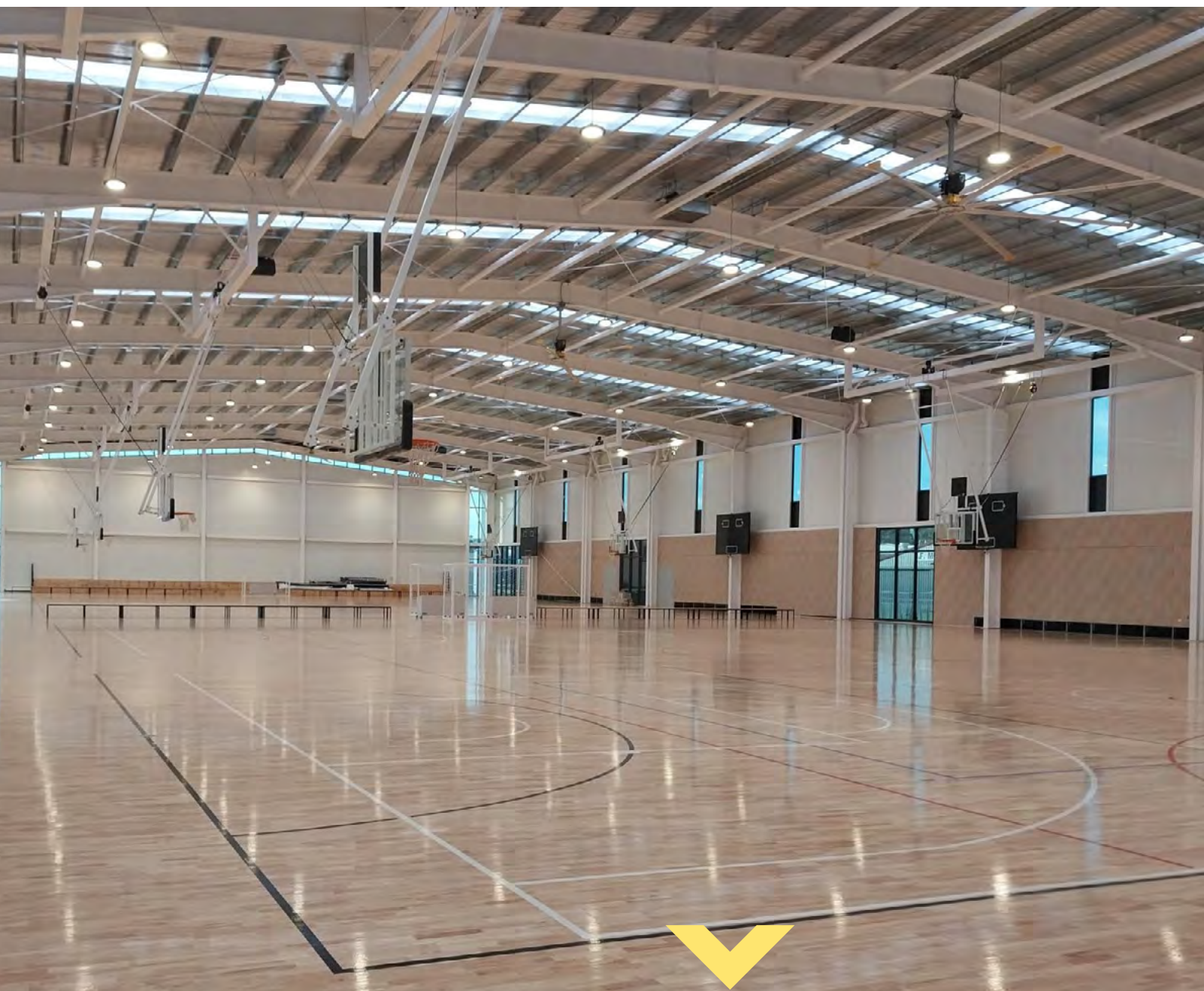
PROJECT COST

- Dog park - \$550,000
- Walking trails and artwork- \$500,000

MARC STADIUM GRANDSTAND SEATING, BACCHUS MARSH



LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES



THE PROJECT

The new multi-use stadium at Moorabool Aquatic and Recreation Centre (MARC) in Taverner St, Bacchus Marsh, has been in operation for months and has been very well-received by the community.

A missing piece of the puzzle for this fantastic new facility is retractable stadium seating. Council is seeking funding for a 900 seat grandstand to enable the stadium to be a venue of choice for competitions in a range of court sports.

MARC Stadium includes four indoor sports courts and a community cafe and seating as well as athlete and referee change rooms and other modern amenities.

