



Policy No.:	GD029	<i>GD029 – Community Infrastructure Planning Policy</i>
Review Date:	Sept 2022	
Revision No.:	1	
Policy Manual Version No.:		
Adopted by:	Moorabool Shire Council	

1. Purpose and scope of the Policy

This Policy defines the approach that Moorabool Shire Council takes to the planning and delivery of community infrastructure. It provides the Community Infrastructure Planning and Design Principles and provides the basis for the adoption of a Community Infrastructure Planning Process.

This Policy, the Planning and Design Principles, Community Infrastructure Planning Process, and any documents and tools they describe are collectively known as the Moorabool Community Infrastructure Framework ('the Framework'). The purpose of the Framework is to enable Council to deliver on the aims and objectives defined by this Policy.

The scope of 'community infrastructure' to which this Policy applies is defined under 'Definitions'.

2. Preamble

Council is a provider of community infrastructure. It owns and manages community facilities and delivers services to the community through those facilities. Council also supports the provision of community infrastructure by other providers through direct funding and/or advocacy. A holistic and strategic planning approach ensures that Council understands communities' current and future needs for community infrastructure and enables it to meet those needs effectively and efficiently.

Key factors influencing the approach that Council takes to the planning and delivery of community infrastructure include:

- Much of the Shire's existing community infrastructure is ageing, single purpose and no longer fit for modern use. The cost of maintenance, renewal and upgrade of these facilities is a significant financial challenge for Council.
- Population growth in some parts of the Shire is placing greater pressure on existing infrastructure and creating demand for new provision.
- Population density within many rural parts of the Shire is insufficient to support local services, necessitating long journey times for more isolated communities.
- People are living longer, and the needs and expectations of older people are changing. The types of community infrastructure that will best meet the needs of Moorabool's ageing population will be a mix of familiar services and facilities and new non-traditional ones that do not yet exist.

- Council is not the only provider of community infrastructure and will need to coordinate and partner with other levels of Government and the private, community and philanthropic sectors.

This Policy provides for a Community Infrastructure Framework that will enable Council to identify and prioritise solutions that respond appropriately to the above factors.

3. Definitions

Community infrastructure	A collective term for 'community facilities' and 'community services' as defined by this Policy.
Community facilities	Physical infrastructure in the form of buildings, places and spaces through which community services are provided by Council and other providers.
Community services	Programs and other activities provided to the community by council or other organisations. Specifically, services that require physical infrastructure to enable their delivery.
Council asset	Land, buildings and other structures owned by Moorabool Shire Council

3. Council's Role

Council has a range of roles and functions with respect to the planning and delivery of community infrastructure.

As an owner of community infrastructure Council:

- owns and maintains some community facilities (council assets).
- makes some council assets available for use by other providers and the community.

As a provider of community services Council:

- delivers community services through some of its assets.
- funds the delivery of community services by other providers and/or the community.
- partners with and advocates to Government and other service providers on behalf of communities.

As a strategic planning authority Council:

- conducts strategic planning for the current and future provision of community infrastructure.
- seeks financial and/or in-kind contributions from private developers towards community infrastructure.

4. Policy

Moorabool Shire Council has prepared a Community Infrastructure Planning Process that is consistent with the Community Infrastructure Planning and Design Principles defined in this Policy.

When planning, designing or delivering new community infrastructure, upgrading existing facilities, or deciding on the future use of community infrastructure assets Council will:

- 1) apply the Community Infrastructure Planning and Design Principles, and
- 2) follow the adopted Community Infrastructure Planning Process.

Where Council's ability to apply the Planning and Design Principles is constrained by financial cost, such as building and maintaining physical infrastructure, Council will seek to achieve the best outcomes within those financial constraints.

New community infrastructure or capital improvements to existing infrastructure will be assessed and prioritised in accordance with the Capital Works Evaluation Guidelines and Capital Improvement Program.

4. Aim of Community Infrastructure Planning

The Aim of Community Infrastructure Planning in Moorabool is:

"to create and maintain a network of community facilities that effectively and efficiently meet community needs and support delivery of services now and into the future"

5. Community Infrastructure Planning and Design Principles

The Planning and Design Principles that will be followed to achieve the Aim are:

Principle 1: Community infrastructure planning is strategic and integrated across council.

- 1a:** A collaborative whole-of-organisation approach is taken to the planning and delivery of community infrastructure.
- 1b:** Planning is spatial and strategic in nature, extending across suburb and municipal boundaries.
- 1c:** Local needs are expressed within the context of strategic community need.

Principle 2: Decision-making is consistent, transparent and based on reliable evidence.

- 2a:** Consistent methods are used to develop evidence relating to the supply of and demand for community infrastructure.
- 2b:** Decisions made with regard to community infrastructure will take account of available relevant evidence.
- 2c:** The justification for community infrastructure projects is clearly explained and openly presented.

Principle 3: Community infrastructure projects deliver net community benefit.

