

LODDON

BULLETIN

A PROSPEROUS
VIBRANT AND
ENGAGED COMMUNITY



2021/22 Annual Infrastructure Program

At its meeting in July, Council adopted the Annual Infrastructure program for 2021/22.

The program, which sets out priority projects over the coming financial year, is a significant part of Council's annual expenditure.

The \$3.98 million infrastructure program, which comprises funding from both the Federal Government and Council, includes \$1,067,920 to reseal and final seal approximately 41 kilometres of the sealed road network.

The 2021/22 annual infrastructure program also includes \$318,788 for local road gravel resheets and \$146,821 for local road shoulder resheets.

There is also funding of \$699,829 for the renewal of sections of Tandarra-Serpentine Road, Wedderburn-Wedderburn Junction Road, and Prairie Road, and funding of \$100,336 to seal Potters Hill Lane, Market Street and Nixon Street in Inglewood.

Additionally, there is funding of \$150,600 for three projects to improve road safety. The projects include removing hazardous trees adjacent to the road shoulder on Dunns Road, Kamarooka North and improving the safety of Lily Street, Bridgewater on the corner before the Laucke Flour Mill.

There is \$412,816 to replace 460 metres of footpath in Wedderburn and Tarnagulla, and replace a section of kerb and channel in Grant Street, Inglewood.

Additionally, there is funding of \$281,500 for urban and township drainage projects, including at Korong Vale and Inglewood. There is also an additional allocation to allow the completion of investigation and design of the Skinners Flat Reservoir dam and spillway restoration.

Funding of \$210,000 has been allocated for box culvert replacement on Gladfield Road, Pyramid Hill.

There is also \$105,000 towards parks and gardens projects. These include the replacement of the barbecue and shelter at the Pyramid Hill Lions Park East and installation of tanks at the Mitiamo Recreation Reserve for water supply.

Funding of \$492,376 has been allocated for a number of building projects including renewing septic systems at Tarnagulla and Dingee.



The 2021/22 infrastructure program includes an allocation to allow the completion of investigation and design of the Skinners Flat Reservoir (above) dam and spillway restoration.

QUARTERLY BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2021

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A word from our Mayor

It's good to see a number of projects coming along across the Shire, including Baileys Road Bridge, female-friendly change rooms at the Bridgewater Recreation Reserve, kerb and channel works in Boort, and footpath works.

As also highlighted in this bulletin, Council has adopted the 2021/22 infrastructure program. The \$3.98 million infrastructure program includes funding for the sealed road network, local road gravel resheets and local road shoulder resheets.

There's also funding to replace 460 metres of footpath in Wedderburn and Tarnagulla, a section of kerb and channel in Grant Street, Inglewood and for urban and township drainage projects.

More information regarding current projects and the annual infrastructure program is available in this edition of the *Loddon Bulletin*.

As also highlighted in this *Loddon Bulletin*, the results of Council's Community Satisfaction Survey showed an improvement in Council's overall performance among our community. It was also good to see our community rate Council's customer service and waste management service higher than the state-wide and small rural council average.

That being said, Council also recognises areas where we can continue to improve, including our sealed and unsealed road networks.

Finally, it was a great honour to officiate at Citizenship Ceremonies on 25 May and 27 July (which was a virtual ceremony due to the COVID-19 lockdown).

I'd like to congratulate to Mr Douglas Eason (formerly from Scotland), and Mr Herbert Apostol and Mrs Karen Apostol, who are originally from the Philippines. All made the Australian Citizenship Pledge during their respective ceremonies.



Healthy Heart of Victoria encourages Loddon to be active

Healthy Heart of Victoria is an initiative aimed at improving the health of people in the Loddon Campaspe region – the 'heart' of Victoria.

Loddon Shire is one of six councils involved in the initiative, which was developed in response to the higher than Victorian average rates of obesity, chronic disease and high-risk health behaviours currently seen within the region.

Loddon Shire projects through the Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative include:

Activation of outdoor fitness equipment

Healthy Heart of Victoria, with support from Loddon Shire Council and the Wedderburn Development Association, installed outdoor fitness equipment in Boort, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn.

The equipment provides residents of all ages and abilities with a freely accessible physical activity option.