SNAPSHOT

- Grandstand seating for sports courts
- Supports multiple sports and uses

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024-2034

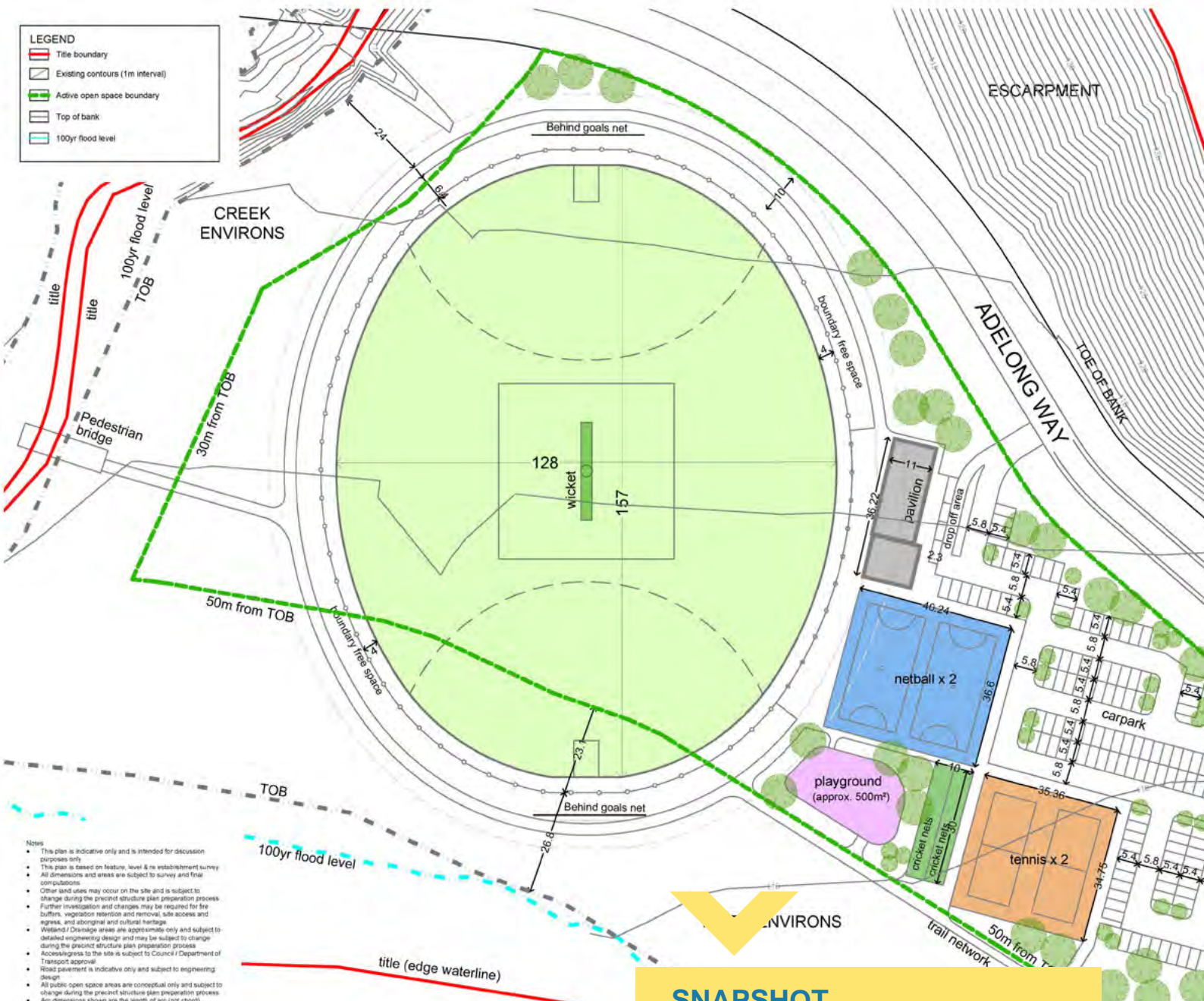
PROJECT COST

- Stadium seating - \$550,000

UNDERBANK COMMUNITY SPORTS GROUND, BACCHUS MARSH



LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES



THE PROJECT

Formally a horse stud farm, Underbank is now one of Bacchus Marsh's fastest growing developments, built as a natural extension to Bacchus Marsh, with easy road and established walking/cycling links to Bacchus Marsh centre.

Community sporting facilities are needed in the area to cater for the rapid growth.

Council is seeking funds for a sporting oval, a pavilion, tennis/netball courts, landscaping, parking, drainage and associated works.

SNAPSHOT

- Enhance town's attractiveness
- Promotes outdoor activity
- Promotes community connectivity

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024-2034

PROJECT COST

- Sports infrastructure - \$1,200,000



THE PROJECT

Council and Council-appointed Community Asset Committees manage the maintenance and operation of public halls throughout the shire.

There are several halls that require significant upgrades. The two biggest priorities are the Gordon Public Hall, which needs upgrading to make it more suitable for community events, and the Bacchus Marsh Public Hall in Main St, Bacchus Marsh, which requires additional accessibility features to make it accessible to everyone in the community.