- 3a:** Community infrastructure projects respond to priority community needs and service objectives and corporately agreed levels of service.
- 3b:** Community infrastructure projects will be delivered in step with population growth and demographic change.

Principle 4: Community infrastructure operates as a network of facilities.

- 4a:** Community services operate through a network of complementary local, district and regional facilities.
- 4b:** Community services and facilities have a high degree of transport accessibility and are located within reasonable travel time/distance of the communities they service.

Principle 5: Community infrastructure supports the delivery of services to the community.

- 5a:** Community infrastructure is prioritised for the delivery of effective community services by council and other service providers.

Principle 6: Community infrastructure supports use by multiple services and users for a range of activities.

- 6a:** Community facilities are fit for their intended purpose(s).
- 6b:** Community facilities are designed and maintained to be multifunctional, flexible and adaptable to change.
- 6c:** Community facilities support the co-location, integration, and/or clustering of complementary community services.

Principle 7: Community infrastructure is inclusive and universally accessible.

- 7a:** Community facilities are universally accessible, meeting the needs of families, users and staff of all physical and cognitive abilities, gender types and ages.
- 7b:** Community facilities support active ageing and promote inclusion of older people.
- 7c:** Community facilities embody Council's commitments to age-friendly, dementia-friendly and child-friendly communities.

Principle 8: Community facilities are optimised for maximum use.

- 8a:** Community services and facilities are designed and managed to meet their full capacity, making best use of existing facilities where appropriate.
- 8b:** The maintenance, renewal and upgrade of existing community infrastructure is prioritised above the funding of new community infrastructure.
- 8c:** New facilities are only planned and delivered where they meet identified priority shortfalls in existing or future infrastructure provision.

Principle 9: Community infrastructure is provided through partnerships.

- 9a:** Community infrastructure is funded, delivered, operated and programmed through collaborative partnerships between council, government and other public, private and community sector providers as appropriate.
- 9b:** Where a nexus between new development and the need for new or improved infrastructure is demonstrated, financial contributions towards community infrastructure projects will be sought.

Principle 10: Community facilities embody Environmentally Sustainable Design principles.

- 10a:** Designs for new community facilities and maintenance, renewal or upgrade works to existing facilities will seek to reduce Council's environmental impact through environmentally sustainable design measures.

The order and numbering of the above principles is not an indication of their importance; all the Planning and Design Principles will be afforded equal weight in decision-making.

6. Community Infrastructure Planning Process

To implement this Policy Council has developed a Community Infrastructure Planning Process that is consistent with the Community Infrastructure Planning and Design Principles.

The Planning Process will:

- Identify and prioritise infrastructure projects that are justified by evidence and prioritised according to community need.
- Inform the Capital Improvement Program, in particular business cases for community infrastructure projects.
- Inform Council's strategic planning framework 'Moorabool 2041'.
- Inform service plans and reviews, planning studies, masterplans and other Council business.
- Provide the evidence base for Infrastructure Contributions Plan / Development Contributions Plans, applications for grant funding, and advocacy to external service providers.

6. Related Legislation/Policies/Guidelines

Title	Relevant requirements
Victorian Local Government Act 1989	Local governments have a responsibility to improve the overall quality of life of people in the local community and to ensure that services and facilities provided by the council are accessible and equitable.
Health and Wellbeing Plan (2013-2017)	Seeks to: improve access to physical activity programs and facilities; develop multi-use integrated community facilities in partnership with service providers and community organisations; create active lifestyle opportunities through increased access to open space and community facilities ensure Council's services and facilities are accessible; encourage services and facilities that meet the diverse needs of the community.
Rural Growth Policy (2012)	Policy direction: plan for the social and physical infrastructure needs of small towns and make the most of existing physical and social infrastructure.
Small Towns and Settlements Strategy (2016)	Seeks to identify where infrastructure investment is required to support growth in small towns. Access to

	appropriate community infrastructure is one of the key requirements of sustainable communities.
Urban Growth Policy (2012)	General principle: plan for, and manage, current and predicted physical and social infrastructure provision with the shire.
Age Well Live Well Strategy & Access and Inclusion Plan (2015-2021)	All areas of Council have a shared responsibility to support healthy active ageing and access and inclusion for people with disabilities.
Recreation Reserves Capital Works Contribution Policy	Capital development will be guided by the Capital Works Contribution policy that outlines Council's standard provision for recreation and leisure facilities and potential funding models

Other:

Moorabool Shire Council is a signatory to the Age-Friendly Victoria Declaration (2016) which supports a commitment to develop age-friendly principles and create age-friendly communities.

7. Council Plan Reference – Key Performance Area

Strategic Objective Providing Good Governance and Leadership.

Context Our Assets and Infrastructure.

Action Finalise the Community Infrastructure Framework.

8. Review

This Policy will be reviewed every 5 years, or otherwise in accordance with any changes in legislation.

9. Attachments

None