To raise awareness and understanding of how to use the equipment, fitness sessions around using the outdoor equipment were run by local fitness trainer Sherryn O'Flaherty at Nolen's Park in Boort. Qualified trainers from Boort District Health also ran free sessions over two weeks at Pyramid Hill's Kelly Park, with one session supported by Northern District Health and local health promotion workers.

Following the sessions, feedback from participants included that they felt more confident in using the equipment, and they had the opportunity to be physically active with friends and family.

Bridgewater Community Garden

Healthy Heart of Victoria is working with the Kooyoora Women's Network to fund a new Community Garden in Bridgewater, which aims to improve food security and promote healthy eating.

The Network will work with other community groups to build a Community Food Garden at the Bridgewater Railway Station.

Healthy Heart of Victoria funding will be utilised to purchase materials for 24 raised garden beds, with 12 garden beds allocated to Bridgewater Primary School, and the remaining beds to be used by the community.

The garden will provide an environment for children and community members to learn about sustainable gardening and healthy eating, with future plans to build on the program including a seed bank and garden workshops.



Healthy Heart of Victoria is working with the Kooyoora Women's Network to fund a new Community Garden at the Bridgewater Railway Station.

Pyramid Hill projects move ahead

Pyramid Hill Community Centre Development

In June, Council welcomed a funding announcement from the Victorian Government of \$2,475,000 to deliver Stage 1 of the Pyramid Hill Community Centre Development project.

Stage 1 of the project will include construction of the allied health wing, standalone senior citizens room, new toilet facilities and renovation of the existing hall and kitchen.

The funding will also enable the expansion of storage for kitchen and user groups, development of breakout space and associated landscaping, and installation of car parking, kerb and channel and associated drainage infrastructure.

The funding was through the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund – Stimulus Round.

A procurement process to engage a contractor for the project's detailed design is underway.

Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project

Detailed designs for the Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project are expected to be completed in September.

The project aims to unify the township via themed works along the town approaches, sightlines and pedestrian navigation.

It will achieve this by improving pedestrian safety, linking key public spaces and providing additional landscaping and shade.



Artistic impression of the Pyramid Hill Community Centre.

The project has been made possible thanks to \$800,000 in funding from the Victorian Government's Building Works package and Council.

Lions Park East

The barbecue and shelter at Lions Park East will be replaced, with works expected to get underway early next year. The works have been funded through Council's annual infrastructure program.

Pool painting

All three pools at the Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool will undergo painting prior to the start of the 2021/22 pool season.

In addition to painting, the works will include routine maintenance to the three pools (33-metre pool, toddler and infant wading pools).

Community projects update

Bridgewater female-friendly change rooms

Construction works on new female-friendly change rooms (*below*) at the Bridgewater Recreation Reserve are anticipated to be completed in October.



Donaldson Park Community Hub

The detailed design for the Donaldson Park Community Hub project is expected to be completed in early September.

The project will upgrade facilities at Wedderburn's Donaldson Park, including construction of a new multi-sport and community-focused pavilion, carparking, new multi-faceted playspace for all abilities, landscaping and internal paths, and large solar installation with batteries.

In June, Council welcomed additional funding towards the project from the Victorian Government of \$1,381,974.

Community grants funding

At its July meeting, Council approved an allocation of \$61,683 in grants to Group 1 applications under the 2021/22 Loddon Shire Community Grants Scheme.

Twelve applicants received funding, including Boort Angling Club, Boort Lakeside Croquet Club, Boort Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee, Inglewood Riding Club and Campbell's Forest Hall Community Asset Committee.

Other successful funding applicants were the Arnold Cricket Club, Newbridge Recreation Reserve Committee of Management (two projects), Rheola Public Cemetery, Tarnagulla and District Golf Club, Wedderburn Historical Records Museum, and Wedderburn Mechanics and Literary Institute Community Asset Committee.

At the time of writing, Group 2 applications were anticipated to be presented to Council for consideration at its August Meeting.

The Loddon Shire Community Grants Scheme started in the 2000/01 financial year to help recreation, sporting and service organisations deliver projects that improve the quality of life for residents.

Since the scheme was initiated, Council has invested approximately \$2.69 million, supporting over 700 community-based projects worth more than \$5.49 million.

Works update

A glance at some of the works around Loddon Shire:

Roads

- Works for the reconstruction, widening and sealing of Laanecoorie Newbridge Road are in progress. Please note that the road will be closed, except to local traffic, while works are progressing.
- The upgrade and sealing of 3.2 kilometres of Whites Pit Road at Calivil is complete.