Upgrades undertaken would have a focus on providing space for performing arts performances and companies.

SNAPSHOT

- Promotes community connectivity
- Improves amenities in the area

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Visitor Economy Strategy
- Live Well Age Well Strategy

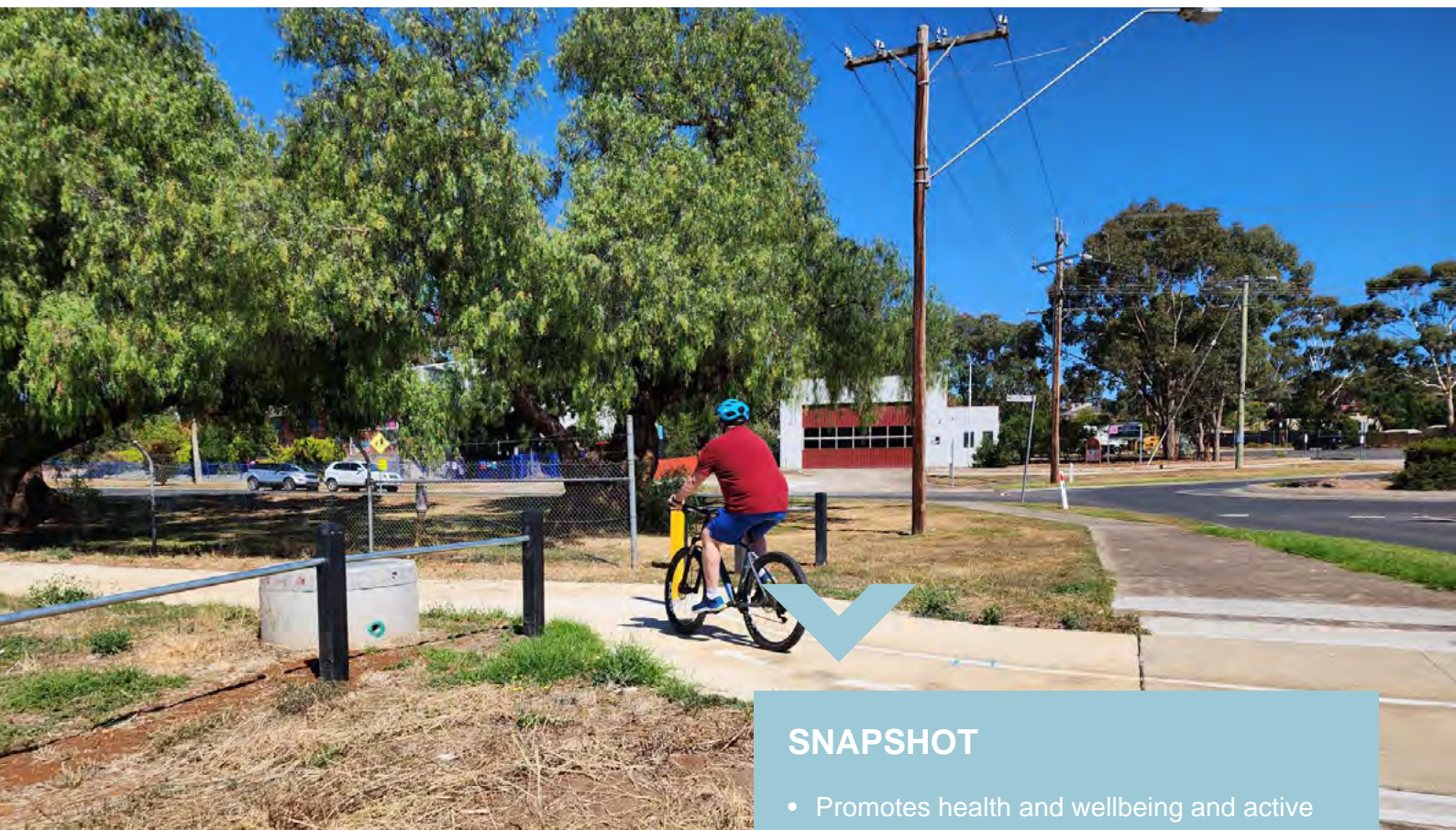
PROJECT COST

- Gordon Public Hall upgrades - \$TBC
- Bacchus Marsh Public Hall upgrades - \$TBC

AQUALINK CYCLING AND WALKING CORRIDOR - WEST, BACCHUS MARSH



IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY



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.

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:

- Aqualink West: Masons Lane, Bacchus Marsh, to Werribee River, Maddingley (unfunded).
- Aqualink Central: Masons Lane to Main Street, Bacchus Marsh. Funded - design underway.
- Aqualink North (a): Lerderderg River to Holts Lane,

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

TOTAL PROJECT COST

- State - \$5,000,000
- Council - \$3,000,000

Darley. COMPLETED

- Aqualink North (b): Holts Lane, Darley to Masons Lane, Bacchus Marsh. COMPLETED
- Aqualink East: Main Street to Bacchus Marsh Train Station. COMPLETED.

AQUALINK CYCLING AND WALKING CORRIDOR - WEST, BACCHUS MARSH



IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY



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



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, and the West Maddingley Early Years and Community Hub.

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

SNAPSHOT

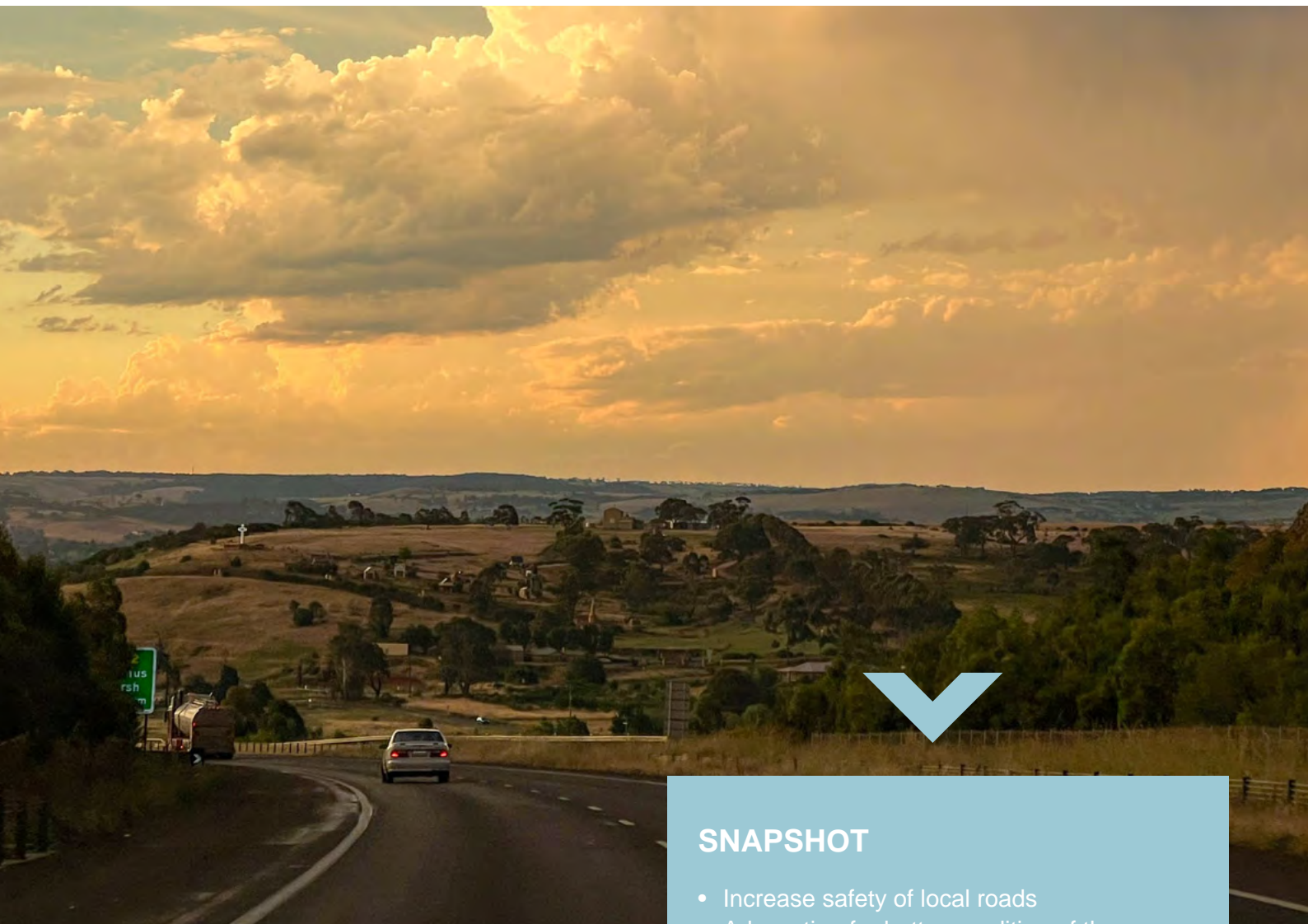
- Creates a four lane road in one of the busiest areas of the town, near the railway station, schools and new housing estates
- Creates off-road linkages between Bacchus Marsh railway station and schools
- Associated pedestrian and cycle links promote health and wellbeing
- Increased social connection

POLICY ALIGNMENT

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

PROJECT COST

- Federal - \$5,000,000
- State - \$3,000,000
- Council - \$3,000,000



THE PROJECT

Council is seeking funding for improvements to the Western Highway, which cuts right through the shire. Council is also advocating for funds for an Eastern Link Road around Bacchus Marsh to alleviate traffic, especially heavy vehicles, going through the centre of town.