Township street improvements

- Construction is continuing on the installation of footpaths in locations across the Shire, weather permitting.
- Works on the installation of kerb and channel and associated works at Lake View and Andrews Street in Boort is underway.
- Works are complete on new footpaths, kerb and channel, and some underground drainage at High Street in Wedderburn (from near the 24 Karat Café to the police station corner).

Local bridge and culvert construction

Works on the Baileys Road Bridge replacement over Bullock Creek in Derby are underway. It is anticipated that works will be completed at the end of September.



Works taking place for the Baileys Road Bridge replacement.

Defect rectification

From 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, 10,286 defects were rectified, with 98.5 per cent of all defects (10,135 in total) completed before their due date.

Maintenance grading program

From 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, 1,230 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 2,448 kilometres of grading and 4,862 kilometres of inspections.

Inspection summary

From 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, 1,000 inspections were completed (6,935 defects raised), with 98.6 per cent of all inspections completed before their due date.

Waste

From 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, 6,996 loads were brought into Loddon's six waste facilities, depositing:

- 2,836m³ waste
- 661m³ recyclables
- 1,922m³ green waste
- 1,602m³ metals
- 56m³ concrete
- 25m³ clean fill
- 171 mattresses
- 73 tyres
- 246 white goods
- 1,063 items of e-waste

Loddon Shire Council continued to offer residents fee free waste disposal once a quarter. From 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 2,576 residents used the service, depositing the following across the six waste facilities:

- 2,144m³ of waste
- 185m³ recyclables
- 452m³ steel
- 1,364m³ of green waste
- 174 items of white goods
- 626 items of e-waste

Completed capital works

From 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, Council completed:

- 17.9 kilometres of local gravel roads resheets and shoulder resheets
- 12.8 kilometres of local road construction
- 7 upgrades to local bridges and culverts
- 28 building improvements to Council-owned buildings.

Caravan park upgrades

The currently funded stages of the upgrade works to the Wedderburn Pioneer Caravan Park, Pyramid Hill Caravan Park and Boort Lakes Holiday Park are almost complete.

New amenities blocks for all three caravan parks, which were constructed off-site, have been delivered and works to connect the blocks to services are underway.

Upgrades to the caravan parks include road and drainage works, powerhead upgrades, solar lighting and new amenities blocks.

The final part of this funded project will be upgrades to three cabins at the Wedderburn Pioneer Caravan Park.



New amenities block at Pyramid Hill Caravan Park.

Community Satisfaction Survey results are in

Residents in the Loddon Shire have rated Council's overall performance, its customer service and waste management higher than both the state-wide average and small rural council average.

Council's Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, conducted by JWS Research, collected responses from 400 residents in Loddon Shire on a range of Council services.

Council's overall performance scored 63 this year – up from 61 in 2020. This score is higher than the state-wide average of 61 and the average for small rural councils of 60.

With a score of 74, Council's customer service also rated above the state-wide average (score of 70) and the average for small rural councils (score of 69).

Additionally, Council's waste management (score of 73) performed higher than the state-wide average (69) and the small rural council average (68). This rating for waste management is also up for Council from a score of 69 in 2020.

Other top-performing areas according to residents are appearance of public areas (score of 75), recreational facilities (score of 71), emergency and disaster management (score of 70) and elderly support services (score of 70).

At 61, Council's community decisions also rated higher than the state-wide average and the average for small rural councils, with both scoring 56.

While improving on last year's ratings, the survey also revealed that residents perceive more work needs to be done to improve the condition of our roads.



This includes sealed roads (score of 50, up from 47 in 2020) and unsealed roads (score of 48, up from 44 in 2020). Satisfaction with Council's unsealed roads rated higher than the state-wide average of 45 and small rural councils average with a score of 44.

Council is continually striving to ensure more work is done on our roads, and would like to hear from residents regarding road issues to help ensure problems are identified and rectified as soon as possible.

If you do identify an issue with a road, please contact Council's customer service team on 5494 1200 so that the problem can be fixed.

You can view Council's 2021 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey at www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Community-Satisfaction-Surveys

Victorian Government mobile and broadband survey

If you have mobile and broadband connectivity issues in the Loddon Shire, you have a chance to get these issues noticed.