The State Government has announced its preferred option for an Eastern Link Road. Council is advocating for funds to be put towards this project as a matter of urgency, as rapid population growth is putting increased pressure on Bacchus Marsh roads.

The condition of the major arterial through Moorabool Shire - the Western Highway - is not at an acceptable standard for the volume of traffic using the road considering it links two capital cities (Melbourne and Adelaide). Council is advocating to both levels of government to make a significant investment to upgrade

SNAPSHOT

- Increase safety of local roads
- Advocating for better condition of the Western Highway
- Advocating for funding for Eastern Link Road, Bacchus Marsh

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Integrated Transport Strategy

PROJECT COST

- Federal - \$TBC
- State - \$TBC
- Council - \$TBC

the Western Highway through and leading in and out of Moorabool Shire.

Traffic is predicted to be at gridlock in Bacchus Marsh by 2030 so the Eastern Link road is a necessity.



THE PROJECT

The township of Ballan is experiencing existing and planned growth. This requires the timely delivery of local infrastructure that is essential to support the growth, and importantly, be in keeping with local character, attractiveness and amenity. One of the current challenges around the growing town is having a vibrant town centre that is accessible to everyone and supports access to businesses. A vision for this is to provide a connected Ballan which provides a range of options for people moving in and through the town connecting them to places, spaces and employment. A well designed and connected movement network will ensure residents have equitable access to Ballan's open spaces, services and facilities. High quality and diverse streetscapes will also influence and define Ballan's public and private realm and contribute to its character.

SNAPSHOT

- Improves amenities in the area

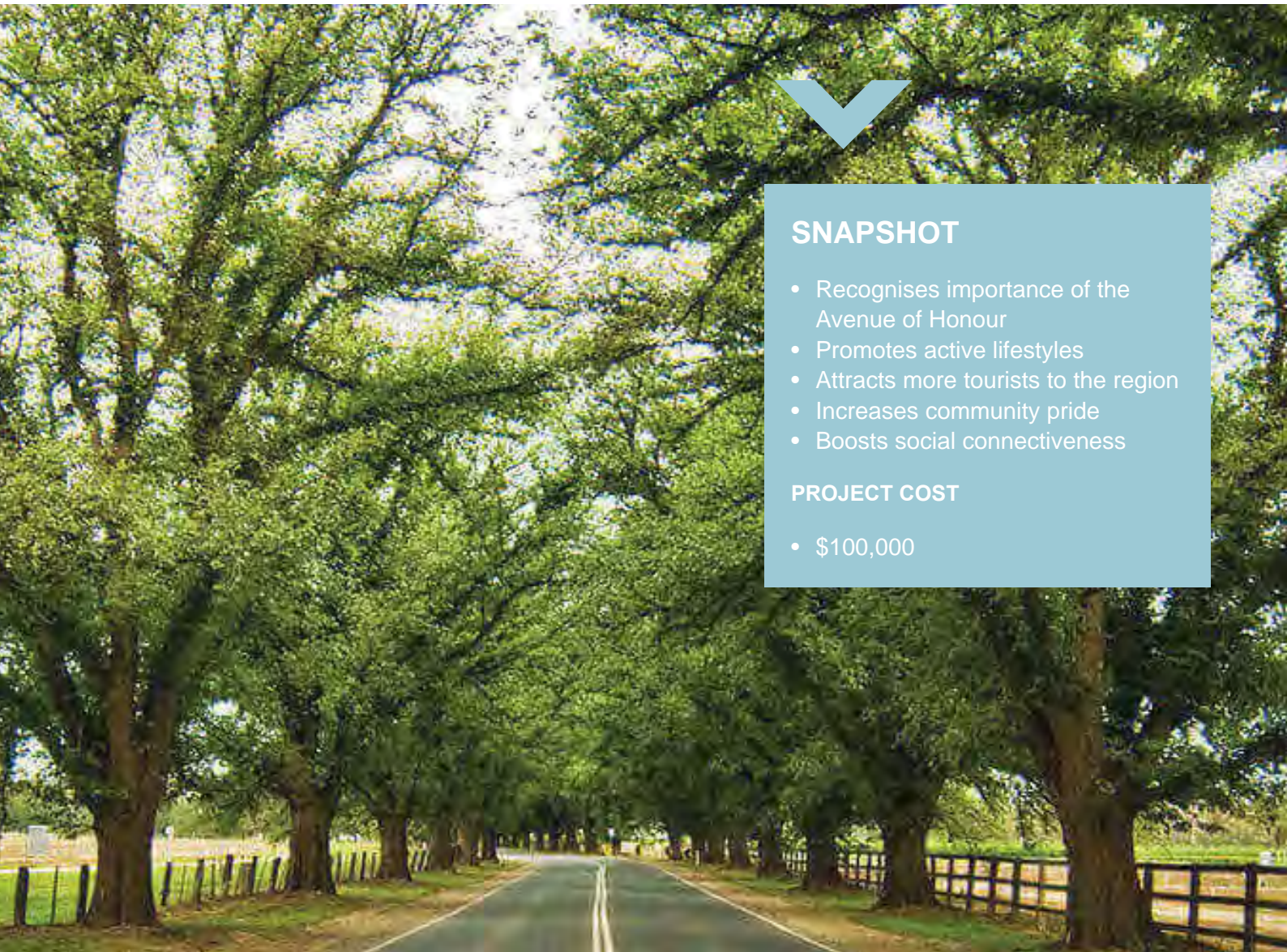
POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Ballan Strategic Directions
- Ballan Integrated Transport Strategy (draft)
- Moorabool Parking Strategy

PROJECT COST

- On street parking upgrade - \$450,000 - \$600,000

As part of this, additional parking is required in the surrounding streets of the town centre. The key opportunity to this is the upgrade to Steiglitz Street between Fiskin and Stead Street to accommodate angled parking on both sides. This street has direct pedestrian connection to the centre of town and would provide safe and secure on street parking to cater for the needs of workers, residents and visitors to the town.



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.

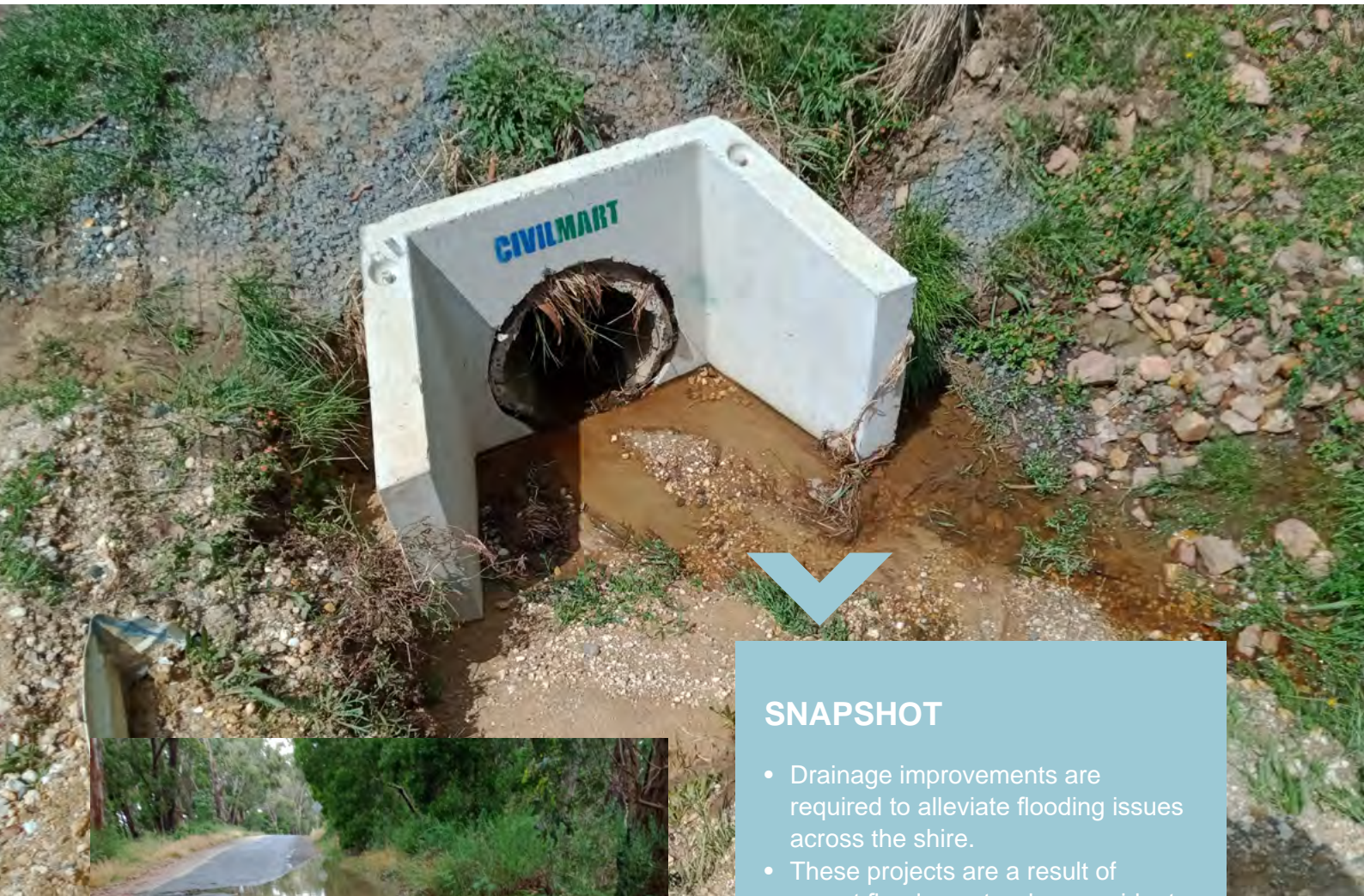
During the Avenue's inception, the community united to simultaneously plant a colonnade of 281 Canadian elms along the 3.3km stretch, which today connects the Western Freeway to the township of Bacchus Marsh.