The Victorian Government is asking for your feedback about connectivity issues where you live or work, and when you're out and about – to help understand where mobile and broadband improvements are needed across Victoria.

The survey is part of the \$550 million Connecting Victoria program, under which the Victorian Government is fast-tracking better mobile coverage and broadband across the state.

The program will focus on getting more Victorians access to business-grade broadband and upgrading mobile coverage, improving 4G mobile coverage, helping more places become 5G ready, and improving access to safety information during bushfires and other emergencies.

To find out more and take the survey visit <https://engage.vic.gov.au/connecting-victoria>

The survey is open until 20 September 2021.

Upcoming Council Meetings

Council Meetings are usually held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 3pm.

Council Meetings are held at the Loddon Shire Council Chambers in Wedderburn (entry from Peters Street), behind the Council office.

A livestream of the meeting is available to the public via Council's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LoddonShire

Upcoming Council Meetings:

- Tuesday 28 September
- Tuesday 26 October
- Tuesday 23 November
- Tuesday 14 December

Upcoming immunisation sessions

Immunisation sessions will be held at Boort Senior Citizens Centre, Dingee Bush Nursing Centre, Inglewood Maternal and Child Health Centre, Pyramid Hill Senior Citizens Centre and Serpentine Council offices on:

Thursday 14 October

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
2.00pm Pyramid Hill

Thursday 11 November

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

Thursday 9 December

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
2.00pm Pyramid Hill

Appointments are required. To make an appointment for an infant's immunisation, call Council's Serpentine office on (03) 5494 1201.

Bookings can also be made through Council's website:

www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Services-for-our-younger-residents/Immunisations

Please bring your Medicare card and Child Record Book to each immunisation session and allow 15 minutes waiting time following immunisation.

Arts trail to showcase Loddon Valley creativity

An arts trail created by artists for artists is set to showcase talented individuals across our region.

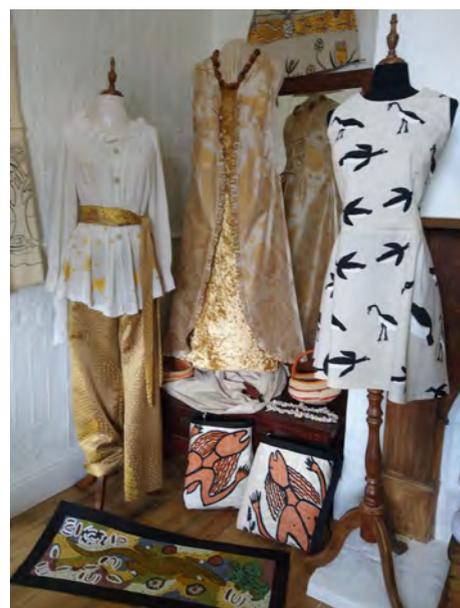
To be held from 23 to 24 October 2021 at venues across the Loddon Shire, the Loddon Valley Arts Trail will feature at least 24 artists, as well as one venue featuring around 20 artists alone.

The art will vary from paintings (in a range of different mediums), knitting, metal and wood craft, mosaics and garden art – to name but a few.

Venues for the arts trail include:

- Secret Platypus
- Eastville Farm
- Rostrata (eight artists will feature at this venue)
- Tarnagulla Community Centre
- Red Balloon Farm
- Arts of Olde
- Melanie Young's Studio
- Cardinal Studios
- Octopus and Queen
- Coach House Gallery and Museum
- Mal Gilmour's Studio and Gallery

A map and brochure for the trail is available from the Visit Loddon Valley website at www.bendigoregion.com.au/visit-loddon-valley and the Loddon Visitor Information Centre.



Bridgewater's Secret Platypus (above), will be one of the venues hosting artists' works as part of the Loddon Valley Arts Trail.

Shire offices

Wedderburn 41 High St, Wedderburn 3518 **T:** (03) 5494 1200 **F:** (03) 5494 3003

Open to the public, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.45pm

Serpentine 37 Peppercorn Way, Serpentine 3516 **T:** (03) 5494 1201 **F:** (03) 5437 8407

Currently closed to the public, customer support service is available by phone.

Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm

Email: loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au **Web:** www.loddon.vic.gov.au

Your Councillors



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Cr Wendy Murphy
Inglewood Ward
0436 457 170



Cr Linda Jungwirth
Tarnagulla Ward
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