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.



THE PROJECT

With the impacts of climate change, the frequency and intensity of storm events is more common and has identified numerous locations where flooding is impacting the community. There are drainage projects throughout the shire that need funding to reduce these flooding impacts on the community. Council is seeking other levels of Government funding to match the amount Council spends on drainage through the Capital Improvement Program.

Some of the more urgent priorities include:

- Beresford Crescent, Darley - \$500,000

SNAPSHOT

- Drainage improvements are required to alleviate flooding issues across the shire.
- These projects are a result of recent flood events where residents were impacted.

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Storm Water Asset Management Plan
- Flood Management Strategy

- Parwan Road, Maddingley - \$150,000
- Gordon Flood Mitigation Works - \$600,000
- Banadell Avenue, Darley - \$150,000
- Connor Court, Ballan - \$250,000
- Carey Crescent, Bacchus Marsh - \$1,200,000
- Serrys Track, Russells Road and McMullans Lane, Coimadai Creek Crossing upgrades - \$750,000
- Main Street, Bacchus Marsh - \$250,000

WERRIBEE RIVER WALKING TRAIL, BALLAN



IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY



THE PROJECT

Ballan's population is growing at a fast rate, and walking and recreation linkages are not in place to cater for easy passive recreation.

Establishing a walking trail along the river to link Mill Park and Caledonian Park would create a walking loop for residents and visitors. This walking trail could be upgraded to a sculpture trail with input and works from artists.

SNAPSHOT

- Promotes active lifestyles
- Increases community pride
- Boosts social connectiveness

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Mill Park Master Plan

PROJECT COST

- Sport & art infrastructure - \$600,000

LERDERDERG RIVER WALKING TRAIL, BACCHUS MARSH



IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY



THE PROJECT

Council is wanting to reinstate and upgrade the walking trail along the Lerderderg River between Robinsons Rd and Links Rd, which is currently not in suitable condition.

There is an opportunity for the walking trail to incorporate art to transform it to a sculpture trail and cultural heritage signage.

SNAPSHOT

- Promotes active lifestyles
- Increases community pride
- Boosts social connectiveness

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024-2034

PROJECT COST

- Sculpture trail - \$500,000



SNAPSHOT

- Improve safety of road users
- Improve connectivity between towns within the shire
- Freight productivity improvements

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Transport Asset Management Plan
- Road Management Plan
- Integrated Transport Strategy

PROJECT ASK

- Further increases to Roads to Recovery Program
- Continuation of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program
- Establishment of a State funded local roads and bridges program

THE PROJECT

Almost all road trips start and end on a local road and Council is continuously advocating for funds to improve our local roads and bridges network. Several years of storms and above-average rain has caused significant and permanent damage to many of our local roads. We are working hard through our Capital Improvement Program to repair and upgrade our road network, but there is a need for extra funding to provide a road safe, functional and well maintained road network that the community expects.

Priority road projects that require funding include:

- Woolpack Road Bridge Upgrade - \$1,500,000
- Blackwood Recreation Reserve Pedestrian Bridge Upgrade - \$100,000
- Caledonian Park Ballan Pedestrian Bridge Upgrade - \$750,000
- Ballan Meredith Road upgrade and widen- \$5,000,000
- Griffith Street Duplication - \$7,000,000



SNAPSHOT

- Improve health and wellbeing
- Improve connectivity
- Improve safety of pedestrians

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Transport Asset Management Plan
- Road Management Plan
- Hike & Bike Strategy
- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024-2034

PROJECT COST

- \$5,150,000

THE PROJECT

There are many benefits to having a well-connected and functional pedestrian network. It provides an alternate mode of transport that takes traffic off the roads, it promotes health and wellbeing in the community and increases road safety by separating vulnerable road users. Council has undertaken a comprehensive review of its pedestrian network and has identified a requirement for additional funding to provide for the needs of the community. Council requires funding to improve connectivity to existing footpaths in both our rural and urban areas.

Urgent priorities

- Clarendon Lal Lal Footpath Upgrade - \$550,000
- Hopetoun Park Walking Track - \$1,000,000
- Lerderderg River Walking Track - \$1,000,000
- Improved Connections Program - \$1,000,000 (missing links)
- Underbank Boulevard Pedestrian Path - \$550,000
- Main Street Bacchus Marsh Street Scape Upgrade - \$550,000

LAL LAL FALLS RECREATION RESERVE UPGRADES, LAL LAL



ATTRACTING JOBS
AND VISITORS



THE PROJECT

The scenic waterfall views at Lal Lal Falls Reserve make the area attractive to visitors seeking a relaxing day out. The reserve features a large grassed area, playground, picnic tables, toilets and an undercover shelter with seating and information boards.

Due to the large number of visitors to the area, an upgrade is timely, as the current facilities have not been updated in decades. Newer facilities would attract more people to the area to view the falls and enjoy picnics and open space. There is an opportunity for a Wadawurrung artist to create a stand-alone artwork on the site.

SNAPSHOT

- Improves amenities in the area

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Visitor Economy Strategy
- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024-2034

PROJECT COST

- Upgrade of reserve elements - \$650,000

BALD HILL ACTIVATION PROJECT, BACCHUS MARSH



ATTRACTING JOBS
AND VISITORS



THE PROJECT

Council is seeking investment to develop a plan for a commercial enterprise to build a facility at the top of Bald Hill to complete the fantastic site, that is already attracting tourists to the area with the 1000+ steps.

Council and the Victorian Government have invested significantly in the Bald Hill activation project. The 1000+ steps were constructed in 2022 and were followed by an all-abilities sculpture trail, located on Telford Park Reserve. Landscaping and car parking complemented this construction.

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. In addition to this, the Telford Park sculpture trail requires funding for the remaining 5 sculptures (there is currently only one sculpture in place).

SNAPSHOT

- The 1,000+ steps at Bald Hill is proving a popular destination
- More investment to revitalise the top of Bald Hill will attract close to 350,000 visitors a year

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Bald Hill Activation Plan
- Draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2024-2034

PROJECT COST

- Plan development - \$TBC
- Funding for 5 sculptures for trail - \$600,000

BLACKWOOD TOWNSHIP IMPROVEMENTS, BLACKWOOD



ATTRACTING JOBS
AND VISITORS



SNAPSHOT

- Improves amenities in the area

POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Blackwood Township Improvement Plan

PROJECT COST

- War memorial upgrade - \$50,000

THE PROJECT

Council adopted the Blackwood Township Improvement Plan in 2020.

The plan was designed to guide:

- Trees and landscape improvements (new tree and/or landscape upgrades).
- Destinations and connections (key points within the town, missing links etc).
- Furniture and amenity (seating, noticeboards, bike hoops etc).
- Civic street upgrades (paving surfaces, kerb and channels).

These are aspects that create a unique sense of place within a community.

From the plan, Council has determined that an upgrade to the war memorial is a short-term project that is needed in Blackwood, and as such is seeking funding for this project.



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 - \$11,750,000

Water - \$22,000,000

Sewer - \$16,000,000

Drainage - \$31,000,000

THE PROJECT

In partnership with Moorabool Shire Council (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, which adjoins the expanding Bacchus Marsh aerodrome, 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 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 \$4.3M 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

- 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 - \$1,000,000 (committed)
- Funding required - \$9,000,000

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.

Moorabool Shire 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.

Moorabool Shire 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.

SEWER PROVISION, WALLACE AND BUNGAREE



A THRIVING ENVIRONMENT



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 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

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, generating substantial economic activity.

Council has commenced a Bacchus Marsh Town Centre Structure Plan. The purpose of the structure plan 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
- Structure Planning 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 about \$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.



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
- Mt Egerton Main St footpath construction - \$75,000
- Mt Egerton playground - \$50,000
- Mt Egerton War Memorial - \$50,000
- Township gateways implementation – all towns - \$75,000 per town
- Update to town entry signs - \$50,000
- Aqualink Linear Park nodes – 2 x \$200,000 each
- Blackwood Recreation Reserve pavilion kitchen upgrade - \$75,000
- Blackwood Recreation Reserve cricket nets - \$120,000
- Blackwood - signature music event as part of Hide + Seek Festival - \$50,000
- Solar installation at Egans Reserve, Greendale - \$50,000
- Myrniong Avenue of Honour upgrade - \$50,000
- Hopetoun Park hiking trail - \$50,000
- Dales Creek hiking trail and shelter - \$50,000
- Yendon Recreation Reserve playground upgrade - \$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.

Bungaree Rail Trail

Partnering with VicTrack, Council is looking at the possibility of creating a rail trail walking track. The trail, on decommissioned rail track, would pass through Bungaree, Wallace and Dunnstown. Council is keen to investigate the tourism and economic benefits and what

work is involved in creating an official rail trail and would welcome external investment if the project demonstrates a benefit to the community.

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.



MOORABOOL SHIRE COUNCIL

(03) 5366 7100
moorabool.vic.gov.au | info@moorabool.vic.gov.au